

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 4 April 2014

Volume 94, No WA1

Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister WA 1

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development WA 2

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure WA 14

Department of Education WA 19

Department for Employment and Learning..... WA 24

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment WA 31

Department of the Environment..... WA 35

Department of Finance and Personnel WA 51

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety..... WA 54

Annex..... WA 56

Department of Justice WA 72

Department for Regional Development..... WA 82

Department for Social Development WA 89

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission..... WA 101

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

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

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

Assembly Members

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

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 4 April 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Omagh Ethnic Community Support Group

Mr McElduff asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the contribution of Omagh Ethnic Community Support Group to working towards a more cohesive community.

(AQO 5113/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): We believe that the Omagh Ethnic Community Support Group has an important role to play in Omagh and the surrounding district in helping minority ethnic people to feel that they belong and in building good race relations and a more cohesive community.

We are pleased to be providing financial support through the Minority Ethnic Development Fund to the Group. Our current funding commitment to the Group totals £45,000 for each of the two financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15. This funds two posts within the group to deliver a range of activities to foster a more cohesive community.

Preventative Spending

Mr McKay asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what consideration they have given to the need for preventative spending within their departmental budget.

(AQW 31808/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Department has been investing in a number of preventative initiatives such as the Social Investment Fund, Delivering Social Change Framework, Childcare Strategy and Together: Building a United Community.

St Lucia Barracks, Omagh

Mr Hussey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQO 5603/11-15, whether they have had any discussions with the (i) Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure over the establishment of a military museum and resource centre within the walled barracks; (ii) Minister for Social Development over uses that his Department may have for buildings outside the walled barracks, such as the housing adjacent to the former military buildings; and (iii) Minister of the Environment on possible relocation of his Department from its County Hall location to the barracks.

(AQW 31998/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: OFMDFM currently owns a portion of the St Lucia site. Discussions are ongoing with MOD regarding the historic portion of the site which is still owned by MOD. We have not had discussions with the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure over the establishment of a military museum and resource centre within the historic walled barracks.

Our officials are having ongoing discussions with officials in the Regional Development Office of the Department for Social Development and with the Housing Executive over uses for buildings on the site and outside the walled barracks including former military housing.

We have not had any discussions with the Minister of the Environment on possible relocation of his Department from its County Hall location to the barracks.

Play and Leisure Policy

Mr Sheehan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Play and Leisure Policy.

(AQO 5827/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Executive's Play and Leisure Policy Statement published in 2009 has been delivered through the Play and Leisure Implementation Plan which runs until 2016. Delivery against the Plan is progressing well.

To further support the Implementation Plan and build on its achievements, Junior Ministers Bell and McCann announced on 8 October our agreement to invest up to £1.6 million over three years to enhance opportunities for play and leisure across Northern Ireland. This will be provided as a Signature Programme through the Delivering Social Change framework, details of which will be announced in summer 2014.

Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly

Mr G Robinson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of the recent soft market testing on Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly, to outline any definite proposals for the development of the site.

(AQO 5828/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The soft market testing exercise for the former Shackleton Barracks site at Ballykelly concluded on 24 January 2014. Over 40 expressions of interest have been received for a broad range of uses including commercial, agricultural, leisure and community sectors.

The 40-plus expressions will have to be considered very carefully to determine the optimum use of the site.

All expressions of interest are being considered and options, based on the expressions of interest, will be provided to us in order to determine the suitability to go forward with development plans. We recognise that value for the site is for economic and social benefits as well as monetary.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Remote Sensing Inspections

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the process by which an outside company was employed to conduct Control with Remote Sensing Single Farm Payment inspections.

(AQW 32040/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): In 2012 DARD appointed the services of an external supplier to carry out a proportion of the Department's on-the-spot checks by remote sensing. The contract was awarded to the supplier following an open procurement competition through the NI Civil Service's Centre of Procurement Excellence. The procurement tender was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union. Four tenders were received.

The tenders were assessed and awarded on the basis of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender. The assessment consisted of three stages. These were selection based on Professional and Technical experience, a mandatory award criteria and thirdly qualitative and quantitative criteria

Remote Sensing Inspections

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the amount paid to an external company to conduct Control with Remote Sensing Single Farm Payment inspections.

(AQW 32041/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In accordance with contractual terms, the external supplier is due to receive payment of £93,115 for 2013 Single Farm Payment campaign.

Train Halt at Ballykelly

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to avail of European funding to develop a train halt at Ballykelly, to aid public transport provision for people wishing to avail of employment opportunities at her new departmental headquarters.

(AQW 32135/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I met with the Minister of Regional Development on 21 January 2014 to discuss the provision of a rail halt at Ballykelly. I highlighted the advantages of access by rail for the overall development of the site. My department does not have responsibility for rail travel and would not wish to comment on the potential for drawing down European Funding for rail development. I have agreed to meet again with Minister Kennedy to discuss the matter further when the outcome from the soft market testing of the Ballykelly site is available.

Animal Cruelty Legislation

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the current legislation relating to animal cruelty.

(AQW 32144/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The current legislation relating to the welfare of animals is detailed below.

- Welfare of Animals Act 1972
- Animal Boarding Establishments Regulations 1974
- Sales, Markets and Lairs Order 1975
- Welfare of Animals (Fees) Order 1979
- Riding Establishments Regulations 1980
- Diseases of Animals Order 1981
- Welfare of Livestock (Deer) Order 1983
- Bovine Embryo Collection, Production and Transplantation Regulations 1996
- Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1996
- Welfare of Calves at Markets Regulations 1998
- Welfare of Animals and Poultry at Markets Order 1998
- Petshop Regulations 2000
- The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations 2006
- Welfare of Animals Act 2011
- Welfare of Animals (2011 Act)(Commencement and Transitional Provisions No.1) Order 2011
- Welfare of Animals (Permitted Procedures by Lay Persons) Regulations 2012
- Welfare of Animals (2011 Act) (Commencement and Transitional Provisions No.2) Order 2012
- Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2012
- Welfare of Animals (2011 Act) (Commencement and Transitional Provisions No.3) Order 2012

- Welfare of Animals (Docking of Working Dogs Tails and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2012
- Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013

Foyle River Ambassadors Citizenship Scheme

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps are being taken to ensure that young people from communities across the North West are able to avail of the Foyle River Ambassadors Citizenship Scheme.

(AQW 32178/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Loughs Agency is working in partnership with Co-operation Ireland and St. Columb's Park House Centre in the delivery of the pilot project, the Foyle River Ambassadors Citizenship Scheme. Co-operation Ireland has worked with St Columb's Park House Centre in previous youth programmes. The Centre seeks to contribute to peace building and social inclusion through a range of programmes which promote civic participation, human rights and democratic pluralism. The beneficiaries of this work are mostly young people, including young members of political parties.

St Columb's Park House Centre has encouraged participants to the programme from across the Derry City Council area and from within the cross community groups it works with.

The Loughs Agency is currently mentoring 12 young people through this personal development and citizenship programme, a programme which will also educate participants about the resources of the River Foyle.

Single Farm Payments: North Antrim

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 31766/11-15, how many of the 237 claims were subject to remote/aerial inspection; and to detail when the inspections were completed.

(AQW 32180/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014. 200 of the 237 farm businesses in the North Antrim constituency which had not yet received payment cited in AQW 31766/11-15 were subject to an inspection using Control with Remote Sensing. As inspection results continue to be processed, this figure has fallen to 100 businesses.

The inspections were completed by 28 November 2013.

Single Farm Payments: North Antrim

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 31766/11-15, how many of the 237 farms are still waiting for an on farm inspection.

(AQW 32181/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014. To date, 97.9% of claims have been finalised.

None of the 237 farms cited in AQW 31766/11-15 are still waiting for an on farm inspection.

Every effort is being made to pay all outstanding inspections by the end of April.

Single Farm Payments: North Antrim

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 31766/11-15, when she expects payments to be made.

(AQW 32182/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014. To date, 97.8% of claims have been finalised.

Every effort is being made to have all outstanding inspected cases paid by the end of April. In any scheme year, there are a number of claims which cannot be finalised due to circumstances outside the Department's control such as probate proceedings, legal disputes between farm businesses or businesses not providing bank account details to enable payment.

Single Farm Payments: Outstanding Payments

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 31766/11-15, how many Single Farm Payments to farmers are still outstanding for 2013, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 32189/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment (SFP) claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014. The number of farmers awaiting their payments, broken down by constituency, is detailed in the table below.

Constituency	SFP 2013 Payments outstanding
Belfast East	1
Belfast North	2
Belfast South	0
Belfast West	0
East Antrim	9
East Londonderry	41
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	190
Foyle	10
Lagan Valley	13
Mid Ulster	111
Newry and Armagh	57
North Antrim	126
North Down	3
South Antrim	12
South Down	36
Strangford	16
Upper Bann	15
West Tyrone	103
No Constituency*	31
Total	776

The constituency information is drawn from the postcodes of businesses that submitted a Single Application Form in 2013.

*The “No Constituency” figure represents businesses that either do not have a valid postcode recorded against their business or are businesses where the addresses held is outside the 18 constituencies listed above.

In March 2013, 1,844 claims remained outstanding for the 2012 scheme year. In March 2012, 2,284 claims remained outstanding for the 2011 scheme year.

Rivers Agency

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the expected (i) costs; and (ii) savings as a result of incorporating the Rivers Agency in her Department.

(AQW 32212/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Rivers Agency has always been an integral part of my Department. The change I am making means that, for example, there will no longer be a separate set of accounts for the Agency, and it will no longer present its Business Plan to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development. It follows that cost, if any, will be modest and will be kept to a minimum. The savings will arise from the changes in governance and preparation and publication of accounts, and will similarly be modest.

Licensed Dogs

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of licensed dogs.

(AQW 32234/11-15)

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

Dog licences issued by Councils remain valid for a period of one year. 129,180 dogs were licensed in the 12 months ending 31 December 2013.

Rural Development Programme: West Tyrone Constituency

Mr McAleer asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the projects in the West Tyrone constituency that received funding from the current Rural Development Programme.

(AQW 32377/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The projects that have been allocated funding following competitive applications processes by ARC North West under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) are listed in the following table:

Organisation Name	Project Title
	Modernising machinery
	Water repair & maintenance services
	Caldwell Pressbrake
	Water repair & maintenance services
Aghyaran Development Association Cic	Aghyaran Multi Use Recreational Area

Organisation Name	Project Title
Airseal	AIRSEAL Airtightness Testing
	Showcase hi tech quality textiles
	Premium quality bespoke woodcraft manufacture
	Business Development & Tourist Complex Expansion Project
	Establishment of 2 Self-catering units opposite Urney Presbyterian Church
	Accommodation Enhancement
Ballyskeagh Stables	Ballyskeagh Stables Phase 2
	Provision of a Self Catering Cottage For Horse Riding Tourist
Camowen Farmers Combined Ltd	Camowen Rural Support Services
	Charles and Damien McSorley
	North West Gardening & Landscaping
	Wildlife fauna heritage and environmental trails
Clarke Road Contracts Ltd	CRC-Connect
Colton Concrete Limited	Colton Concrete Limited Press Project
	Colton Concrete Steel Machines Project
Colton Concrete Ltd	Colton Concrete Limited Casting Plant Project
	Coote Pallet Handler
	Shuttle Dosing System
Cornabracken Childcare	Development of existing Child Care Setting
	Concrete Laser Levelling
	ATF Expansion
Dimac	Sports Ground Maintenance
	West Star Welding
Drumduff & Drumnakilly Community Association	Mountain View Environmental Trail
Drumnabeys Kennels	Drumnabeys Kennels

Organisation Name	Project Title
Dsg2010	Provision of Community Building
	80mm Lathe and Piping Bender
	G.Winters Memorials Laser Etching
	New Office Accommodation
	Homecraft Revival
	175 Tonne Hydraulic Press-Brake
	Heavy Duty Plate and Ring Rollers
	Green Elves Playgroup - Investing for the Future.
Greencastle Athletic Club	New Greencastle 5: A Sperrins Flagship Event
Hollywood Furnishings Ltd	Hollywood Furnishings Growth Phase
	Creation of Fishing Ponds
	Lakeview
	Development and creation of licenced restaurant
	Organic Fibre Recycling Facility
	Healthbeat
	Engineering office and equipment
	GUTTER LINING MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT AND BUSINESS EXPANSION
	Construction of self catering unit
	Katrina Taggart Photography and Framing Services
	Structual Steel Fabrication
Kenneth McClure Design Studio	
Killeter & District Development Trust	Killeter Historical Sites Project
Loughmacrory Community Development Association	The Lough Coffee Shop
	Ballyskeagh Farmhouse Accommodation
	Boiling House
Maxweld Engineering	Maxweld Engineering CNC Project
	Agricultural Drinker Moulds
	Modernisation of engineering equipment, to increase productivity

Organisation Name	Project Title
Mce Services	Development oof MCE Services On Site Capacity
	Establishment of MCE Services Assessment Laboratory and Offices
	Modernising Plant for McNelis Mobile clotheslines
	Modernising Plant for McNelis Mobile clotheslines
	Localised AI and Pregnancy Scanning Services
Mid Ulster Enterprises (Creggan) Ltd	An Clachan Cottages Extension/Pugrade
Miltown Gravel Ltd	Miltown Gravel Recycling
	Proposed barn conversion
	Horizontal Baler
	Extension of existing workspace to facilitate the production of equestrain equipment
	Tattykeel Mills: Water wheels restoration.
	Business Development
	Business Expansion
	Modernising machinery.
Newtownstewart Development Association Ltd	Provision of Wi fi Access,satellite television and marketing support at Grange Court Holiday Complex
Newtownstewart Leisure Complex Ltd	Provision of Minor Hall to compliment existing centre
	Hydraulic Hose assembly
Omagh District Council	Omagh Walking and Rambling Initiative
	Scoping Study and Action Plans for Villages in ARC north west area
Omagh Today	New Cross-community magazine
	Purchase of Concrete Grinding and Polishing Equipment
O'neill Concrete Flooring Ltd	Machinery
Owenkillew Development Company	Gortin Tourism Centre Development Project
	CNC Machine Centre and Overhead Crane
Party-Town	Party-Town Entertainment Hire and Sales
	Recycling Equipment manufacture
	Expansion of light engineering
	Mc Sorley CAD Solutions
	Powerwashing and general house maintenance services.

Organisation Name	Project Title
Pro-Fab Engineering	225 tonne Hydraulic Press Brake
	Waste Solutions NI
	Robert O'Brien Photography
	Seskinore Farm Meats - Stage 3
	Purchase and installation of Ironworker, Tooling and Inverter Welder.
	Purchase and Installation of Mandrel Tubular Pipe Bender
	Further Developments within CRS NI Ltd
	Recycling Equipment Design and Development
	Continual Expansion of CRS NI Ltd
	Erection of 11KW Wind Turbine
	Simply Special Business Expansion
	Camowen Green Firewood Processing
Soup Stone Productions	Onscreen
Spamout & District Community Assoc	Reach For The Sky
Sperrin Environmental	Manufacture and install energy recovery systems for the process industry
Springhill Golf & Country Club	Springhill Golf 2012
Strabane Community Project	Meals on Wheels Weekend Service
Strabane District Council	Explore More- Explore Strabane & The Sperrins
	Making Connections
	Youth Multi Use Games Area x 3
Stratex Ltd	Capital Equipment - Drill Rigs Complete
Sugar And Spice Early Years Centre	Welcome room to playgroup premises
Tereco Ltd	Waste Management Solutions
Thomas Irwin	Denamona Equine Funeral Services
Toolbox.Net Ltd	Repair Workshop
Tyrone Gaa County Board	Tyrone County GAA Centre Environmental and Heritage Project
Walleffects Ltd	Walleffects Development Project
Waterworx	Waterworx Pipeline Services
Weld-Tech Engineering Servives Ltd	To expand the bussiness and provide a tube manupalation service to smaller engineering firm
Aghyaran Development Association Cic	Aghyaran Commuity Fitness Hub
	Construction of Mourne self-catering accommodation

Organisation Name	Project Title
Arc North West	Co-Operation Through Enterprise Project
	Social Economy Co-operation Project
Ardstraw Quarries Ltd	Producing Recycled Aggregate
Castle Hotel Bar	Castle Hotel Bar - Bar Food
	Upgrading Machinery
Derg Valley Care	Transform
	Hilltop Aggregates Ltd
	West Star Engineering Project 2
Eco Technologies International (Ni) Ltd	Eco Tech Business Start-Up
	Cattle Foot Trimming
Glenbane Stone Ltd	Glenbanestone Ltd
Greencastle St.Patricks Gfc	Greencastle CORE (Community Outdoor Recreational Enterprise) Project
Hawthorn Brooke Stables Ltd	Manufacture of prefabricated walls for horse stables
Humac Engineering & Tuffmac Trailers	Purchase of a CNC Powerbend Pressbrake & a CNC HVR Guillotine
	Darragh Wind
	Chip Edger
	Healthbeat –Health and Wellbeing facility specialist provision
	Carricklee outdoor events facility
	Cattle hoof trimming
Kinalf Engineering	Purchase of machinery for light engineering business.
Leckpatrick Development Association	New Community Hall
Little Angels Rural Family Centre Ltd	Little Angels Childrens Educational/Multi-sensory Garden
Loughmacrory Community Development Association	Loughmacrory Regional Outdoor Activity Centre
Mcc Building Systems Ltd	Development of Anti-Vandal Cabins to Add to Current Product Range
	Embalming studio & Chapel of Rest
Mce Services	Decontamination Site Team Equipment Project
	Kilcootry Barn Improvements
	Pat Larry's Self catering Cottage
Northwest Stone Works	Northwest Stone Works

Organisation Name	Project Title
Omagh District Council	Carrickmore Village Renewal and Development
	Gateways Project
	Gortin Recreational Hub
	Village Telecommunication Project
Party-Town	Party-Town Marquees and Entertainment Hire
	Legamaghery School Studio
	Light Engineering Works
	Purchase A 6M Press Brake
	Renovation of existing farm dwelling to self catering accomodation
Profab Engineering	Installation of a High Speed Computer Controlled (CNC) Plasma Cutter.
Road Restraint Systems Ltd	RRS
	Expansion of CRS NI Ltd
Sion Mills Buildings Preservation Trust	Stables Heritage Project
Sixmilecross Enterprise Ltd	Sixmilecross Enterprise Ltd (SEL) - Day Nursery
Strabane District Council	Glebe Community Park Regeneration
	Glenmornan Multi Use Games Area
	Integrated Tourism Package
	Plumbridge Health and Recreation Project
Stratex Ltd	Capital Equipment for Site Investigations
Super Skip Bag Ltd	Skip Bag Waste Recycling
Sydney Alexander	new production plant for S & M products
Tiny Tots Day Care	Relocation of Tiny Tots Day Care
Tyrone County Gaa Committee (Clg Thir Eoghain)	Garvaghey 3G Multi-Activity Pitch
	Tyrone Paving Brick

Rural Development Programme: West Tyrone Constituency

Mr McAleer asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total funding invested by her Department, via the Rural Development Programme, in the West Tyrone constituency since 2011.

(AQW 32379/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I understand your question refers specifically to Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme (RDP). Assisting Rural Communities in the North West (ARC NW) is the delivery mechanism responsible for Axis 3 delivery across the council cluster area of Omagh, Strabane, Derry and Limavady. ARC NW has awarded funding investment of £9.65m to 165 projects since 2011 in the West Tyrone Constituency.

Delay in Single Farm Payments

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farm businesses are still awaiting their Single Farm Payment.

(AQW 32387/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014.

To date, 97.9% of claims have been finalised and 801 claims remain outstanding. Over 300 of these are outstanding due to circumstances outside the Department's control such as probate proceedings, legal disputes between farm businesses or businesses not providing bank account details to enable payment.

Single Farm Payments: Inspections

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 31900/11-15, to detail each year when Single Farm Payments were received and whether her Department has been subject to a (i) targeted or (ii) random inspection in relation to any of payments.

(AQW 32435/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has received Single Farm Payments (SFP) for the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and Forest Service on the dates as detailed in the table below:

SFP Year	CAFRE SFP Date Paid	Forest Service SFP Date Paid
2005	5 September 2006	18 July 2006
2006	3 April 2007	10 July 2008
2007	20 February 2008	11 July 2008
2008	22 January 2009	6 January 2009
2009	12 February 2010	17 February 2010
2010	23 February 2011	3 February 2011
2011	21 February 2012	23 January 2012
2012	10 June 2013	25 February 2013
2013	24 December 2013	N/A

CAFRE was selected for a land based inspection according to risk criteria in 2006. It was also selected under the risk selection process for a number of cross compliance inspections in relation to its land and regulatory requirements covering the environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare between 2006 and 2009. Forest Service was selected for a land based inspection according to risk criteria in 2006. It was also selected under the risk selection process for a cross compliance inspection in relation to regulatory requirements covering the environment in 2007.

Delay in Single Farm Payments

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many farmers entitled to the 2013 Single Farm Payment are still awaiting payment; and (ii) what advice her Department has taken regarding the potential tax implications for those farmers still awaiting their 2013 payment and who will not receive the payment until after 5 April 2014.

(AQW 32482/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013. To date, 98% of claims have been finalised and 753 claims remain outstanding. In March 2013, 1,844 claims were outstanding from the 2012 SFP scheme year and 2,284 claims were outstanding in March 2012 from the 2011 SFP scheme year.

The Department has not taken advice on the tax implications to farmers of payments made after 5 April 2014. The tax implication of any subsidy payment is a matter for individual farm businesses.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

New Council Areas: Staff Commute

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of staff in her Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

(AQW 32318/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): The information relating to DCAL staff is contained in the table below.

The data has been provided by the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and reflects the position at 1 January 2014.

As there is no definition for Greater Belfast, the analysis calculates travel for DCAL staff from the new council areas to the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA).

The BMUA is defined in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (February 2005) and is available from NISRA at: www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/urban_rural/ur_gaz.pdf

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	SO	EOI	EOII	AO	AA	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1	0	1	6	6	4	6	3	1	28
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	0	0	3	2	6	3	1	5	0	20
Belfast	1	0	5	12	20	8	9	17	8	80
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	5
Derry and Strabane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1	0	2	2	5	1	2	4	2	19
Mid and East Antrim	0	0	0	8	3	4	1	4	1	21
Mid Ulster	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	SO	EOI	EOII	AO	AA	
Newry, Mourne and Down	1	0	2	7	3	0	1	1	1	16
North Down and Ards	2	0	1	4	8	2	6	4	2	29
Total *	6	0	20	44	61	23	26	48	16	244

* Total includes 21 (8.6%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area.

Boxing Investment Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (ii) how much of the funding under the Boxing Investment Programme has been spent; and (ii) how has it been allocated, including the total (a) paid to clubs; and (b) on administration.

(AQW 32346/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, has spent a total of £236,427.24 on the Boxing Investment Programme to date.

Of this amount £169,821.57 has been paid to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) for the supply of equipment to 94 boxing clubs affiliated to the IABA. Equipment delivered includes competition head guards and gloves, training head guards and gloves and punch bags.

A further £30,637 has been paid to the IABA for appointment of Watts Group PLC as project managers. The role of Watts Group PLC includes completion of building surveys on each applicant, procurement of design teams and contractors, management of project design teams and contractors during the construction phase of the programme.

In addition, £35,968.67 has been paid to the IABA for the appointment of a Club Development Manager. This role includes development and support offered to boxing clubs to build capacity and enable clubs to develop structures and receive funding.

Boxing Investment Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the clubs that have received funding from the Boxing Investment Programme; and how much to has been allocated to each club.

(AQW 32347/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, identified an indicative funding package within its sports lottery funding of up to £3.27M to assist with the development of boxing. Under the first strand of the Boxing Investment Programme, £169,821.57 was paid to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) for the supply of equipment to 94 boxing clubs affiliated to the IABA. A list of clubs that received equipment is attached at Annex A.

Furthermore, Sport NI has £2.52M Lottery funding allocated for capital works alone. The Clubs listed at Annex B have received an indicative award for capital works but final awards have not been approved at this stage.

Annex A**Boxing Clubs that received equipment:**

Abbey ABC	Lisburn ABC
Albert Foundry ABC	Lisnafin ABC
All Saints ABC	Mark Heagney
Antrim ABC	Midland
Ardoyne Holy Cross	Sean Doran ABC
Ards ABC	Craigavon ABC
Ballykelly	Moneyglass ABC
Ballysillan ABC	Moneymore ABC/Spring Hill
Belleck	Moote ABC (Donaghadee)
Bishop Kelly ABC	Mourne Golden Gloves
Braid ABC	Mourne All Blacks ABC
Cairn Lodge ABC	Newington ABC
Camlough ABC	North Down ABC
Canal ABC	Oak Leaf ABC
Carrickfergus ABC	Oliver Plunkett ABC
Carrickmore ABC	Omagh Boys & Girls
Carryduff ABC	Phoenix ABC
Castle ABC	Red Triangle ABC
CBBA	Ring ABC
Churchlands	Rochesters ABC
Clonard ABC	Sacred Heart ABC
Clonoe ABC	Sacred Heart Omagh ABC
Coleraine ABC	Saints ABC
Cookstown ABC	Scorpion ABC
Corpus Christi	Silverbridge ABC
Derrylin ABC	Spartons ABC
Dockers ABC	Springtown ABC
Downpatrick ABC	St Agnes ABC
Dungannon ABC	St Brigids ABC
East Down ABC	St Bronaghs ABC
Eastside ABC	St Canices ABC
Ederney ABC	St Georges ABC
Eglinton ABC	St Jarlaths ABC

Emerald ABC	St John Bosco ABC (Belfast)
Ennisikillen ABC	St John Bosco ABC (Newry)
Errigal ABC	St Johns ABC (Maghera)
Gilford ABC	St Joseph ABC
Gleann ABC	St Malachys ABC
Hillview ABC	St Marys ABC
Holy Family Belfast	St Patricks ABC
Immaculata ABC (Strabane)	St Pauls ABC
Immaculata ABC	Star ABC
James McCoy Warrenpoint ABC	The Loup ABC
Kilmegan	The Skerries
Kronk	Toome ABC
Larne ABC	Townland ABC
Ligoneil ABC	Two Castles ABC

Annex B

Boxing Clubs that have received an indicative award for capital works:

ABC Kronk Belfast	£43,623
Antrim ABC	£49,018
Ardoyne Holy Cross BC	£200,000
Braid ABC	£666
Cairn Lodge ABC	£39,627
Castle ABC	£39,960
City of Belfast Boxing Academy	£92,188
Coleraine ABC	£61,139
Dockers Boxing Club	£17,316
Dungannon Boxing Club	£28,904
Eastside ABC	£39,294
Eglinton ABC	£7,752
Emerald Boxing Club	£14,652
Errigal ABC	£60,606
Glengormley ABC	£19,247
Hillview ABC	£53,879
Holy Family Golden Gloves	£9,724
Holy Trinity ABC	£36,563

Immaculata ABC, Belfast	£78,601
Ligoniel ABC	£27,972
Lisburn ABC	£16,290
Loup Boxing Club	£54,612
Midland ABC	£34,299
Moneyglass ABC	£71,928
Monkstown Boxing Club	£16,650
Newington ABC	£26,640
Oakleaf ABC	£56,610
Oliver Plunkett ABC	£48,551
Phoenix ABC, Lurgan	£200,000
Rochesters ABC	£45,288
Saints ABC	£58,581
Sean Doran ABC, Keady	£71,462
Spartans ABC	£13,986
Star ABC	£22,844
St Agnes ABC	£29,970
St Canice's ABC, Dungiven	£28,438
St John Bosco ABC, Belfast	£200,000
St Josephs ABC	£200,000
St Pauls ABC	£56,077
The Skerries ABC, Portrush	£42,291

Boxing Investment Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether three members of St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club, which is set to benefit from funding under the Boxing Investment Programme, are employed by Sport NI, which administers the funding.

(AQW 32352/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI has informed the Department that none of its employees are members of St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club.

Foras na Gaelige: Income

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total income of Foras na Gaelige in (i) 2011; (ii) 2012; and (iii) 2013, broken down by source, including (a) government Departments in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; (b) earned income; and (c) all other sources.

(AQW 32410/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The total income for Foras na Gaelige for 2011, 2012 and 2013, broken down by source, is shown in the table below:

Source	2011	2012	2013
DCAL	£3,816,012	£3,605,080	£3,502,961
DAHG	£11,607,889	£10,671,549	£10,519,430
DCAL (Colmcille)	£133,164	£114,679	£137,631
DAHG (Colmcille)	£132,410	£117,038	£113,247
DAHG (Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge)	£1,148,999	£1,021,039	£994,527
Earned Income (Áis Book sales)	£896,471	£745,547	£767,892
Other Sources	£90,603	£22,422	£55,630
Total	£17,825,548	£16,297,353	£16,091,318

Boxing Investment Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether a member of St. Paul's Amateur Boxing Club, who is also an employee of Sport NI, is one of the facilitators involved in visiting boxing clubs that are seeking funding from the Boxing Investment Programme.

(AQW 32467/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI has informed the Department that none of its employees are members of St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club.

Department of Education

Educational Psychology Services: Waiting Times

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of children, at Stage Three of the Code of Practice, in each Education and Library Board who have been on a waiting list to see the educational psychology service for (i) less than three months; (ii) three to six months; and (iii) more than six months.

(AQW 32141/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have confirmed that the percentage of children, at Stage Three of the Code of Practice, who have been referred to the ELBs' educational psychology services and who are waiting for their initial appointment *, in the timescales outlined below, is as follows:

	Less than three months	Three to six months	More than six months
BELB	82%	14%	4%
NEELB	62%	25%	13%
SEELB	52%	45%	3%
SELB	64%	27%	9%
WELB	54%	34%	12%

* As at 20th March 2014

Schools and Youth Services: Investment

Mr Maskey asked the Minister of Education how much his Department has invested in schools and youth services since 2011.

(AQW 32228/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The amount of capital investment in schools and youth services since 2011 is follows:

Financial Year	Schools Capital	Youth Capital	Total Capital
	£000s	£000s	£000s
2011/12	109,967	4,133	114,100
2012/13	103,077	4,535	107,612
2013/14*	103,241	6,194	109,435

* 2013/14 financial year figures are based on forecast outturn

Commissioners at the South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education on how many days have the Commissioners at the South Eastern Education and Library Board met in each year since 2006.

(AQW 32254/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) has advised that since their appointment in July 2006 the Commissioners have held 150 board meetings up to the end of March 2014, with a day for each. The number of meetings in each of the financial years since 2006 is detailed below.

Financial Year	July 06/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
No. of Board meetings	18	22	19	16	17	23	18	17

During the same period and in addition to these meetings, the Commissioners have also been involved individually in a wide range of other official meetings and events.

Minor Works in Non-Controlled Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 31630/11-15, how much funding has been allocated to each Education and Library Board.

(AQW 32294/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: During 2014/15 a total of £2,397k has been made available to the Education and Library Boards to permit recruitment of permanent staff and external assistance to deliver a programme of minor works in non-controlled schools and has been allocated on an individual Board basis as follows:

Board	Allocation
BELB	£509k
SEELB	£351k
SELB	£605k
WELB	£523k
NEELB	£409k

In addition a resource budget allocation of £230k is being made to the ELBs as broken down below to recognise the increased administrative costs associated with the additional work being undertaken. This resource budget may be used to employ additional administrative staff or to cover additional administrative or equipment costs associated with the additional technical staff.

Board	Resource Budget
BELB	£47k
SEELB	£34k
SELB	£54k
WELB	£51k
NEELB	£44k

South Eastern Education and Library Board: Meetings

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education whether the meetings of the commissioners in the South Eastern Education and Library Board are held in public.

(AQW 32297/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The conduct of business of the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) Commissioners is set out in their Standing Orders. Provision 4.1 in the Standing Orders advises that the Commissioners can decide to hold some or all of their meetings in public.

The SEELB has also advised that, if requested in relation to a specific issue or proposal, the Commissioners provide the opportunity for delegations to have input into the decision making process at their meetings and that all disclosable papers from their meetings are published on the SEELB website.

Devenish College in Fermanagh

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Education when on-site works will begin for the proposed new Devenish College in Fermanagh.

(AQW 32298/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The project for Devenish College is being taken forward by the Western Education and Library Board. An Economic Appraisal has been completed and is currently with the Department for consideration.

It is not possible at this time to say when on-site works will begin for the proposed new Devenish College. Once the Economic Appraisal has been approved the scheme will move forward to the design phase and only when this is complete will a decision be made on the construction of the new school.

Any decision to move to the construction phase can only be made within the available capital budget for Education. I will continue to petition to secure additional capital funds to address the accommodation difficulties faced by many schools which includes funds for Major New Builds.

Enrolment Figures

Mr Wilson asked the Minister of Education to detail the maximum enrolment figures allowed in (i) Downshire High School; (ii) Carrickfergus Grammar School; (iii) Carrickfergus College; and (iv) Ulidia Integrated College for the 2013/14 academic year.

(AQW 32301/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The approved maximum enrolment figures for each school for 2013/14 and 2014/15 are listed in the table overleaf:

School Ref	School Name	2013/14	2014/15
321-0232	Downshire High School	800	800
341-0098	Carrickfergus Grammar School	800	800
321-0091	Carrickfergus College	900	900
326-0299	Ulidia Integrated College	500	500

Enrolment Figures

Mr Wilson asked the Minister of Education to detail the projected maximum enrollment figures allowed in (i) Downshire High School; (ii) Carrickfergus Grammar School; (iii) Carrickfergus College; and (iv) Ulidia Integrated College for the 2014/15 academic year.

(AQW 32302/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The approved maximum enrolment figures for each school for 2013/14 and 2014/15 are listed in the table below:

School Ref	School Name	2013/14	2014/15
321-0232	Downshire High School	800	800
341-0098	Carrickfergus Grammar School	800	800
321-0091	Carrickfergus College	900	900
326-0299	Ulidia Integrated College	500	500

Review of Outdoor Education Provision and Resourcing

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has carried out, or will consider, a review of outdoor education provision and resourcing.

(AQW 32310/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In October 2013, I published Priorities for Youth, the new policy for youth work in education. Among the range of actions to be taken forward, the Education Skills Authority (or Education and Library Boards and the Youth Council in the interim) will carry out a baseline audit of currently funded/supported youth provision to identify gaps and potential for over provision to inform the development of a needs assessment. This will include a review of the statutory youth estate and outdoor education centres.

New Council Areas: Staff Commute

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

(AQW 32319/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education (DE) has one office situated within the Greater Belfast area. The number of DE staff located in that office is fewer than five. As information about daily travel to their place of work constitutes personal data, it is exempt under section 40(2) of the FOIA as its disclosure would breach the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998 in that it would be unfair.

Bangor Central Integrated Primary

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education whether consideration has been given to making a formal cash offer to North Down Borough Council to secure the land at the old Bangor leisure centre site, to

ensure that Bangor Central Integrated Primary has sufficient space for a new build to accommodate its pupils.

(AQW 32332/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There have been no further developments since my last response to your similar question on 25 February 2014. Following an open call for expressions of interest from North Down Borough Council on 26 April 2013, the South Eastern Education and Library Board made a formal written offer to secure part of the former leisure centre site for use by Bangor Central Integrated Primary School.

To date, the Board has still not been made aware of any decision by the Council.

Schools: Time Spent on Physical Activity

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education whether consideration has been given to increasing the time spent on physical activity in (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools.

(AQW 32368/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Legislation governing the revised curriculum prevents the Department from prescribing the amount of time to be allocated to any particular subject. The Department of Education has however issued guidance to schools recommending a minimum of two hours PE per week.

Physical Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils at every Key Stage from the ages of 4 to 16. Greater flexibility and less prescription are key features of the revised curriculum which recognises the importance of allowing teachers to plan their teaching to meet the needs of their pupils.

Maintained Sector Grammar Schools: Lurgan

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Education whether children, who are educated in the maintained sector in Lurgan, will have to pay for transport to their closest maintained sector grammar school when changes are implemented.

(AQW 32448/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Once a pupil has secured a place at a grant-aided school then under the Home to School transport Scheme, they are assessed by their Education and Library Board for assistance with transport based on their individual circumstances. Therefore, it is not possible to say generally whether pupils will be eligible for assistance or not.

The existing policy uses two criteria to assess pupils; namely 'distance' and 'suitable school'. When a pupil lives beyond the relevant distance criterion of a grant-aided school in a recognised category chosen by the parent(s), and when that pupil has been refused a place in all suitable schools (if any) in the chosen category within the relevant distance criterion, then they are eligible for assistance with transport.

Commissioners at the South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many meetings of the Commissioners in the South Eastern Education and Library Board have been held in each of the last eight years; and of these, how many lasted more than one day.

(AQW 32452/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) has advised that since their appointment in July 2006 the Commissioners have held 150 board meetings up to the end of March 2014, with a day for each. The number of meetings in each of the financial years since 2006 is detailed below.

Financial Year	July 06/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
No. of Board meetings	18	22	19	16	17	23	18	17

During the same period and in addition to these meetings, the Commissioners have also been involved individually in a wide range of other official meetings and events.

Pupil Teacher Ratio

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the current pupil teacher ratio in (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools and how this compares with (a) England; (b) Scotland; and (c) Wales.

(AQW 32453/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information is provided in the table below. All figures refer to the 2012/13 school year. Direct comparisons are not advised, as there are differences in the coverage and scope of the data collections.

	NI¹	England²	Scotland³	Wales⁴
Primary	21.1	20.9	16.3	20.7
Post Primary	15.3	15.4	12.2	16.3

Sources:

- 1 NI School Census and Teachers' Payroll and Pensions Administration System;
- 2 English School Workforce Census;
- 3 Scotland Annual School Census of Pupils and Teachers;
- 4 Welsh School Census.

Department for Employment and Learning

Preventative Spending

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what consideration he has given to the need for preventative spending within his departmental budget.

(AQW 31812/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): The work of my Department is fundamentally concerned with preventative spending.

The Skills Strategy 'Success through Skills - Transforming Futures' articulates the Department's aims "to enable people to access and progress up the skills ladder in order to: raise the skills level of the whole workforce; raise productivity; increase levels of social inclusion by enhancing the employability of those currently excluded from the labour market; and secure Northern Ireland's future in a global marketplace."

Success against these objectives can only impact positively on such key indicators as public health and well-being, reliance on the welfare system, inward investment and job creation. This should result not only in savings to the public purse, but also in the generation of additional income.

The 'Structured to Deliver Success' document sets out how the Department's major strategies and activities combine to achieve the goals set out in the Skills Strategy. I plan to publish an updated version of this paper early in the new financial year.

My Department 'Pathways to Success' strategy is designed to address the significant issue of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The strategy has a range of measures aimed at preventing young people falling into the NEET category, and helping other young people who find themselves in this situation to re-engage with education, training or employment.

The Community Family Support Programme (CFSP) is a 'Pathways to Success' initiative and also a Delivering Social Change signature project entitled 'Pathways to Employment for Young People'. The intervention programme has been designed to support families with a high level of need to develop their capacity to reach their full potential by addressing the health, social, economic, educational, employment and training issues that impact on their daily lives.

By investing in the CFSP, my Department offers real benefits to families to change their prospects and become full participants in society and, in the long term, savings will be made in the public purse.

Profoundly Deaf Students

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the assistance schemes available to help Further Education Colleges and Higher Education Institutes provide support services to profoundly deaf students who undertake extra-curricular activities.

(AQW 32067/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department's Additional Support Fund (ASF) provides ring-fenced financial assistance for further education (FE) students with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. This funding enables FE colleges to provide technical and personal support to these students. However ASF does not extend to cover extra-curricular activities.

My Department does not have specific assistance schemes available to help profoundly deaf students undertake extra-curricular activities. However, some FE colleges provide additional support for a range of student activities including

college formals, graduations and special events, sports teams, student union and student council activities.

In higher education, my Department provides funding, through Disabled Students Allowances, to help students pay for the extra costs they may incur when studying their course, as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. The allowances can help with the cost of items of specialist equipment, travel and other course related costs.

Through Disabled Student Allowances, my Department also provides funding for the administration and delivery of a Register of Support Providers in each of the two Northern Ireland Universities. These are registers of freelance professional and non-professional support workers who are recruited and trained to assist students with disabilities and learning difficulties carry out course related activities. Under the Disabled Students' Allowance Regulations there is no scope for students with disabilities to receive support from DSA to undertake extra-curricular activities.

My Department does not have assistance schemes available to help Higher Education Institutes provide support services to profoundly deaf students who undertake extra-curricular activities.

However, the Higher Education Institutions have in place a range of measures, sometimes delivered through their Student Unions, to facilitate and encourage students with disabilities to engage in both academic and non-academic extra-curricular activities.

Driver and Vehicle Agency: Assistance for Staff

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline any assistance his Department plan to offer people currently employed by the Driver and Vehicle Agency.

(AQW 32136/11-15)

Dr Farry: Department for Employment and Learning will follow the Redeployment Policy and associated procedures agreed centrally by Corporate HR, Department of Finance & Personnel, in consultation with

Department of Environment in relation to these posts. Department for Employment and Learning has a network of 35 regional offices and will liaise with Department of Environment and Corporate HR to accommodate surplus staff, subject to available vacancies.

A senior representative from the Department's Human Resources Team is participating on the Northern Ireland Civil Service Redeployment Group which has been established to consider means to resolve the surplus situation. The first meeting of this group was held on 24 March 2014.

Student Accommodation

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail any research carried out by his Department regarding standards of student accommodation.

(AQW 32221/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department provides funding to the Higher Education Institutions for teaching and learning and research purposes. As my Department has no remit for student accommodation it has not carried out any research on this issue.

Student Accommodation

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) how many students live in privately rented accommodation; and (ii) the support offered by his Department to students experiencing problems with private rented accommodation.

(AQW 32222/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department provides funding to the Higher Education Institutions for teaching and learning and research purposes. The Universities are responsible for their own policies and procedures, including those relating to privately rented student accommodation and my Department does not provide any specific support to students experiencing problems with this issue.

As my Department does not hold the information you have requested I have asked officials to refer your question to the higher education institutions so that they can respond to you directly on this matter.

Part-Time Courses

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) what support his Department offers to part time students to help meet the fee costs for part-time courses; and (ii) any changes he intends to make to this provision to further encourage participation in part-time courses.

(AQW 32248/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department provides a range of financial help to assist part-time students with the cost of fees, for courses delivered in both further education (FE) colleges and local universities.

FE Colleges

- (i) Further education colleges are responsible for setting their own level of fees, including concessionary fees, for all the part-time courses they provide. Students undertaking accredited courses, who require financial assistance with meeting the costs associated with learning, can apply for help through FE Awards and/or college Hardship Funds. The amount of support available from both these sources for eligible students is means tested based on household income and is dependent on individual circumstances.
- (ii) The maximum amount of assistance available to part-time students through FE Awards is £465 towards the payment of fees (tuition, examination and registration), plus a course grant (books and stationery) of up to £265 per annum. Hardship Funds provide assistance to those eligible students who are experiencing exceptional financial difficulty in meeting the costs associated with learning and are aimed at providing assistance with fees, books and equipment, travel costs and associated living costs, up to a maximum of £3,500 per annum for full-time students. The amount of financial help provided to part-time students is calculated on a pro rata basis.

- (iii) The overall amount of financial help provided through both FE Awards and Hardship Funds is monitored throughout the year and where possible additional funding is made available to meet any increase in demand for both full-time and part-time courses.

Universities

- (i) Students who do not already have a degree can apply for part-time student support for up to nine months after the course commences. For eligible part time Northern Ireland domiciled students the tuition fee support available is £1,230 which is means tested and dependent on the intensity of the course. The tuition fee grant is means tested up to a household income of £25,421, after which no grant is payable. To be eligible for the financial help the students' course must be no less than 50% of an equivalent full-time course (i.e. it must not last longer than twice as long as the full-time course). An eligible student can apply for the non-repayable fee grants for up to 8 years.
- (ii) As part of my Department's Higher Education Strategy, 'Graduating to Success', a review of higher education funding is currently underway. A key aim of the review is to consider how an increase in part-time participation could be encouraged. As a result, it will include a review of both the current student support offering made available by my Department to part-time students and the level of core teaching grant provided. Any proposed changes will be subject to public consultation later in the year.

Employment Agency Inspectorate

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the work of the Employment Agency Inspectorate.

(AQO 5881/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department's Employment Agency Inspectorate is responsible for the regulation of the Northern Ireland private recruitment sector, and its primary purpose is to protect workseekers and hirers who use the services of employment agencies.

The Inspectorate operates a risk-based approach to inspection, and targets those agencies which operate in particular occupational or sectoral areas, or in geographic regions, to ensure that sufficient protections are in place for those who have been identified as the most vulnerable workseekers.

To inform this process, the last 12 months have seen the Inspectorate undertake awareness-raising and evidence-gathering exercises, using local information sources such as Jobs and Benefits Offices, Citizen's Advice Bureaux, and migrant worker representative groups.

On a yearly basis, the Inspectorate plans a programme of inspections. This programme is based on an ongoing identification and assessment of risks in the recruitment sector. These risks may be sectoral, geographical or historical, meaning that they could be based on, for example, previous infringements.

At present, the focus of the Inspectorate's attention is on the following areas:

- Complaints from hirers and workseekers, these take priority over any inter-agency complaints;
- Agencies and businesses that work in sectors with children or vulnerable adults, for example, nursing homes;
- Agencies that place a high proportion of migrant workers;
- Breached regulations which afford the most protection to workseekers and hirers;
- and finally, agencies about which the Inspectorate or other enforcement agencies have a concern.

Steps 2 Success: Procurement

Mr Rogers asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the procurement process for Steps 2 Success.

(AQO 5878/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Steps 2 Success employment programme is the Department's major employment programme, designed to move people from unemployment and economic inactivity into sustained employment. Steps 2 Success is replacing and building on the success of Steps to Work.

The procurement for Steps 2 Success is presently being carried out under the guidance of the Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel. Their role is to ensure that all legislative and policy requirements are met.

The procurement is being carried out in two stages. Stage one was designed to select six organisations in each of three contract areas to submit tenders at Stage two. This stage has been completed and six organisations were selected in each area, one organisation has subsequently withdrawn in one contract area.

At Stage one, bidding organisations provided examples of how they had designed and delivered employment programmes, to show their capacity and capability to deliver the new programme. Bidding organisations were also requested to provide evidences of their financial capability.

The procurement of Stage two was launched on 28 March, with the first participants starting the programme in September 2014.

In Stage two, bidding organisations will be required to demonstrate:

- how they will move programme participants into sustained employment. Organisations will be required to design a flexible, individually tailored programme designed to assess participants' needs and then to meet these needs;
- they will also need to show how they will work with employers and other stakeholders to identify appropriate job opportunities for participants and to meet the labour market needs of employers; and
- they will have to show how they will deliver a high quality service to all participants, and their proposed delivery structure, including their supply chain.

The standard of service offered to each participant is set out by the Department in a Service Guarantee.

Youth Employment Scheme: South Antrim

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the Youth Employment Scheme in South Antrim.

(AQO 5877/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Youth Employment Scheme was launched in July 2012. Since then, within the South Antrim area, employers have offered 413 opportunities to young people. At 28 February, 171 young people had taken up these opportunities, with 47 entering permanent subsidised employment and a further six gaining unsubsidised employment.

I am pleased with progress so far and expect numbers to build as we continue to engage locally with both employers and young people, to secure their commitment to participate in the scheme.

To assist in this, the Youth Employment Scheme formed part of a recent Skills to Succeed media campaign, to encourage both young people and employers to take part. Advertisements ran on TV and Radio in February. The campaign also included extensive web advertising, as well as outdoor advertisements in most major towns.

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

Disability Employment Service

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the Disability Employment Service strategic review.

(AQO 5880/11-15)

Dr Farry: The role of the Disability Employment Service is to support and assist people with health conditions and disabilities to progress towards, move into and stay in employment.

A strategic review of the Disability Employment Service commenced in 2013. However, as this work got underway it was decided that, in order to better inform the review, an overarching Disability Employment Strategy was needed.

A strategic working group was established, comprising of officials from the Department's Disability Employment Service and a number of key representatives from the local disability sector.

The direct involvement of the disability organisations is testament to the very positive relationship and partnership working that exists between my Department and the sector. Their involvement and influence will also help to ensure that any forthcoming strategy will focus on, and address, the specific employment related needs of people with disabilities.

In addition, seven user engagement events have taken place throughout Northern Ireland. These were extremely well attended and the volume of feedback captured will ensure that the views of people with a full range of disabilities are taken into consideration, when the final strategy is being developed.

At this stage, the Working Group has identified a number of key themes and specific areas of work that they believe form the basis of the Strategy. These will be encapsulated in a Strategic Framework document which is being drafted by the group.

It is proposed that the Strategic Framework document will be subject to a public consultation exercise later this year, with the intention to launch a new Disability Employment Strategy by January 2015.

University of Ulster: GAA Tops

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline any discussions he has had with the University of Ulster regarding concerns that the proliferation of GAA tops on campus leads to an intimidating atmosphere for many students.

(AQO 5883/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department answered a written assembly question on a similar matter in July 2013. At that time the University of Ulster advised that it did not have a policy in relation to the wearing of sport shirts. However there were plans to develop a good relations policy, in conjunction with the Students Union.

The University of Ulster has now advised that a working group has been established to develop this policy. An action plan has been developed, which will be presented to the relevant University committee in April. The policy will cover, inter alia, political expression, culture, language and dress code.

Youth Training Review

Mr Douglas asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the Review of Youth Training which was announced in February 2013.

(AQO 5884/11-15)

Dr Farry: The aim of the youth training review is to provide a programme at level two, of sufficient breadth and depth to enable young people between the ages of 16 and 18 to progress to an apprenticeship programme at level three, a level three further education programme, or into employment.

I announced the review of apprenticeships and youth training in February 2013. As you are aware, the review of apprenticeships published its interim report in January 2014, setting out a range of proposals for the future of apprenticeships. As the youth training review needs to take account of the impact of these recommendations, it has operated to a longer timescale. The review has progressed over the past few months, through both research and stakeholder engagement activities.

In terms of stakeholder engagement, I recently chaired a meeting of the review's expert panel, to discuss findings and emerging issues to be addressed as part of the review. The Department also held a series of stakeholder engagement events to hear the views of employers, young people, and training providers. These events coincided with a call for submissions, which was hosted on the Department's website.

Officials in the department have also carried out research, and engaged with experts in the OECD, to investigate models of best practice in the delivery of vocational education and training. Following the OECD's recommendations, I recently visited the Netherlands. Key elements of best practice observed through the visit were the matching of training and qualifications to the needs of local employers, and the willingness of employers to integrate those on work placements into their wider business operations.

The feedback from stakeholders will be combined with these research findings to inform the review's interim report, which is due for publication in early Summer 2014.

University of Ulster: Funding

Mr Byrne asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why the funding for 350 student places at the University of Ulster at Magee has been removed.

(AQO 5885/11-15)

Dr Farry: No places have been removed from the University of Ulster.

Teacher Training Review

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an update on the review of Teacher Training.

(AQO 5886/11-15)

Dr Farry: Members are aware that I have instigated a review into the teacher training infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

The Review Panel invited each of the Initial Teacher Education Institutions and other interested stakeholders to submit their views on the structures necessary to create a world-class system of initial teacher education in Northern Ireland.

The closing date for submissions was 18 December and over 100 responses were received. All responses received have been passed to the panel and my officials have prepared a summary report of the responses, which was recently published on my Department's website.

The Review Panel has also recently met with the Initial Teacher Education Providers and a number of interested stakeholders; the Panel will draw the information from these meetings together with all other relevant information to inform their final report which will set out a series of options for the future shape of initial teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

Once this assignment has been completed, it will form the basis for further dialogue with the various institutions with the intention of finding an agreed way forward.

Key Skill Shortage

Ms Ruane asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline his proposals to enhance the cross border co-ordination between learning providers in relation to areas in which there are key skill shortages.

(AQO 5887/11-15)

Dr Farry: My officials engage regularly with their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland on a range of skills issues. Examples of recent engagement include discussions about the review of apprenticeships and the review of youth training.

Also, cross border co-operation and mobility have been identified as key issues in my Department's higher education strategy, Graduating to Success. A project group chaired by Ruth Taillon, Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, has been established to address the issue. The group includes representatives from Queens' University, the University of Ulster, the Open University and the Higher Education Authority in the Republic of Ireland.

The main objectives of the project are to identify opportunities for north-south cooperation in teaching and learning and in research and innovation; and to establish and meet targets on increased cross-border student mobility.

Queens University and the University of Ulster are both actively involved in a number of cross border projects and initiatives, including projects funded by INTERREG Ireland, US-Ireland R & D Partnership and Intertrade Ireland's Fusion programme.

I welcome these collaborative arrangements between the Higher Education institutions, North and South, and we are keen to examine opportunities for further engagement.

I can assure you that my Department remains keen to explore the possibility for joint working in border areas with the Department of Education and Skills, especially where there are obvious mutual benefits and the potential to expand opportunities for students.

It is worth noting that my Department currently funds over 4,000 enrolments, which travel from South to North to attend further education colleges. However, it is also worth noting that there is no significant corresponding flow of students travelling in the opposite direction.

I am meeting with Ruairi Quinn TD, Minister for Education and Skills, on Wednesday of this week, when we will discuss these important issues.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Horizon 2020 Competitive Funding Steam

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on her Department's work on the Horizon 2020 Competitive Funding Steam since 2011.

(AQW 32054/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): My Department continues to take the lead in this important area for Northern Ireland and has been working on a number of different activities to help stimulate and support applications into Horizon 2020. An action plan for 2013 was devised in consultation with key stakeholders and has been delivered upon through the work of the NI Horizon 2020 Manager within DETI. The main action was the setting up, supported by DEL, of the Northern Ireland Contact Point (NICP) network, providing hands-on practical support and advice to Northern Ireland applicants. DARD have also funded a role within Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Invest NI are the NICP for SMEs and InterTradeIreland support North/South collaboration. From April 2013 to the end of the year there were over 25 events and workshops in the area, which saw more than 1400 attendees and the NICP network had circa 1000 interactions with potential applicants and this work continues. Additionally there is now a Northern Ireland website for Horizon 2020, a

communications strategy for the work and activity to see an increase in the number of Northern Ireland expert evaluators. It should also be noted that my Department chairs the NI Horizon 2020 Steering Group, made up of key stakeholders such as the universities and also a number of the relevant departments to this funding area.

Direct Flights from Belfast

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on her Department's work in encouraging companies to schedule direct flights from Belfast to (a) North America; (b) Germany; (c) Austria; and (d) Belgium.

(AQW 32055/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department is in regular dialogue with airlines and Northern Ireland's airports, to help bring new air services to Northern Ireland and to promote demand for existing services. This includes the potential for new routes to important business and inbound tourism markets in mainland Europe and North America. However, while under development, these discussions are of a commercially sensitive and confidential nature. My Department is also currently undertaking an Air Connectivity Study to identify all potential options to improve Northern Ireland's air access position.

Recent changes to the European Commission Guidelines on State Aid to Airports and Airlines have re-opened the potential to operate Air Route Development Funds. I am therefore encouraged by the Chancellor's announcement in the Budget 2014 that the Government plans to extend the scope of the existing Regional Air Connectivity Fund to include start-up aid for new routes from regional airports, and will increase the funding to £20 million per annum. I welcome the Chancellor's recognition of the importance of air access to regions of the United Kingdom such as Northern Ireland. My officials will work with the Department for Transport to ensure our airports have full access to the Fund.

InvestNI: Compliance with Statutory Obligations

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, prior to InvestNI assisting a company, whether they check with relevant agencies, such as Planning Service and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to ascertain the applicant's compliance with statutory obligations.

(AQW 32076/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Depending on a business's status – sole trader, partnership or incorporated, Invest NI routinely performs the relevant credit checks. In addition Invest NI's application form also enquires about any outstanding proceedings. Invest NI's Letters of Offer include a standard condition which places the onus on the business owner to ensure that its business is operated in compliance with all applicable laws or regulations. For buildings related offers there are specific conditions ensuring that the business provides a written undertaking to the satisfaction of Invest NI that it shall provide copies of all necessary planning permissions and building control approvals.

Unemployment in the North West

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQO 4815/11-15, when the strategy to tackle unemployment in the North West will be brought to the Assembly.

(AQW 32134/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Although my Department has no specific strategy for unemployment in the North West; I remain committed to delivering actions in conjunction with Invest NI as detailed within our own Northern Ireland Economic Strategy and the more recent Economy and Jobs initiative. I believe that implementation of these activities will deliver growth, prosperity, jobs and rebalance the local economy in the longer-term. In the North West region in particular, the implementation of the recent Economy and Jobs initiative has promoted to date around 927 jobs and created a further 762 jobs.

Budget Statement: Job Creation

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what potential exists, following the Budget statement on 19 March 2014, for job creation in areas that have suffered job losses in recent months.

(AQW 32175/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In the Budget statement on 19 March 2014, the Chancellor announced that the Northern Ireland Executive has set out its plans for a pilot Enterprise Zone near Coleraine, which the government will support by offering Enhanced Capital Allowances to investors within that Zone.

5NINES, a leading global developer of data centres has announced the development of a data centre within the Zone. Coleraine Borough Council and the University of Ulster have been supporting their proposals. The proposed investment is in the region of £20 million for the first phase and the project will create approximately 15 jobs.

Data centre development is an important infrastructure element to the wider development of the ICT sector here. Such developments can assist in attracting other ICT related businesses that have an ever increasing need for such data centres. This will improve the potential for job creation in the area and Invest NI have committed to promoting the 5NINES data centre to relevant companies in international markets.

Beyond the recent Budget announcement, the Invest NI Jobs Fund has been instrumental in helping local companies create new jobs quickly. Most recent figures show that as of the end of December 2013, within East Londonderry, the Jobs Fund has promoted a total of 179 jobs and 143 jobs have actually been created to date.

Recommendation 15: Response

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 31674/11-15, to provide a comprehensive response to Recommendation 15; and if she is not able to provide a response, to outline the reasons why.

(AQW 32195/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I made my position clear on this recommendation when, in the time available to me, I responded to the Committee's Motion debated in the Assembly on 3 March 2014.

Domestic Electricity Prices

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 7003/11-15, to address the first part of the question.

(AQW 32196/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have nothing to add to my response to AQW 7003/11-15.

People Employed by Injixo Ltd in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of people employed by Injixo Ltd in Derry.

(AQW 32209/11-15)

Mrs Foster: At present, Injixo Ltd employs 25 people at their Londonderry site in various software development and technical support roles.

Pilot Enterprise Zone

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the criteria used in selecting Coleraine as the location for the pilot Enterprise Zone.

(AQW 32215/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure. The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive. State aid rules stipulate that ECAs cannot be offered alongside other forms of regional aid such as Selective Financial Assistance, business rate discounts etc.

In selecting a location for a pilot Enterprise Zone, the over-riding criteria was that it could potentially assist the development of new capital-intensive projects where ECAs would provide an attractive incentive and would outweigh other forms of available financial support. In addition, due to the then legislation cut-off date of April 2017 for projects to benefit from ECAs, any potential project needed to be operational before that date.

The pilot Enterprise Zone adjacent to the University of Ulster Coleraine Campus was put forward for the following reasons:

- Investment was already at an advanced stage and 5NINES had already received planning permission (in October 2013), so the project could potentially benefit from ECAs before the April 2017 cut-off date;
- It is an important infrastructure investment for the ICT sector and builds on the area as a digital hub;
- The project would not qualify for Invest NI financial support;
- ECAs would provide the incentive for the project to proceed and could potentially lead to further phases;
- It is a joint venture between the University of Ulster, Coleraine Borough Council and 5NINES which has the potential to promote economic development and further investment in the area.

Renewable Electricity and Renewables Obligation Certificates

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether, given Power NI's licence, there is sufficient competition for the purchase of renewable electricity and Renewables Obligation Certificates.

(AQW 32242/11-15)

Mrs Foster: All generating stations with an installed capacity greater than 10MW sell into the Single Electricity Market (SEM) pool. Generating stations below this size have the option of selling directly into the SEM pool or contracting directly with suppliers. Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) do not need to be sold with the electricity and Northern Ireland generators have the option of selling ROCs either to Northern Ireland suppliers or to suppliers elsewhere in the UK.

Power NI has a licence condition imposed by the Utility Regulator requiring it to offer a tariff to small generators. This was to ensure that small renewable generators had a route to market irrespective of the willingness of other suppliers to offer contracts to renewable generators. All other suppliers are free to offer contracts if they choose to do so.

Renewable Electricity Generators

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the situation whereby renewable electricity generators, without a half-hourly meter, can only sell their electricity to one company; and whether she has any intention of changing this policy.

(AQW 32244/11-15)

Mrs Foster: While Power NI is obliged to offer a tariff for non half-hourly output under licence conditions introduced by the Utility Regulator, any other supplier could also choose to offer a non-half hourly tariff. Any change to existing arrangements would be a matter for the Utility Regulator.

Renewable Energy

Mr Boylan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how his Department will meet EU directives on renewable energy without being over-dependent on wind energy.

(AQO 5904/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Northern Ireland Executive's 2010 Strategic Energy Framework target of 40% electricity consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020 is technology neutral and market led. The precise mix to be deployed will depend on specific decisions made by energy companies operating within an effective regulatory framework.

International Data Centre: Derry's One Plan

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, when AQW 31677/11-15 will be answered.

(AQW 32315/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I can confirm that AQW 31677/11-15 has been answered on 26th March.

Contact Centre in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether EE will be establishing a contact centre in Derry in 2014.

(AQW 32463/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI is in discussions with a number of companies regarding potential investment projects that would benefit the whole of Northern Ireland. Any discussions with any company regarding investment in Northern Ireland are commercial-in-confidence until all negotiations are complete and the project is formally announced.

Department of the Environment

Ards Borough Council: Future of Exploris

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has received a revised Business Plan from Ards Borough Council regarding the future of Exploris; and if so, to detail the steps that will be taken following consideration.

(AQW 31943/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): Ards Borough Council approved an outline Business Plan at its January 2014 Council meeting. I have committed to funding all reasonable costs associated with running the seal sanctuary. For the Executive to consider an offer of financial assistance, a more detailed Business Case carried out to Treasury Green Book standard is also required. The consultant employed by the Council to prepare both documents submitted a first draft of the detailed Case to my officials on 21 January 2014. Since then there have been detailed discussions between the consultant, council staff and DOE officials, all geared towards producing a Business Case that is robust with underpinning assumptions that are reasonably explained and accurately stated. My aim is to present a case that is sufficient to enable the Executive to make a decision without deferring for more information.

My officials are close to completing their discussions with the Council and we expect to have an agreed Business Case shortly. As it is also necessary that there is a long term commitment to Exploris, I have asked both Ards Borough Council and the North Down and Ards Statutory Transitionalary Committee (STC) to commit for a period of five years irrespective of the level of operating deficit during that time. At its meeting on 26 March, the Council agreed to give this commitment and the STC will be asked to do the same at its meeting on 3 April.

With an agreed Business Case and the commitments described above in place, my officials will seek DFP approval and then I will take a case to the Executive. I expect to be able to do this in April.

Department for Transport Consultation on Secondary Legislation

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the responses from local agencies, organisations or individuals to the Department for Transport consultation on secondary legislation.

(AQW 32032/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I have assumed that this question relates to the HGV Road User Levy.

Whilst I am aware of the consultation and the responses, responsibility for assessment of this consultation rests with the Secretary of State for Transport in London. However, I can report the following factual information:

The HGV Road User Levy Act was passed in Westminster on 28 February 2013; this introduces a specific time based charge for using or keeping a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) weighing 12 tonnes or more on a public road in the UK. As part of this process the Department for Transport held a six week consultation from 26 September to 7 November 2013 to gather views in two key subject areas:

- Fixed Penalties and Financial Penalty Deposits
- Vehicle Construction and Use (changes to weight bands)

The consultation received six responses which would reflect the technical nature of the proposed changes. Two of these were from the BVRLA (British Vehicle Renting and Leasing Association) and the FTA (Freight Transport Association), that represent the wider industry. A response was received from the RAC Foundation, a transport policy and research organisation, and from an owner/driver.

In relation to the responses received to the proposed technical amendment to the vehicle weight bands, this was accepted by the two transport associations that responded, the BVRLA and the FTA, and the RAC Foundation. They viewed the proposed arrangement as having a negligible impact on operating practices.

In relation to the responses received to the legislative package of three statutory instruments to enable constables and Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) officers to issue FPNs to any person using or keeping a HGV on a public road in the UK without paying the appropriate levy, DfT received comments that the monetary amount of the FPN was either about right, or should be higher to provide more of a deterrent. One respondent disagreed with the plans to enforce the charge against the driver of the vehicle at the roadside rather than the operator.

Unapproved Quarries

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31072/11-15, to detail the number of unapproved quarries that are currently operating, broken down by council area.

(AQW 32048/11-15)

Mr Durkan: At the time of writing there are 25 unauthorised incidents of winning and working of minerals (quarrying) without the requisite planning permission. The statistics provided are live enforcement cases where the breach is confirmed and involves winning and working of minerals on 'new' sites, that is, sites not currently associated with an approved quarry. The extent of development at these sites ranges from a small domestic scale (i.e. farmer working material from own land) to commercial operations.

Derry City Council	1
Limavady Borough Council	1
Ballymoney Borough Council	1

Moyle District Council	1
Ballymena Borough Council	3
Strabane District Council	3
Omagh District Council	5
Fermanagh District Council	1
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	1
Armagh City and District Council	3
Newry and Mourne District Council	5

With regard to 'currently operating' quarries, it is not possible to quantify whether sites are currently operating. Based on formal action taken, warning letters issued and site inspections, it is estimated that 8 of the sites may be operating. The current status of operations can only be confirmed by inspections of the sites.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Environmental Harm

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 29919/11-15, to detail (i) when the Planning Service was first alerted by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to environmental harm occurring at Mabuoy Road as a result of unauthorised mineral extractions; (ii) whether Planning Service accepted that environmental harm was actually occurring; (iii) what that environmental harm consisted of; and (iv) when formal enforcement action was first initiated.

(AQW 32049/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department processed a number of planning applications at Mabuoy Road in respect of minerals development. In processing the planning applications the Department consulted with a number of consultees, including the NIEA.

The Department's records indicate that a consultation response from NIEA – Natural Heritage was received on 22 November 2004. This was a response to a consultation on a planning application for mineral extraction at Mabuoy Road.

The consultation raised concerns in general with the proposal. Subsequent responses from NIEA highlighted potential impacts on water quality, quantity and the established flow regime.

This information was used to inform the environmental impact assessment determination carried out subsequently. Additionally, the response led to the Department seeking further information from the applicant to assess the potential impacts.

No formal enforcement action has been initiated on this site to date. This is currently under consideration as part of the ongoing investigations.

Waste Management Contracts

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment how the implementation of the Review of Public Administration will affect the status of the arc21 waste management group and any waste management contracts it may have agreed with existing councils.

(AQW 32069/11-15)

Mr Durkan: arc21 was established as a body corporate on application of its constituent councils in 2003. It will be up to the new councils which make up the arc21 region to determine whether they wish to re-establish a joint committee for the purposes of implementing their waste management plan and if so whether they wish that joint committee to be voluntary or whether they wish to apply to the Department for it to become a body corporate.

Under the local government reform programme, Down District Council, currently part of arc21, and Newry and Mourne District Council, currently part of SWaMP2008, will become one local government district. arc21 has modelled the possible permutations of this change on the existing and potential waste management contracts it administers on behalf of its constituent councils, and it will be for future contracting bodies to accommodate these changes through due process.

Single Waste Authority

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment whether he plans to create a single waste authority to coincide with the creation of the new super-councils in May 2015.

(AQW 32070/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Local government is responsible for designated waste management functions and under current legislation it is for local government to determine how best to deliver those functions. In light of increasingly stringent waste targets, and the difficult challenges waste infrastructure procurement for long term contracts has presented at council level, the reform of local government requires councils to give careful and informed consideration to all the options available to maximise the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of their waste management services.

A new governance structure to facilitate more effective delivery of statutory waste functions by local and central government, the Waste Co-ordination Group, has been established by the Department. Local government is already considering strategic options for revised delivery of its waste management functions under the new council configurations and will bring those to the new Waste Co-ordination Group for consideration in due course.

Waste Procurement Programmes

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment why some existing councils continue with waste procurement programmes under their waste management organisations, given that the reform of local government is imminent, the Southern Waste Management Partnership procurement has stopped, the other two procurement processes are almost eight years old and the sector is in need of a strategic re-appraisal.

(AQW 32071/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Procurements such as those undertaken by the Waste Management Groups are subject to the rules of procurement and contract law, and the termination of any procurement would have to be in accordance with those rules if the procuring authorities are to avoid the risk of incurring liability for costs, including potential losses, incurred by the bidder or costs arising from any successful legal challenges. It is imperative, therefore, that each procurement is allowed to run its course in accordance with all the relevant legislation, including that which governs the councils' own decision-making processes.

The Department has already taken steps to facilitate a more effective strategic approach to waste management in the context of local government reform. I am overseeing urgent implementation of key recommendations arising from the Mills Report, and have approved the establishment of a new Waste Co-ordination Group, specifically established to promote more effective discharge of both the Department's and local government's statutory responsibilities in respect of waste management.

Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Mineral Extraction

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has administered or authorised payments of the aggregates levy rebate for any of the unregulated minerals extractions taking place within Lough Neagh Special Protection Area; and if so, to detail each occasion and the amount of money involved.

(AQW 32086/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department of the Environment administered the Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme on behalf of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), and was responsible for entering into

Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme (ALCS) agreements with site operators; monitoring such agreements and issuing and, where necessary, withdrawing ALCS certificates. The Department did not administer or authorise payments. The ALCS was suspended on 1 December 2010.

Prior to December 2010, a site operator was required to satisfy the Department that all mandatory authorisations to achieve legal compliance were in place in order to qualify for tax relief from HMRC under the ALCS. Entry to the scheme was also conditional on the operator agreeing to commission environmental audits and to undertake work, where necessary, to resolve any issues subsequently highlighted.

Under the ALCS criteria, unauthorised sites did not receive an ALCS certificate, and therefore were ineligible to apply for a rebate from HMRC on the levy payable.

Permanent Tree Preservation Orders

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to detail the criteria on which Permanent Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are issued; (ii) for his assessment of the weight that public bodies, such as local councils, give to TPOs in any proposals for development; and (iii) the consideration of Permanent TPOs in development proposals that would constitute best practice.

(AQW 32087/11-15)

Mr Durkan: To be considered for a TPO trees must be of high amenity value and in reasonable condition. The following criteria will be used when assessing the merits of a potential TPO;

- **Potential Threat:** Priority will be given to the protection of those trees deemed to be at immediate risk from active felling or damage from development on site. All other requests will be assessed and prioritised accordingly.
- **Visibility:** The extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the general public will inform the assessment of whether the impact on the local environment is significant.
- **Individual Impact:** The mere fact that a tree is publicly visible will not itself be sufficient to warrant a TPO. The tree's particular importance will be assessed by reference to its size and form, its future potential as an amenity should also be assessed taking into account any special factors such as its screening value or contribution to the character or appearance of an area. In relation to a group of trees or woodland, an assessment will be made of the collective impact.
- **Wider Impact:** The significance of the trees in their local surroundings will also be assessed, taking into account how suitable they are to their particular setting, as well as the presence of other trees in the vicinity.
- **Historical Importance:** Certain trees because of their age, association with the setting of listed buildings or the contribution they make to the special character of a conservation area may require consideration for TPO protection.
- **Rarity:** There may be occasions where a tree(s) may be considered for TPO protection solely on the grounds of its rarity. The priority of the consideration will reflect the rarity of the species.

I can't speculate as to what weight public bodies give to TPOs in any proposals for development. Whilst protected trees can often represent a significant constraint to development, they provide an opportunity to enhance the quality of development proposals and make an important contribution to the environment, creating a varied, interesting and attractive landscape. It would be remiss of public bodies to ignore the statutory protection of TPOs and to not avail of such opportunities.

The Department's Planning NI website contains the following documents – 'TPOs – A Guide to Best Practice' and 'Trees and Development – A Guide to Best Practice' which inform members of the public and developers of the issues associated with planning applications for development sites where there are existing trees or woodland within or adjoining the site boundary, whether protected or not. Planning staff also use this advice in determining planning applications.

Land in Loughside Park: Re-Zoning

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has a policy to re-zone land in Loughside Park for development; and how the wishes of the residents in the area have been taken into account.

(AQW 32089/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP), published in November 2004, indicates the land at Loughside Park, Shore Road, Belfast, as existing Open Space. Objections seeking the removal of the open space identification on these lands were submitted to the Department and considered by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) through the Public Inquiry into BMAP. The PAC recommendations were published in June 2012 by my predecessor and, in relation to these particular objections, there was a recommendation of No Change to the Plan unless planning approval for redevelopment had been granted. I can confirm that planning approval has not been granted in relation to redevelopment of this land and consequently, in line with the Ministerial statement published with the PAC Reports, it is likely that this recommendation of 'No Change' will be accepted by my Department.

You will be aware that I submitted the Plan to the Executive prior to Christmas 2013 and I await approval to authorise my Department to adopt the Plan. I am concerned that the strategic importance of BMAP to the regional economy has not been recognised by Executive colleagues.

A mixed use development proposal on this site was submitted to the Department by Belfast City Council and Bayshore Developments Ltd in 2009. The application was designated one of major importance under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 and dealt with by my Department's Strategic Planning Division. My Department refused planning permission in November 2012 having taken account of all material considerations and the views and concerns of the local community, which included objection and support for the proposal.

With regard to the wishes of the residents in the area, you will be aware that numerous opportunities were open to the public to make representations as part of the BMAP process. Members of the public wrote to the Department to comment on the planning application; indeed some 1750 objections were received alongside letters of support. These were fully considered as part of determining the application.

Furthermore in response to a number of requests from residents in the area, the Department assessed the site with a view to imposing a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). A Provisional TPO was served in November 2012 and subsequently confirmed in May 2013. A Tree Management Agreement has since been entered into between the Department and the owner of the trees, Belfast City Council, in order to ensure that the integrity of the TPO is maintained.

Planning Applications: Lane Ways

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications have been received for lane ways in rural areas in each of the last 18 months, broken down by planning office.

(AQW 32093/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There have been 142 applications for single laneways in rural areas in the last 18 months. These are listed by month and planning office in the table below.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR LANEWAYS¹ IN RURAL² AREAS, FROM APRIL 2012 TO SEPTEMBER 2013³

	Belfast	Northern	South Antrim	Southern	Strategic Planning	Western	Total
April 2012	1	0	0	1	0	6	8
May 2012	2	2	2	1	2	5	14
June 2012	3	1	1	3	0	6	14
July 2012	1	0	1	2	0	2	6
August 2012	1	1	2	1	0	2	7
September 2012	0	3	1	2	0	1	7
October 2012	0	1	1	2	1	5	10
November 2012	0	2	0	0	1	4	7
December 2012	3	2	0	1	0	4	10
January 2013	2	1	0	0	1	5	9
February 2013	0	1	0	2	0	4	7
March 2013	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
April 2013	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
May 2013	0	0	3	1	0	3	7
June 2013	0	1	0	1	0	3	5
July 2013	1	3	1	0	0	6	11
August 2013	1	2	1	2	0	3	9
September 2013	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Total	17	22	16	21	5	61	142

Notes

1. Applications for laneways have been extracted by selecting out applications with the following classification: "Construction of New Road Access used for the purpose of a single undertaking, where the development is required for a purpose incidental to the existing use of the land".
2. The method of classifying applications as rural is based on the x & y co-ordinates of the planning application and the Planning Settlement Development Limits.
3. Our latest published information is currently up to 30 September 2013. Information relating to the first 2 quarters of 2013/14 is provisional.

Taxi Operator Licences

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31657/11-15, what action was taken over the relevant staff member who approved this temporary licence anomaly.

(AQW 32114/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Interim measures introduced with the implementation of Taxi Operator Licensing on 1 September 2012 allowed for the issue of temporary operator licences pending consideration of the full application. Temporary licences did not specify operating centres.

Fonacab applied to include Ravenhill rugby ground on its taxi operator licence on 28 February 2013. A full licence was issued to Fonacab on 19 June 2013 and this licence replaced the temporary licence held by the company. The processing of Fonacab's application to have Ravenhill added to its taxi operator licence was completed in line with set procedures for administering taxi licensing; operating centres were not routinely inspected as part of the licensing process.

As I have already indicated in a previous answer, as a result of a subsequent review of Fonacab's operations at Ravenhill, the Department was not satisfied that an operator centre had been established at that location and this operating centre was removed from their licence on 1 October 2013.

There was no anomaly in the issue of the temporary licence.

Licensing of Taxi Operators

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31706/11-15, whether this option was available to any other taxi-operator wishing to avail of an initial, transitional measure for the introduction of licensing of taxi operators.

(AQW 32115/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The legislation provided for the issue of temporary licences as an initial, transitional measure for the introduction of taxi operator licensing and this option was available to all who applied for a taxi operator's licence prior to 31 October 2012.

Road Deaths

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to address the rise in road deaths.

(AQW 32138/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As Minister of the Environment, I co-coordinate a strategic approach to road safety including oversight of the Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy to 2020. The Strategy sets out the key challenges and objectives for improving road safety, identifies casualty reduction targets and details over 200 measures to deliver improved road safety through education, engineering and enforcement. Responsibility for delivery crosses a number of departments and agencies that work in partnership, including the Department for Regional Development, Department of Justice and the emergency services.

The provisional number of road deaths in Northern Ireland in 2013 was 57, compared with 48 in 2012. This was a rise of 19% on the 2012 figure but is 3% lower than in 2011 when there were 59 deaths. Figures for serious injuries are not yet available but indications towards the end of 2013 were that they appeared to have fallen. It is impossible to be definitive about the reasons for the rise in deaths in 2013 because of the range of different factors that can impact on road safety and on individual collisions. Further, there are no details at this time on the main causes of fatal and serious collisions in 2013. These won't become clear until the police complete investigations and produce verified statistical reports. However, we do know that in 2012 the principal causes of collisions in which someone died or was seriously injured were speeding, inattention or attention diverted and drink/drug driving. Sadly it is likely that those causes will again feature prominently when data emerges for 2013.

The rise in fatalities in 2013 and at the start to 2014 is saddening. Up to 24 March 2014, 13 people had died, compared with 12 at the same date last year and 7 at the same date the year before. We must not get disillusioned; the overall trend in road casualties in recent years has been down. Indeed, over the last five years the number of people killed on our roads in Northern Ireland has halved.

Neither must we allow ourselves to be complacent. In response to the worrying rise in road deaths at the beginning of January 2014, I convened an urgent meeting of the Road Safety Forum on 14 January 2014. At that meeting, which was very well attended by stakeholders, members' commitment to reducing road casualties was reaffirmed and a number of immediate actions were agreed. Consequently, DOE has provided additional focused road safety advertising and messages. We have also provided young people's groups with materials to help them better communicate key road safety

messages to their members. PSNI has continued its focus on visible road traffic policing while DRD reviewed its provision of information to those who make decisions on road gritting.

In 2014, with Executive agreement, I plan to progress a Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill which includes measures to tackle drink driving; better prepare, test and protect young drivers as they gain experience; and to require the wearing of a helmet on a quad bike on a public road. This legislation will help tackle the main causes of serious and fatal collisions I referred to above, namely drink driving and, for the most vulnerable group (young drivers) also carelessness / inattention and speeding.

As a further action which is being progressed, DOE hosts a Motorcycling Forum which will shortly begin work on preparing a strategy to improve motorcyclist safety.

My Department perhaps, most publicly, addresses high risk behaviours through our information campaigns. I have commissioned two new campaigns for launch in 2014. These will address cyclist safety and inappropriate speed, both of which have been identified as priority issues. Evidence shows that our campaigns effectively raise road user awareness, influence attitudes and help change behaviours. We place a strong emphasis on road user responsibility and striving towards zero road deaths. To pursue zero deaths on our roads is hugely challenging but I am convinced that it should not be beyond our ambition.

I am confident that the measures I have outlined will, along with others carried out by our partners, help save lives on our roads and I can assure you that I will continue to keep the position under review. Ultimately, however, casualties occur from collisions, and sadly collisions largely occur through road users making bad decisions. Positively influencing human behaviour is a challenging and long term process. We have made great strides but this task requires continuing effort from all of us.

I believe that every death on our roads is one too many and I will continue to work with all stakeholders further to improve road safety and continue to reduce casualties.

Approved Taximeter Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment when the criteria for becoming an approved taximeter centre will be made public.

(AQW 32155/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department is currently consulting with a number of taximeter manufacturers to help inform the development of policy and procedures used to support the introduction of an approval scheme for the installation, calibration, testing and sealing of taximeters.

Once the final criteria for becoming an Approved Taximeter Centre have been finalised they will be made public through a comprehensive communication plan which is currently being developed in conjunction with this project. This will be rolled out well in advance of new regulations coming into effect to enable interested parties to apply to be part of the approval scheme.

Taximeters: Launch Date

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment when his Department has will be making the taxi industry aware of the launch date for new taximeters.

(AQW 32156/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As part of the implementation of taxi reform, my officials are developing a comprehensive communication plan designed to advise the taxi industry of the new legislative provisions. This plan, which includes details in respect of mandatory taximeters, will be rolled out in advance of new Regulations coming into effect.

As you are aware, my Department presented to the Environment Committee on 16 January 2014 an SL1 letter detailing the proposed legislation which would introduce the requirement for mandatory taximeters for taxis in Northern Ireland. The Committee deferred consideration of this letter pending

clarification on other aspects of taxi reform. Given this situation, I have not yet finalised the timetable for bringing forward the Regulations and the communications plan.

Approved Equipment List for Taxi Meters

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment when his Department will provide an approved equipment list for taxi meters, including the acceptability of manufacturers or products.

(AQW 32183/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department is currently consulting with a number of taximeter manufacturers in order to develop the final specification for taximeters and printers. In conjunction with this process my officials will work closely with the industry to identify and establish a network of Approved Taximeter Centres (ATMCs) which will be authorised to install, calibrate, test and seal approved taximeters.

As part of the wider Taxi Reform Implementation Programme officials are developing a comprehensive communication plan, aimed at advising the taxi industry of new provisions, which will include details of ATMCs and approved equipment. This communication plan will be rolled out in advance of any new Regulations coming into effect and will provide for the staggered introduction of the mandatory taximeter equipment.

Illegal Waste in Arney

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the volume of illegal waste discovered in Arney in March 2013; (ii) the origin of the waste; and (iii) how further related investigations are proceeding.

(AQW 32200/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I am not in a position to disclose the volume of waste discovered, as doing so could compromise any future legal proceedings in this case. The majority of the waste appears to be from Northern Ireland, but is badly degraded and therefore difficult to source. My officials in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency are in the process of preparing a file for consideration, and possible further judicial action, by the Public Prosecution Service.

Operation Willow

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the scope of Operation Willow, including (i) the number of staff members involved; and (ii) the resources that have been provided for the operation.

(AQW 32201/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Operation Willow involved the excavation of a site at Skea, Arney Road in Enniskillen during March 2013 in order to investigate alleged waste offences.

Six members of staff from NIEA's Environmental Crime Unit (ECU) were involved in the fieldwork operation part case, with support (via the Strategic Partnership) from the PSNI. The case, in common with similar ones conducted, involved considerable staff hours in the preparation of files, writing statements etc, in addition to the use of excavation equipment and follow-up sampling costs.

Planning Officers

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning officers were employed in each planning office in each of the last five years; and how many vacancies currently exist in each office.

(AQW 32229/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The number of Planning Officers in each Planning Office in each of the last five years as at 1 January and the areas served by each Planning Office are listed in the table below. The table also contains details of the current vacancies in each of the Planning Offices as at 23 March 2014:

Planning Office and Council areas served	1 Jan 2014 Planning Officers	1 Jan 2013	1 Jan 2012	1 Jan 2011	1 Jan 2010	Vacancies @ 23/3/14
Belfast Area Planning Office – Belfast City Council area.	49	46	45	49	60	1
Western Area Planning Office – Omagh, Fermanagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Cookstown Council areas.	39	44	45	50	59	0
Northern Area Planning Office – Derry, Strabane, Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Moyle Council areas.	48	46	44	51	55	2
South Antrim Area Planning Office - Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne, Antrim and Newtownabbey Council areas.	31	34	37	48	54	0
Southern Area Planning Office - Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Down and Newry & Mourne Council areas.	54	55	51	56	75	0
Downpatrick Area Planning Office - Castlereagh, Lisburn , Ards and North Down Council areas.	53	45	36	42	56	2
Headquarters –Strategic Planning Applications across all of Northern Ireland and includes, Environmental, Waste and Wind applications.	49	60	78	80	93	7

Please note:

These figures do not include Planning Officers working within the Planning Policy Division in DoE or any staff seconded or on loan to other Business areas within DoE or other Departments.

The Western Office has a sub office located in Enniskillen, and the Northern Office is split across two sites in Derry and Coleraine.

Figures for the Northern Office include the Business Support Team (4 Planning staff) which provides support to all of the Area Planning Offices.

The Headquarters figure includes the Chief Planner.

ARC21 Waste Management Procurement Process

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment whether the Becon Consortium/E.ON Group has been formally awarded preferred bidder status in the ARC21 Waste Management Procurement process. **(AQW 32233/11-15)**

Mr Durkan: Under the Competitive Dialogue process by which the arc21 procurement is being conducted, the appointment of Preferred Bidder occurs following the receipt and assessment of Final Tender by the procuring authority at close of dialogue. The arc21 project remains in dialogue with the remaining bidder and has not yet reached this stage.

Tamboran Resources: Drilling

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether Tamboran Resources has informed him of its intention to drill a borehole; and whether he will inform the Assembly as soon as he receives any such notification.

(AQW 32240/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department has not received any confirmation from Tamboran indicating when the initial exploration phase will commence.

An extension to their DETI Licence was granted on 12 March 2014. The extension of time was granted by DETI to 30 September 2014 and allows the company additional time to comply with Part 1 of its licence in connection to the exploration and to allow the company to decide whether or not to proceed to the next phase.

When notification is received, the Assembly will be notified.

Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Mineral Extraction

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 30960/11-15, whether changes in water quality in Lough Neagh Special Protection Area are linked to the unregulated mineral extraction taking place; and what assurances he can give that this unregulated mineral extraction is not harming the ecology and integrity of this Natura 2000 site.

(AQW 32316/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In my response to the earlier Assembly question I referred to the fact that some bird populations are declining on Lough Neagh and that this could in part be linked to changes in water quality. The most recent ecological study has shown that there has been a decline in the invertebrates on the lake bed and hence food for diving ducks. Although not proven this could be related to improvements in water quality. There is nothing as yet to suggest that there is a link between the decline of bird populations and unregulated sand extraction on Lough Neagh.

The Department's Strategic Planning Division currently has a live investigation into the activities on the Lough. This investigation will include consultation and consideration on any potential impacts to the Lough from the mineral extraction.

North West Region Waste Management Group

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the recommendations relating to major waste infrastructure development in the Mills Report; and, given the collapse of the North West Region Waste Management Group, how this infrastructure development will be implemented locally.

(AQW 32354/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Christopher Mills's review of waste disposal at the Mobouy site and the lessons learnt for the future regulation of the waste industry in Northern Ireland contains twelve key recommendations which touch on practically all aspects of the Department's work and organisation. In respect of infrastructure it proposes limiting the number of waste authorisations to the number necessary to meet

Northern Ireland's projected waste needs and create the necessary new strategic waste infrastructure which can be more easily regulated and monitored.

I will be publishing my response to the Report shortly and will address each of the report's recommendations in that context. In doing so I will take due account of the termination of both the SWaMP2008 and the North West Region Waste Management Group procurements, as well as available outcomes from an analysis being carried out to show the capacity of residual waste infrastructure treatment facilities needed to meet EU Obligations in 2020.

Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Commercial Dredging

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 30962/11-15, (i) how many commercial dredging operations are taking place in Lough Neagh Special Protection Area; (ii) the number of barges involved in each operation; (iii) how many hours per day dredging takes place; and (iv) the amounts of sand removed from the lough bed as a result.

(AQW 32393/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department's Strategic Planning Division does not hold this information but is currently investigating the activities on the Lough. This information will be ascertained as part of the investigation.

Drilling for Petroleum: Permitted Development Rights

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31843/11-15, whether the changes to Part 16(A) of the General Development Order has made it possible for proposals to carry out exploratory drilling for petroleum to avail of any new or additional permitted development rights if it is to be located within an old mine or quarry which is no longer operational.

(AQW 32425/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Part 16A (Development Ancillary to Mining Operations) of Schedule 1 to The Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 S.R. 1993 No. 278 (as amended) provides permitted development rights for development ancillary to mining operations on land used as a mine. "Mining operations" are defined under the Order as "the winning and working of minerals in, on or under land, whether by surface or underground working". In addition, the principal purpose of the development provided for by Part 16A must be connected to the winning and working of minerals and the treatment, storage and removal of such minerals.

For the purposes of the Order "mineral exploration" means "ascertaining the presence, extent or quality of any deposit of a mineral with a view to exploiting that mineral". Mineral exploration is thus an activity distinct and separate from the later winning and working of minerals, to which the provision of plant and machinery permitted by Part 16A is ancillary.

Mineral exploration permitted development rights are separately provided for under Part 16 of Schedule 1 to the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993.

My Department therefore takes the view that Part 16A does not provide permitted development rights for exploratory drilling on land at a mine or indeed in any other location.

Whiterock Leisure Centre

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will investigate how a civic community facility, under the control of Belfast City Council, namely Whiterock Leisure Centre, came to be used for paramilitary displays and the commemoration of terrorists on 29 March 2014.

(AQW 32508/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department has no role in overseeing the booking of events at council owned properties. This is an operational matter for Belfast City Council.

I understand that Belfast City Council has indicated that it will carry out an investigation.

Fixed Penalties: Taxi-Operators Licence

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment in instances where a taxi-driver commits an offence for which a Fixed Penalty is issued or enforceable, for example in respect of illegal pick-ups or vehicle fault, how this affects the taxi-operators licence.

(AQW 32603/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department may suspend or revoke a licence for any reasonable cause, particularly where it is no longer satisfied that the licence holder is fit to hold such a licence.

In considering whether to suspend, curtail or revoke an operator's licence, the Department must be satisfied that the licence holder is no longer fit to hold such a licence. The overriding consideration in determining an operator's fitness to hold the licence will be based on whether they can fulfil their role and run their business without posing any likely threat to the general safety of the public or to the proper conduct of the undertaking. Examples of this may include operators who have been convicted of a serious criminal offence or have demonstrated they are using unlicensed drivers and vehicles or vehicles with no insurance and account may also be taken of fixed penalties.

To impose the ultimate sanction of revoking an operator's licence indicates that all other attempts by the Department to encourage operator compliance have failed. In this regard, it is not envisaged that revocation action will have to be undertaken on a regular basis but rather reserved for dealing with operators that demonstrate wilful non-compliance or recklessness towards their responsibilities. To date, two operators have had their licences revoked and the Department will not hesitate to act on the outcomes resulting from compliance and enforcement activities.

Rates Convergence

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions he has had with the Minister of Finance and Personnel on how long the funding for the rates convergence transitional relief scheme is expected to last.

(AQO 5912/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As part of the Executive's funding package of £47.8 million, agreed in 2013, a commitment was given of up to £30 million to cover the cost of rates convergence following the creation of the 11 new councils in April 2015.

My Departmental officials continue to work with DFP on the design of a transitional rates relief scheme, within the cost envelope of £30 million, which will protect those ratepayers who otherwise would face sudden and excessive increases as a direct consequence of local government reform.

The precise model for how this £30 million will be administered and over what period of time has not yet been finalised. There are 3 key variables: the length of the scheme; the acceptable threshold for the district rate increase; and the phased levels of support over the life of the scheme.

The preferred option is a district rate adjustment at bill level. This would involve a rebate being applied to the individual rates bills of those ratepayers who would otherwise face sudden and excessive increases. It does not, therefore, involve any payments to Councils.

Under this option, the rate relief that will apply to a District Council area will depend on the rate increases faced by ratepayers as a result of the level district rates settle at in the initial years of the new council.

A joint DOE and DFP ministerial letter was issued on the 28 January 2014, advising that all of these matters will be consulted upon around April 2014 when the views of local government will be taken into consideration before the scheme is finalised.

Carrickfergus Castle

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment what was his rationale for waiving the entrance fee to Carrickfergus Castle from 22 to 30 March 2014.

(AQO 5913/11-15)

Mr Durkan: When the archaeological digs were being carried out as part of the Derry/Londonderry City of Culture events, I was struck by the huge public interest in the works and the enthusiasm of people who saw the digs.

Those digs were being carried out in public spaces, near thoroughfares. The excavations at Carrickfergus are happening inside the walls of the castle complex. Passers-by cannot see the works, and I felt it was important that the public get the best opportunity we can give at present to see the digs.

Waiving the entrance fee for a short period will allow the local community to see the unveiling of the history of their town and encourage a greater number of the wider public to visit the castle generating more interest in the future development of the castle over the next few years.

Driver and Vehicle Agency

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the transfer of Driver and Vehicle Agency responsibility to Swansea.

(AQO 5914/11-15)

Mr Durkan: On 13 March, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that vehicle licensing services for motorists in Northern Ireland will be centralized in Swansea. It is only this part of the Driver and Vehicle Agency's functions that are subject to this decision by the Transport Secretary; the Agency's other responsibilities for driver testing and licensing, vehicle testing, bus and taxi operator licensing, the licensing of taxi drivers and roadside enforcement, which are devolved functions, are not affected.

From July 2014, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea, the Department for Transport's agency for vehicle licensing, will extend their IT system to cover vehicles registered in Northern Ireland and, at the same time, decommission the existing, separate IT system used by the DVA. This will mean that online and enhanced Post Offices services, which have been available in Britain for ten years, will become available to motorists here. The DVLA has repeatedly refused to develop these services in Northern Ireland; an investment that would have cost a fraction of the cost of the current IT integration and decentralization project.

From 21 July, all vehicle licensing services will be centralized in Swansea. This will result in the closure of all of the DVA's vehicle licensing offices in Coleraine and in Belfast, Ballymena, Derry, Omagh, Enniskillen, Armagh and Downpatrick. The work and funding for 309 jobs will be lost.

I have already spoken in the House about my bitter disappointment at this decision and about my anger at the way in which it was announced when I was out of the country and in breach of previous written assurances that the Transport Minister would inform me in advance of any decision being made.

With the full support of all parties across the House, I made a robust case to Transport Ministers for the retention of these services and jobs in Northern Ireland.

I am sure that you will share my frustration that a decision such as this, which is nothing more than a narrowly focussed cost-cutting exercise, made at the expense of high quality public services, jobs and the local economy, could have been made in the face of David Cameron's public commitments at the economic conference in Belfast last October to assist the Executive in stimulating and developing the economy of Northern Ireland.

This severe economic blow is the last thing that the local economy needs as it attempts to struggle out of a deep and sustained recession. The decision is also ill-reward for the hard working staff of the DVA, their families and also for motorists in Northern Ireland who have received a first-rate service from the DVA. The DVA's customers made it very clear, not least in the public consultation, that they want the

local service to be retained. Unfortunately, the overwhelming rejection of centralization in Swansea in the consultation exercise has been swept aside. I have no doubt that customers will experience much diminished standards of service when the DVLA try to deliver vehicle licensing remotely from Swansea.

My focus must now be on bringing some certainty to the affected staff in the DVA about their future employment. I have already written to Executive colleagues seeking their assistance in identifying possible alternative work that could be located in the affected areas to take advantage of a well trained and highly committed workforce with a proven record of customer service and achievement.

Finding new jobs for the affected staff will not be easy. The problem will be most acute in Coleraine but, although the numbers are small in the other areas with local motor tax offices, Belfast, Ballymena, Derry, Omagh, Enniskillen, Armagh and Downpatrick, the opportunities for re-deployment to other posts in the Civil Service will also be greatly restricted in some places.

Officials in my Department are already working to resolve the staffing issues created by this unwarranted decision to centralise all of this work in Swansea and meetings have been held with staff to set out what is being done and to explain the process for redeployment.

Officials in the DVA are also in discussion with the DVLA to ensure that the DVLA are fully aware of the need to provide comprehensive and clear information to customers about the new arrangements for registering and licensing vehicles.

Planning Powers

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of the Environment what role councillors will play in administering planning powers when they are devolved to councils.

(AQO 5915/11-15)

Mr Durkan: From 1st April 2015 the new councils will be responsible for determining the vast majority of planning applications. These applications will fall into the local and major categories of development. Planning applications will be determined by councillors sitting on the planning committee, apart from those applications which will be determined under the council's scheme of delegation – this allows elected members to concentrate on the more significant and potentially controversial proposals.

Councillors will also be responsible for the preparation of local development plans, enforcement, and other consent regimes in relation to listed buildings, conservation areas, trees, advertisements and hazardous substances. The preparation of local development plans will be of crucial importance to the new councils, allowing them to place shape their areas, and will be decided by the full council.

My Department will continue to set strategic planning policy and provide oversight of the planning system, and will also determine a limited number of applications that are of regional significance.

Union Flag: Designated Days

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment why he did not support the amendment to the Local Government Bill for all council headquarters to fly the Union Flag on council offices on a minimum of designated days.

(AQO 5916/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As I have stated during the Consideration Stage debate local government reform is about strengthening local democracy and the amendment ran counter to that.

It is for a council, as a local democratically elected body to decide on its flags policy, including whether to follow central government's protocol, fly any other flags or, indeed fly no flags at all.

Local Government Bill

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment when, and from whom, he received the legal advice that the provisions in clause 4 of, and Schedule 1 to, the Local Government Bill, as introduced, were not within the competence of the Assembly.

(AQO 5917/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My officials received the relevant legal opinion late on Friday 28 February 2014. As I indicated during the debate on the Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill there is a long standing convention in government that precludes me identifying the source of this opinion.

Department of Finance and Personnel

PSNI: Treasury Reserves

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on discussions with HM Treasury on extending the PSNI's access to Treasury Reserves to help combat terrorist activities more effectively.

(AQO 5923/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): There have been no discussions since an additional £31 million for national security was agreed as part of the 2015-16 Spending Round.

The arrangements beyond 2015-16 will be determined as part of the next UK Spending Review.

Civil Service: Flexible Working

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what percentage of civil servants have chosen the option of flexible working in each year since 2011.

(AQO 5922/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Northern Ireland Civil Service has a wide range of flexible working options available to support staff in the balance between their work commitments and life responsibilities. There is, however, a guiding and over-riding principle that this flexibility should be achieved without adverse effect on the overall efficiency of departments, or on service to the public.

The majority of staff can avail of flexitime, and additional alternative working patterns are available, including compressed hours, personalised hours and part-time working (including reduced hours; term time working; job sharing; and partial retirement). The percentages of staff who have chosen a flexible working arrangement (other than flexitime) are:

2011	17.3%
2012	18.3%
2013	18.7%

In addition, various types of agile working have been successfully implemented throughout the NICS. Excellent progress has been made with the NICS IS Strategy, including the introduction of a new IP Telephone system to allow staff to be contacted on the one number regardless of their location; development of a range of options for remote access to NICS systems; videoconferencing and teleconferencing to reduce the need for travel; Blackberry devices for secure email access and the provision of satellite hubs to enable remote working.

Budget 2014

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the local benefits of the Chancellor's 2014 Budget.

(AQO 5924/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Chancellor's 2014 Budget resulted in a number of benefits for Northern Ireland. The most obvious was the increase to our Budget. Our Resource DEL budget will increase by some £11 million over the next two years. There was also an increase in our Capital DEL of £10.2 million, of which £1.1 million was additional Financial Transactions Capital.

The Chancellor also confirmed the first Northern Ireland Enterprise Zone, near Coleraine, and a number of tax measures which could benefit households here. These include the increase in the personal allowance, which will assist working people; the increase in the ISA limit that will support savers; and further childcare support for families through the tax

system. There was also support for businesses, for example, through the temporary increase in the Annual Investment Allowance.

Financial Transaction Capital

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the proposed projects to be supported by Financial Transaction Capital.

(AQO 5925/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Financial Transactions Capital must be used to provide a loan or take an equity investment in the private sector. Since this is the only restriction on the use of this funding, it gives a great deal of scope for the public and private sectors to work together to deliver innovative projects that are mutually beneficial.

The Executive has already agreed a number of Financial Transactions Capital allocations, including a range of housing schemes and the loan to the University of Ulster.

Work is ongoing to identify further suitable projects. I also recently hosted a seminar for senior local government representatives to encourage

local councils to identify projects that may avail of Financial Transactions Capital. I hope to make further announcements on allocations as part of this year's monitoring rounds.

Budget 2014

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his analysis of Budget 2014.

(AQO 5926/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Chancellor's 2014 Budget resulted in a number of benefits for Northern Ireland. The most obvious was the increase to our Budget. Our Resource DEL budget will increase by some £11 million over the next two years. There was also an increase in our Capital DEL of £10.2 million, of which £1.1 million was additional Financial Transactions Capital.

The Chancellor also confirmed the first Northern Ireland Enterprise Zone, near Coleraine, and a number of tax measures which could benefit households here. These include the increase in the personal allowance, which will assist working people; the increase in the ISA limit that will support savers; and further childcare support for families through the tax

system. There was also support for businesses, for example, through the temporary increase in the Annual Investment Allowance.

Civil Service Compensation Scheme

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether a resolution has been found with the Trade Unions on the proposed new Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

(AQO 5927/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Trade unions remain opposed to the overall policy to reform of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in Northern Ireland.

During lengthy consultation with all Northern Ireland Civil Service Unions, my Department has proposed a variation to absolute parity with compensation arrangements payable in the Home Civil Service, by linking deemed salary reference points to the NICS pay system.

Trade unions welcomed this development.

Economic Data

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on progress within his Department to improve the quality and timeliness of economic data used to benchmark local economic strategies.

(AQO 5928/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: Responsibility for the production of economic accounts, data for the countries and regions of the UK, is the responsibility of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS produced headline GVA data for Northern Ireland, in December 2013, for the period 1997 to 2012 (2011 for industry data).

In addition, the ONS produced estimates of Regional GVA, in real terms on a production basis, for the first time in December 2013. This was a recommendation from the Allsopp review regarding the improvement of regional economic data.

NISRA also produce a range of economic data and, in January 2013, introduced the Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index to provide a new quarterly measure of overall economic activity.

In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, NISRA systematically engages with users to identify their needs and set priorities for development.

Budget 2014

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the local impact of the 2014 Budget.

(AQO 5929/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Chancellor's 2014 Budget resulted in a number of benefits for Northern Ireland. The most obvious was the increase to our Budget. Our Resource DEL budget will increase by some £11 million over the next two years. There was also an increase in our Capital DEL of £10.2 million, of which £1.1 million was additional Financial Transactions Capital.

The Chancellor also confirmed the first Northern Ireland Enterprise Zone, near Coleraine, and a number of tax measures which could benefit households here. These include the increase in the personal allowance, which will assist working people; the increase in the ISA limit that will support savers; and further childcare support for families through the tax

system. There was also support for businesses, for example, through the temporary increase in the Annual Investment Allowance.

Enterprise Zones

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the development of local Enterprise Zones.

(AQO 5930/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Chancellor announced in his Budget statement on 19th March that a pilot Enterprise Zone would be established in Northern Ireland offering Enhanced Capital Allowances. This zone will be located on a site adjacent to the University of Ulster in Coleraine where 5NINES, a leading global data centre development and consulting firm, have announced plans for a £20million investment.

DFP and DETI are working alongside Treasury to ensure that the necessary statutory steps are now taken as quickly as possible to formally designate this pilot Enterprise Zone following the Budget announcement.

Rate Relief Scheme

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he will consider a business rates relief scheme to assist start-up businesses to occupy vacant town centre and high street premises.

(AQO 5931/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: My Department introduced a scheme two years ago that provides a 50% rates discount, for one year, for new ventures re-occupying retail premises. And by retail I don't mean just shops; it covers hotels, pubs and many other categories of property that have been lying empty for a year or more.

It is a scheme that has given a helping hand to over 240 business ventures since it began in 2012. It is also a scheme that was made in Northern Ireland, but has been copied in all parts of the UK.

In the member's own constituency a number of new businesses have been awarded the discount (12 in the council areas of Banbridge and Lisburn). I am a little surprised he was unaware of it, and hope he will help spread the word to ensure as many as possible avail of it and help reinvigorate our towns and High Streets.

Public Sector Hub: Downpatrick

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps his Department can take to aid further decentralisation of government jobs to the newly established Public Sector Hub at the Downshire Campus in Downpatrick.

(AQO 5932/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: There is no central programme, or strategy, for the decentralisation of public sector jobs.

Individual public bodies, departments and Ministers can, of course, consider the location of public sector facilities and jobs, subject to the normal requirements of business need, value for money and affordability.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Mental Health Waiting Lists

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 28948/11-15, to detail the total spend in reducing mental health waiting lists during the same period.

(AQW 30745/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): It is not possible to provide the requested information on a calendar year basis.

However, pursuant to AQW 28948/11-15, the total spend in reducing mental health waiting lists for the period 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2013 amounted to £951,000 broken down as follows:

2011/12	£24,000
2012/13	£927,000

Critical Care Facility at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to outline the expected date of delivery of the critical care facility at the Royal Victoria Hospital site; (ii) whether this represents a significant delay from the original expected date; and (iii) if so, what is the nature of these delays.

(AQW 32123/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Critical Care Building was to be handed over on 12 November 2012 but this was delayed by the discovery of pipe-work corrosion problems during the commissioning process which necessitated the removal and replacement of all five sealed water systems in the building. The building is now being re-commissioned and it is currently anticipated that handover will be achieved at the end of July 2014.

Ambulance Cover: Down District

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on how many occasions in the last twelve months was Down District without any ambulance cover, broken down by date and time.

(AQW 32131/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) has advised that ambulance cover in Down District Council area is provided from ambulance stations at Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle and that there were no occasions in the last twelve months when ambulance cover was not available.

It is also important to note that NIAS operates a dynamic deployment plan for ambulance resources to maximise response capacity and align available resources to actual and predicted demand. It is possible, therefore, that an emergency response in the Down District Council area could be provided by an emergency response resource from outside the area.

Annex

Dropped shifts and dropped vehicles March 2013-March 2014

DOWNPATRICK STATION

	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Dropped shifts	0	33	11	2	1	14	15	9	9	14	12	32	10	162
Dropped vehicles	0	19	7	1	1	9	9	6	7	8	7	18	5	97

DOWNPATRICK STATION - RRV SHIFTS

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Dropped shifts	4	9	1	1	9	4	2	4	0	2	8	1	2	47
Dropped vehicles	4	9	1	1	9	4	2	4	0	2	8	1	2	47

BALLYNAHINCH STATION

	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Dropped shifts	8	10	4	0	7	4	6	0	0	13	10	14	5	81
Dropped vehicles	4	6	2	0	4	3	4	0	0	8	5	9	3	48

NEWCASTLE STATION

	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Dropped shifts	4	11	9	6	0	8	11	0	3	9	11	3	2	77
Dropped vehicles	2	6	5	4	0	6	7	0	2	5	7	2	1	47

Bangor Minor Injury Unit: Sick Leave

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff are currently on sick leave from the Bangor Minor Injury Unit.

(AQW 32140/11-15)

Mr Poots: Currently across Bangor and Ards Minor Injury Units (MIU) there is a short fall of 4.15 whole time equivalent Nurse Practitioners due to the combination of vacancies and long term sickness. MIU Staffing must be considered across both Ards & Bangor sites as all Nurse Practitioners in each unit routinely rotate through both. Sickness & vacancies in either unit can therefore impact on the ability of both to maintain service delivery.

Due to the small numbers of staff involved and to protect staff identity and privacy I am unable to detail the specifics regarding the staffing pressures however I can confirm they are related to vacancies and long term staff sickness.

Department of Social Protection: Memorandum of Understanding

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 31965/11-15, to place in the Assembly Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding that has been developed with the Department of Social Protection in the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 32161/11-15)

Mr Poots: A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Social Protection in the Republic of Ireland was placed in the Assembly Library on 27 March 2014.

Emergency Department and Minor Injuries Unit

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the differences between an Emergency Department and a Minor Injuries Unit.

(AQW 32163/11-15)

Mr Poots: An emergency department is a consultant-led medical facility which assesses and treats people with serious illnesses or injuries who need immediate attention. A minor injuries unit may be nurse or doctor-led and can treat people with a variety of injuries that are not critical or life threatening. Information about minor injuries units in Northern Ireland and the type of injuries they can treat can be found on the NI Direct website at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/health-and-well-being/health-services/accidents-and-emergencies/minor-injuries-units.htm>.

Beds in Nursing Homes: Derry City Council Area

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the number of beds in nursing homes in the Derry City Council area, to detail (i) the number of beds currently available; (ii) the number of available beds in each of the last five years; (iii) the current level of demand; and (iv) the demand for beds in each of the last five years.

(AQW 32166/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not held centrally and was therefore requested from both the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in which Derry City Council is situated, and the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

The Western HSC Trust stated that it commissions all nursing home care from independent sector organisations.

- (i) The Western HSC Trust advised that there are currently 383 nursing home beds available in the Derry City Council area and based on the latest information made available to them by independent sector nursing home providers, there are 4 vacancies.

- (ii) The RQIA indicated that they do not hold information for the Derry City Council area. They provided the number of registered nursing homes and places in Derry / Londonderry city at a point in time for the past five years as detailed below:

Date	Total number of registered nursing homes in Derry / Londonderry city	Total number of registered nursing home places in Derry / Londonderry city
27/03/2014	8	307
01/04/2013	8	308
01/04/2012	8	308
01/04/2011	8	309
01/04/2010	8	315
31/03/2009	8	310

The same eight nursing homes have remained registered throughout this time period although the number of beds has fluctuated slightly.

- (iii) The Western HSC Trust stated that at 24 March 2014, there were 9 clients requiring Trust funding for a nursing home bed in the Derry City Council area. 3 of these clients required permanent placement; 2 required temporary placement and 4 required respite placement.
- (iv) The Western HSC Trust advised that this information is not readily available in the format requested and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

Nursing Home Waiting Lists

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total number of elderly people currently on nursing home waiting lists in the Derry City Council area. **(AQW 32167/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The information is not collected centrally and was requested from the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in which Derry City Council is situated.

The Western HSC Trust advised that the information could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

Derry City Council Area: Nursing Homes

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many residents in the Derry City Council area are currently resident in nursing homes outside of their council area due to a lack of beds; and of these, to detail the number or residents with (i) dementia; and (ii) Alzheimers.

(AQW 32168/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not collected centrally and was requested from the Western Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in which Derry City Council is situated.

The Western HSC Trust advised that the information could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

Downe Hospital: Transfer of Patients

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of times, since December 2013, that diversions have been in place at the Downe Hospital to transfer patients to (i) Lagan Valley Hospital; or (ii) any other hospital.

(AQW 32169/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service has advised me that, since December 2013, 13 divers have been in place from Downe Hospital to Lagan Valley Hospital. No other divers were in operation during that time.

It is important to note that divers may be for short periods of time and do not necessarily result in any patients being diverted. Divers can be requested by emergency departments as part of a planned response to an increase in activity.

Downe Hospital and Lagan Valley Hospital: Repatriation Protocols

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the outcome of the review into existing repatriation protocols for Downe Hospital and Lagan Valley Hospital.

(AQW 32170/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that its review of Patient Repatriation Protocols for Downe and Lagan Valley Hospitals is ongoing. The purpose of the review is to ensure patient transfers are safe and appropriate.

Downe Emergency Department: Closures

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, following the decision by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in December 2013 to introduce evening and weekend closures at the Downe Emergency Department, why no additional beds have been made available for increased patient intake or transfers to the Downe Hospital.

(AQW 32171/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust that capacity at the Downe Hospital has largely remained static with the need to increase bed numbers minimal. In the event of an increase in demand, provision has been made for beds to be added to each ward in the hospital.

Nursing Care and Residential Care Beds: East Antrim Constituency

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of elderly mentally infirm (a) nursing care; and (b) residential care beds currently provided in the East Antrim constituency.

(AQW 32203/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not held centrally and was therefore requested from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

The RQIA stated that under current legislation, Elderly Mentally Infirm (EMI) is recorded as Dementia.

The RQIA indicated that they do not hold information broken down by electoral constituency, only HSC Trust area.

At 26 March 2014, there were a maximum of 656 dementia beds in nursing homes (182 of which were residential dementia beds in nursing homes) and a maximum of 263 dementia beds in residential care homes in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Amalgam Dental Fillings

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the concerns over the presence of mercury in amalgam dental fillings; and the number of patients who choose not to avail of a filling because of these concerns.

(AQW 32216/11-15)

Mr Poots: Mercury is a key constituent of dental amalgam which has been used to treat dental decay for over 150 years. Mercury is used to bind the alloy particles together into a strong, durable, and solid filling. It continues to be both a clinically and cost effective means to repair the effects of dental

disease. Other materials, and treatment options, are available and, sometimes, patients may choose these options for cosmetic reasons. These other materials, and their individual components, can have their limitations and are not suitable for all clinical situations. Mercury exposure from fillings is thought to be about the same as that from the diet, and therefore does not pose a significant health risk. I am content that dental amalgam is a safe and effective material for dental restorations, and for its continued use in the Health Service.

I am aware that concerns have been raised over the safety of dental amalgam as it contains mercury. However key reports on dental amalgam by the UK Committee on Toxicity in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment in 1997, the EU Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks in 2008, and World Health Organisation in 2009 found that there was no risk of systemic toxicity or disease. In relation to pregnant women, the current advice is that, whilst there is no evidence of any harm to a foetus, until further research is carried out, it is prudent to avoid or use alternative techniques, where clinically reasonable. Health Service arrangements are in place to accommodate this. A small proportion of patients can experience local adverse effects associated with dental amalgam fillings but it is not clear which component of amalgam causes these effects. Alternative Health Service treatments are available in these cases when supported by an appropriate medical report or when such a report requests the use of alternatives to amalgam fillings for other medical reasons.

There is a wider move to reduce the environmental impact of mercury at a global and EU strategic level and we are helping to achieve this by working with other UK regions to reduce the use of dental amalgam. We support the EU Mercury Strategy, whilst allowing the continued use of dental amalgam where it is clinically appropriate. It is expected that the need for fillings, including the use of dental amalgam, will continue to decline as oral health improves in the future.

Data is not recorded on the number of patients who chose not to avail of an amalgam filling because of concerns around mercury, so I am unable to provide that information.

Nursing Homes in County Tyrone

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the nursing homes in County Tyrone that are under a Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority investigation for non-compliance with regulations or standards.

(AQW 32219/11-15)

Mr Poots: RQIA is currently taking enforcement action against one nursing home in Co Tyrone. A notice of failure to comply with regulations was issued to Three Rivers Care Centre, Omagh, on 4 February 2014 in relation to medicines management. Compliance with regulations is required by 31 March 2014.

Details of this, and other current enforcement activity, can be accessed at: http://www.rqia.org.uk/inspections/enforcement_activity.cfm

Patients Awaiting a Lung Transplant

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the number of patients awaiting a lung transplant.

(AQW 32225/11-15)

Mr Poots: Organ donation and transplantation in the UK is a matter for NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to address. NHSBT have advised that there are currently 9 patients in Northern Ireland actively waiting for a lung transplant; of these, less than 5 patients have cystic fibrosis as their primary cardiothoracic disease.

NHSBT welcomes all initiatives to increase organ donation and improve outcomes for patients in need of a transplant, and is working with a wide range of interested parties, including patient and donor families, charities, health departments, commissioners and regulators, to help achieve their goals.

Patients Awaiting a Lung Transplant

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people diagnosed with cystic fibrosis are awaiting a lung transplant.

(AQW 32226/11-15)

Mr Poots: Organ donation and transplantation in the UK is a matter for NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to address. NHSBT have advised that there are currently 9 patients in Northern Ireland actively waiting for a lung transplant; of these, less than 5 patients have cystic fibrosis as their primary cardiothoracic disease.

NHSBT welcomes all initiatives to increase organ donation and improve outcomes for patients in need of a transplant, and is working with a wide range of interested parties, including patient and donor families, charities, health departments, commissioners and regulators, to help achieve their goals.

System of Allocation of Donor Lungs

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the system of allocation of donor lungs; and whether allocation is on the basis of need.

(AQW 32227/11-15)

Mr Poots: The allocation of donated organs on a UK wide basis is a matter for NHS Blood and Transplant, who has advised that at present lungs are allocated to designated transplant centres on a zonal basis.

Assessing donor lungs and selecting the most appropriate recipients is often difficult and needs detailed knowledge of the recipient. The transplant surgeon will use their clinical knowledge to assess both the donor lungs and potential recipients to find the best match, based on aspects such as the risks associated with the lungs and the severity of the patient's condition. If there is no suitable recipient in that centre, the lungs are offered to other UK centres. It is the responsibility of the surgeon to decide whether to accept the donor organs for use in transplantation. The surgeon will base the decision on the characteristics of both the donor and the potential recipient.

NHSBT is reviewing this approach to ensure that this delivers the best patient outcomes and, if other approaches offer advantages to patients, will make the necessary changes.

Public's Obesity Levels

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the public's obesity levels broken down by (i) income; and (ii) deprivation factors.

(AQW 32258/11-15)

Mr Poots: Obesity information is available from the Health Survey (NI). It is not possible to disaggregate obesity levels by income. Information on adult obesity and deprivation is documented in the following table. Due to small numbers it is not possible to break down child obesity figures by deprivation quintile. The Northern Ireland figure for obesity¹ in 2 to 15 year olds was 7% in 2012/13.

ADULT² OBESITY LEVELS BY MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION QUINTILE 2012/13

Most deprived (%)	Quintile 2 (%)	Quintile 3 (%)	Quintile 4 (%)	Least deprived (%)
31	23	24	27	21

- 1 Data for childhood obesity levels are estimated using the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) classification.
- 2 An adult with a BMI of 30 kg/m² or higher is classified as obese.

Obesity Levels among Young People

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail obesity levels among young people in each of the last five years.

(AQW 32260/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is available from the Health Survey (NI) which has run from 2010/11 onwards.

PROPORTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE THAT WERE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE 2010/11 TO 2012/13

		2010/11 (%)	2011/12 (%)	2012/13 (%)
2 -15 Year Olds ¹	Overweight	19	21	20
	Obese	8	10	7
16-18 Year Olds ^{2, 3}	Overweight	13	22	19
	Obese	10	3	9

- 1 Data for 2-15 year olds are estimated using the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) classification.
- 2 Data for 16-18 year olds are estimated using the Body Mass Index (BMI). A BMI between 25 and 29 kg/m² is considered overweight and a BMI of 30 kg/m² and over is considered obese.
- 3 It should be noted that data for 16-18 year olds are based on fairly small numbers which may account for some of the fluctuations between years.

Waiting List for a Care Package

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail for each Health and Social Care Trust (i) how many people are currently on a waiting list for a care package; (ii) how many of these people have been waiting longer than one month; and (iii) of the number of people waiting longer than a month, in how many cases is this due to carers not being available despite there being available funding.

(AQW 32278/11-15)

Mr Poots: (i) and (ii)

The number of people currently waiting in a hospital setting for a care package is not available. However, information is available on the number of people for whom a community care (care management) assessment has been completed but who were waiting at home or in another community setting while a community care package is being arranged. The latest information, which refers to the position at 31 December 2013, is presented by HSC Trust and time band in the table below:

NUMBER OF PERSONS WAITING AT HOME OR IN ANOTHER COMMUNITY SETTING FOR A COMMUNITY CARE PACKAGE AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

HSC Trust	Less than 5 weeks	5 weeks or more	Total
Belfast	35	36	71
Northern	18	15	33
South Eastern	3	0	3
Southern	0	5	5
Western	8	26	34
Total	64	82	146

At 31 December 2013, there were 146 people for whom a community care (care management) assessment had been completed but who were waiting at home or in another community setting while a community care package was being arranged. Over half (56%) of these people had been waiting 5 weeks or more.

(iii) This information is not collected centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

Emergency Department Patients at Causeway Hospital

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of Emergency Department patients at Causeway Hospital between September 2013 and January 2014, who had to wait longer than 12 hours to be assessed, treated and either admitted or discharged, compared to the same period twelve months previously.

(AQW 32279/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is assumed that this question refers to the number of attendances (new and unplanned reviews) waiting longer than 12 hours to be either treated and discharged home, or admitted to the hospital.

Information on the number of new and unplanned review attendances waiting longer than 12 hours to either be treated and discharged home, or admitted to the Causeway hospital during the period between September and January 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 is detailed in table 1 below:

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF NEW AND UNPLANNED REVIEW ATTENDANCES WAITING LONGER THAN 12 HOURS AT THE CAUSEWAY EMERGENCY CARE DEPARTMENT

Department / HSC Trust	Sept 2011 – Jan 2012	Sept 2012 – Jan 2013	Sept 2013 – Jan 2014
Causeway	501	269	0
Northern HSC Trust	1,854	1,089	129
Northern Ireland	4,431	2,247	560

1 Information is provisional and may be subject to change

Information on waiting times at emergency care departments are published on a monthly basis, and is available to view or download from:

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

Domiciliary Care

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people received domiciliary care in (i) 2011; and (ii) 2013.

(AQW 32280/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people receiving domiciliary care in a year is not available. However, information on the number of clients receiving domiciliary care during a survey week in September each year is available. Figures relating to the survey weeks in 2011 and 2013 are presented in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1. NUMBER OF CLIENTS RECEIVING DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND DURING A SURVEY WEEK IN SEPTEMBER 2011 & 20131

	2011	2013
Number of Clients	23,522	25,330

1 Figures relate to 18th - 24th September 2011 and 15th - 21st September 2013.

This, and further information, can be found in the annual publication of 'Domiciliary Care Services for Adults in Northern Ireland' at the web address below:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/adult_statistics/statistics_and_research-dom_care_services.htm

Inpatient Addiction Services

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether increased Tier 4 inpatient addiction services will be delivered in the Western Health and Social Care Trust.
(AQW 32304/11-15)

Mr Poots: The recent consultation by the Health & Social Care Board provided everyone with opportunity to influence what Tier 4 Inpatient Addiction Treatment Services will look like in Northern Ireland over the next 5 to 10 years. The issue of access to specialist services in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area was reflected in many comments received, and this has been noted by the HSCB along with other key issues raised by the consultation exercise.

The HSCB is now considering appropriate next steps/potential service developments; it is anticipated that these will be confirmed within the coming weeks. Accordingly no decision has as yet been made about the future of Tier 4 addiction services across Northern Ireland, including the Western Health and Social Care Trust area.

Non-Admissions Policies

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 30754/11-15, to outline the outcome of the Regional Residential Home Planning Group's review into non-admissions policies across Health and Social Care Trusts.
(AQW 32345/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Regional Residential Home Planning Group was asked by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Board to carry out a review of the non-admissions policies across a number of Health and Social Care Trusts in January 2014.

The HSC Board has agreed that the review of the non admissions policy will be completed taking account of the consultation responses arising from the document "Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People". While the consultation period closed on 7th March 2014, the written responses have not as yet been fully analysed.

The review of the non admissions policy and full post consultation report is expected to be completed in early summer 2014.

Statutory Residential Homes

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Health and Social Care Board's consultation document on the criteria to be used by Health and Social Care Trusts to assess statutory residential homes for older people.
(AQW 32348/11-15)

Mr Poots: On the 29 November 2013, the Health and Social Care Board launched the consultation document "Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People".

The consultation period ended on 7th March 2014 and written responses have not yet been analysed. A full consultation report is expected to be completed in early summer 2014.

Pinewood Residential Care Home

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 30755/11-15, for an update on the upgrading of bath and shower facilities at Pinewood Residential Care Home.
(AQW 32349/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Trust has advised that the showers in Pinewood Residential Care Home are now fully functional as is the recently replaced bath. However, there is an issue with the power pack which prevents the bath from being raised and lowered. The Trust has advised this does not affect clients using the bath and a new power pack has been ordered.

The Residential Care Home Minimum Standards, for existing care homes, in respect of toileting and washing facilities dictates “that a range of toilet, washing, bath and shower facilities (including assisted facilities) are provided to meet the needs of residents so that, where reasonably possible, there is a ratio of 1 assisted bathroom or shower room to 8 residents and 1 assisted toilet to 5 residents, with a minimum of 1 of each of these facilities per floor. Where suitably adapted ensuite bathing or shower facilities are provided in residents’ private accommodation, these facilities will be taken into consideration in the calculation of the overall requirements.”

Pinewood Residential Care Home

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 30755/11-15, what is the appropriate ratio of residents to shower or bath facilities in a care home, such as Pinewood Residential Care Home.
(AQW 32350/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Trust has advised that the showers in Pinewood Residential Care Home are now fully functional as is the recently replaced bath. However, there is an issue with the power pack which prevents the bath from being raised and lowered. The Trust has advised this does not affect clients using the bath and a new power pack has been ordered.

The Residential Care Home Minimum Standards, for existing care homes, in respect of toileting and washing facilities dictates “that a range of toilet, washing, bath and shower facilities (including assisted facilities) are provided to meet the needs of residents so that, where reasonably possible, there is a ratio of 1 assisted bathroom or shower room to 8 residents and 1 assisted toilet to 5 residents, with a minimum of 1 of each of these facilities per floor. Where suitably adapted ensuite bathing or shower facilities are provided in residents’ private accommodation, these facilities will be taken into consideration in the calculation of the overall requirements.”

Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools: North Antrim Constituency

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the financial support his Department has provided through Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools in the North Antrim Constituency.
(AQW 32356/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department does not hold the requested information on a Constituency basis. However, information on the financial support provided for schools in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area since the establishment of Multi Agency Support Teams (MASTs) is set out in the table below:

Northern Health & Social Care Trust	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Multi-Agency Support Team for Schools	£994,938	£994,938	£985,364	£985,364	£1,002,944	£943,848

Lift in Bangor Hospital

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the lift in Bangor Hospital has been out of action for seven weeks.

(AQW 32372/11-15)

Mr Poots: I would advise that the lift was planned to be out of use for 7 weeks to allow for the replacement of the lift carriage and mechanics.

The work commenced on the 17th February 2014 and is due to complete on Friday 28th March 2014.

Domiciliary Care: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in North Down are in receipt of domiciliary care.

(AQW 32388/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people in North Down currently in receipt of domiciliary care is not available. However, information on the number of clients receiving domiciliary care during a survey week in September 2013, in the South Eastern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust, is available.

During the survey week in September 2013, 4,715 clients received domiciliary care services in the South Eastern HSC Trust.

This, and further information, can be found in the annual publication of 'Domiciliary Care Services for Adults in Northern Ireland' at the web address below:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/adult_statistics/statistics_and_research-dom_care_services.htm

Group Counselling Appointment: Woodstock Lodge

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average waiting time for group counselling appointment at Woodstock Lodge.

(AQW 32394/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not held centrally therefore it was requested from the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust.

The Belfast HSC Trust advised that group counselling is not provided at Woodstock Lodge.

New Council Areas: Staff Commute

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

(AQW 32400/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below details the staff within my Department, broken down by grade, travelling from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2	0	9	11	7	3	6	4	1	43
Armagh, Bandbridge and Craigavon	0	0	2	9	9	3	1	2	1	27
Belfast	8	4	25	44	32	15	11	12	6	157
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4
Derry and Strabane	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1	2	9	16	10	8	9	7	5	67
Mid and East Antrim	0	1	1	7	8	0	2	0	2	21
Mid Ulster	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	0	7
Newry, Mourne and Down	1	2	12	9	8	6	6	2	3	49
North Down and Ards	8	3	16	31	28	14	27	26	18	171
Total *	22	12	84	137	123	54	65	56	44	597

Notes:

* Total includes 48 (8.0%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area.

Patients Diagnosed with Rare Diseases

Mr Brady asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the policy and procedures for patients who are diagnosed with rare conditions that are beyond the specialism of the local Health Service.

(AQW 32413/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has two processes for considering funding requests for individual patients, including those with rare diseases, i.e. individual funding requests (IFRs), for access to a specific treatment (mainly specialist drugs) not normally commissioned or funded within Northern Ireland (NI) and extra contractual referrals (ECRs) to providers outside NI for assessment or treatment which cannot be provided locally due to its specialist nature or can be provided locally but clinical reasons exist for treatment outside NI.

Each ECR/IFR request is considered on its merits and it is important that clinical exceptionality can be demonstrated to support requests.

Following publication of the UK Strategy for Rare Diseases in November 2013, my Department has been working with local stakeholders to develop a Northern Ireland Rare Diseases Implementation

Plan. This Plan will form the basis for the delivery of the UK Strategy commitments in future years in Northern Ireland.

Compulsory Work Uniform and Personal Protection Equipment

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which employees of Health and Social Care Trusts have to self-finance the purchase of their compulsory work uniform or personal protection equipment.

(AQW 32414/11-15)

Mr Poots: All Health and Social Care Trusts provide employees who are required to wear a work uniform or who require personal protection equipment (such as safety shoes or high visibility vests) as part of their role, with the necessary uniform or equipment.

No Trust employee has to self-finance the purchase of uniforms or personal protection equipment.

Tenders for the Provision of Wigs

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the tenders for the provision of wigs is due for renewal in each Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 32416/11-15)

Mr Poots: Wigs are contracted regionally for all Health and Social Care Trusts.

This regional contract is due for renewal on 1 January 2016.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Policy for Medication in Possession

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide a copy of the current Northern Ireland Prison Service policy for Medication in Possession, including a copy of the risk assessment process and the prisoner agreement form.

(AQW 32441/11-15)

Mr Poots: The current version of the 'In Possession' Medication Policy of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is attached. This includes a copy of the 'In Possession' Risk Assessment form, which outlines the processes involved, at Appendix 2 and the prisoner agreement form at Appendix 3.

Hospital Beds

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many beds were available in each hospital in (i) May 2011; and (ii) March 2014.

(AQW 32464/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information in relation to the average number of available beds in HSC hospitals in Northern Ireland is collected by the Department on a quarterly basis, as such it is only possible to provide the latest figures on available beds held by the Department for the quarter ending December 2013 and also the number of available beds during the quarter ending June 2011.

We know from a Rapid Review of Northern Ireland Health and Social Care funding needs and the productivity challenge: 2011/12 – 2014/15 (Appleby 2011) that acute beds in Northern Ireland in 2008/09 were approximately 25% higher than England, and were not used as intensively and lengths of stay were longer. Hospital bed numbers have therefore decreased since 2009. This change has been managed by more efficient use of beds through changing clinical practice, increasing use of day surgery, better anaesthetics, and improved community rehabilitation options. These developments in changing the patterns of hospital bed use have resulted in shorter stays in hospital. Consequently the average length of stay for all patients in Northern Ireland has fallen by 13.5% since 2008/09. For the acute programme of care, the reduction is 7.3%.

HSC Trust	Hospital	Average Available Beds	
		Quarter Ending June 2011	Quarter Ending Dec 2013 ^P
Belfast	Belfast City	494.1	468.3
	Windsor House*	35.0	0.0
	Musgrave Park	235.3	236.0
	Cancer Centre	68.3	69.8
	Forster Green*	21.7	0.0
	Knockbracken Healthcare Park	164.0	166.0
	Young Peoples Centre/Beechcroft	16.0	25.0
	Royal Victoria	664.5	653.8
	Royal Maternity	128.3	122.0
	RBHSC	96.6	84.6
	Mater Infirmorum	282.7	245.5
	Muckamore Abbey	233.0	176.0

HSC Trust	Hospital	Average Available Beds	
		Quarter Ending June 2011	Quarter Ending Dec 2013 ^P
South Eastern	Ards	19.2	20.1
	Ulster	547.4	586.7
	Bangor	20.0	20.0
	Ulster MHU	24.0	24.0
	Lagan Valley	98.4	88.0
	Lagan Valley PNU	40.0	36.0
	Thompson House	35.0	35.0
	Downshire	110.0	85.0
	Downe	49.1	49.1
Northern	Robinson Memorial	25.0	25.0
	Dalriada	33.3	32.0
	Causeway Hospital	247.9	229.5
	Holywell	193.0	171.0
	Moyle	18.0	18.0
	Whiteabbey	46.5	44.1
	Mid Ulster	57.8	27.1
	Antrim	464.8	495.9

HSC Trust	Hospital	Average Available Beds	
		Quarter Ending June 2011	Quarter Ending Dec 2013 ^P
Southern	St Lukes	70.2	49.1
	South Tyrone	45.0	45.0
	Longstone	78.0	16.0
	Lurgan	49.7	51.0
	Craigavon Area	477.7	467.0
	Daisy Hill	230.9	205.8
	Craigavon Area PNU	74.0	74.0
Western	Altnagelvin Area	496.0	473.5
	Waterside (Ward 1-4)	72.0	66.0
	Gransha	72.0	62.0
	Lakeview	24.0	24.0
	Tyrone County	44.0	43.6
	Erne/South West Acute	209.1	210.1
	Tyrone & Fermanagh	94.2	99.0

Source: KH03a . Notes:

P Data relating to the 2013/14 year is provisional and subject to change.

* Windsor House and Forster Green sites are now closed.

Maintenance of Bangor Hospital

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much has been spent on maintenance of Bangor Hospital in each of the last five years.

(AQW 32506/11-15)

Mr Poots: The annual maintenance costs for Bangor Hospital for each of the last 5 years is outlined below. These figures include both labour costs and essential capital maintenance expenditure.

Year	Expenditure
2013/14	£230,941
2012/13	£132,516
2011/12	£1,115,737
2010/11	£61,556
2009/10	£326,046
Total	£1,866,796

Additional MRI Scanner at Antrim Area Hospital

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's proposal for an additional MRI scanner at Antrim Area Hospital. **(AQW 32525/11-15)**

Mr Poots: This proposal remains under consideration.

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) submitted a revised Outline Business Case (OBC) in respect of an additional MRI scanner at Antrim Area Hospital to my Department for consideration on 29 January 2014.

The Trust's preferred option within the business case will provide a second scanner at the Antrim Area Hospital, increasing capacity by approximately 2,930 examinations and offering a contingency for the maintenance of the NHSCT MRI service in the event of failure or prolonged breakdown of the existing scanner.

Departmental advisors have assessed the revised OBC and their comments have been issued to the Trust to address.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Families and Next of Kin

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in relation to the incidents in which responses by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust were found to be below standard and in which the patient subsequently died, whether the families or next of kin have been notified of the Trust's below standard response in all eleven cases. **(AQW 32529/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The Northern Health & Social Care Trust has confirmed that it has identified 20 separate incidents in which the response by the Trust was below standard. The Trust further advises that in each of these cases, the patients, or where appropriate the families of those involved, have been made aware of the incidents. This is a sensitive issue for families and requires careful interaction. It is also important to understand that families may choose to decline engagement with the Serious Adverse Incident process.

Health Service: Staff Payment

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what response his Department has made over the problems around correct payment of staff within the Health Service. **(AQW 32535/11-15)**

Mr Poots: I am extremely concerned that some staff have not received their pay correctly. I have therefore instructed the BSO and Trusts to advise me as to how these issues can be resolved, to take all necessary steps to redress any loss experienced by staff and to ensure that lessons are learned for the future.

I am pleased to note that the BSO and Trusts have already implemented a range of measures to improve matters – this includes running additional payment cycles to make good any underpayments and where this has not addressed the problem (for example hardship), then emergency payments have also been used.

In addition to this, my Department has approved further expert support for the HSC payroll functions over the coming months. This will provide additional resource to help with the familiarisation of the new HRPTS system and will also help staff develop solutions to staff queries.

Consultation on Tier 3 and Tier 4 Detoxification Services

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the consultation on Tier 3 and Tier 4 detoxification services; and when he will make a statement on the issue.

(AQW 32659/11-15)

Mr Poots: The recent consultation by the Health & Social Care Board (HSCB) provided everyone with opportunity to influence what Addiction Treatment Services will look like across Northern Ireland over the next 5 to 10 years. The issue of access to specialist addiction services in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area was reflected in many of the comments received, and this has been noted by the HSCB along with other key issues raised by the consultation exercise.

The HSCB is now considering appropriate next steps/potential service developments; it is anticipated that these will be confirmed within the coming weeks. Accordingly no decision has as yet been made about the future of Tier 3 and Tier 4 addiction services across Northern Ireland. Any statement on the issue will await the outcome of this work.

Department of Justice

Convicted Sex Offenders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the procedure when a convicted sex offender, who resides in approved accommodation, goes missing, including the role of all agencies involved.

(AQW 32116/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): Prior to a convicted sex offender being admitted to Approved Accommodation the Designated Risk Manager (DRM) will agree a risk management plan with the Approved Premises Provider. This risk management plan will detail restrictions, e.g. curfew times, which will vary in accordance with the offender's assessed risk.

Where an offender fails to return to the hostel by his curfew time Approved Premises staff will contact the DRM directly, or a relevant Area Manager in the absence of the DRM, and inform the local PSNI Public Protection Unit who will circulate the offender's details. Appropriate enforcement action will then be initiated. Where it is considered that the assessed risk can no longer be managed safely in the community, and the sentence imposed is one provided for in the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, this will take the form of an application to the Parole Commissioners for immediate recall to custody. In relation to other types of sentence, a warrant can be executed to bring the offender back before the sentencing court. PSNI also have a power of arrest if, by leaving Approved Accommodation, the offender has breached the prohibitions contained within a Sexual Offences Prevention Order.

Simon Community: Accommodation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the Simon Community offered their hostels as bail addresses to any agency within his Department; and if so, to detail (i) what level of alleged offence is agreeable to allow remand to their facilities; and (ii) whether staff are prepared to oversee relevant bail conditions such as no alcohol or curfews.

(AQW 32117/11-15)

Mr Ford: Granting of bail and any associated conditions are matters for the judiciary. Bail conditions may include on occasion an address to be approved by Police Service of Northern Ireland or Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

Simon Community NI currently provides Probation Board for Northern Ireland with a number of allocated bed spaces for criminal justice referrals. Referrals are made via the Approved Hostel Allocation Panel. Simon Community makes decisions on admittance to their facilities on a case by case basis.

In relation to these allocated bed spaces, Simon Community staff oversee licence conditions of statutory orders which include alcohol prohibitions and curfew times.

Reoffending Rates

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans to hold discussions with his counterparts in other devolved regions so that best practice in reducing reoffending rates is implemented.

(AQW 32146/11-15)

Mr Ford: Implementing best practice to help bring about reduced offending is an ongoing matter for me. I meet with Ministerial colleagues in England and Wales, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, and I will go further afield, if needed, to help secure best practice that will help reduce levels of offending, and bring about safer communities. A trilateral Ministerial meeting with my Irish and Scottish counterparts is plan for the near future. A key purpose behind this, and previous meetings is to share learning and experience in policing and justice matters in a range of areas of mutual interest across our three neighbouring jurisdictions. The Reducing Offending Strategic Framework sets out the Executive's commitment to reducing offending, and I will use all avenues available to me in order to deliver the long term outcomes of this important work.

Reductions in Legal Aid Budgets

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice how the policy of reducing the Legal Aid budget compares, in financial terms, with recently introduced changes to Legal Aid in Great Britain.

(AQW 32147/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Legal Aid landscape across Great Britain differs greatly and therefore it is not accurate to directly compare the reforms in Northern Ireland with the reforms elsewhere. In developing any reforms to legal aid in this jurisdiction my Department examines and benchmarks how legal aid is administered in England and Wales, in Scotland and in the Republic of Ireland. My officials engage with Departmental colleagues across the jurisdictions and, where appropriate, we have tailored individual aspects of the reforms elsewhere to them to meet our specific needs.

The reforms I have introduced in relation to Criminal Legal Aid are already yielding savings in the region of £20 million per year. A further reform to Crown Court fees has been subject to consultation and may yield further savings of up to £5.6 million. Reforms to Civil Legal Aid will also deliver significant savings. The first of these changes, relating to the reform of publicly funded legal representation in the civil and family courts, will, when fully implemented, deliver savings of some £3.4 million per year.

I am committed to bringing legal aid spend within budget while ensuring that the money is targeted to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our society receive appropriate, cost effective, representation.

Hostel Accommodation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail how long David Page was not resident at his approved hostel accommodation in Belfast and when his absence was discovered.

(AQW 32150/11-15)

Mr Ford: The report of the serious case review conducted into the actions of Mr Page will not be published until the time limit for avenues of appeal has passed and the victim has had an opportunity to read the report and discuss its contents with officials. It would not be appropriate to consider provision of the information requested whilst that process is ongoing.

Approved Accommodation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether any staff member or agency raised any issues, alert any authority or report any concerns as to why David Page was not resident in his approved accommodation, particularly in light of his serious criminal record.

(AQW 32151/11-15)

Mr Ford: The report of the serious case review conducted into the actions of Mr Page will not be published until the time limit for avenues of appeal has passed and the victim has had an opportunity to read the report and discuss its contents with officials. It would not be appropriate to consider provision of the information requested whilst that process is ongoing.

Approved Accommodation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether, during his absence from approved accommodation in Belfast, David Page was reported to the PSNI as a missing person.

(AQW 32152/11-15)

Mr Ford: The report of the serious case review conducted into the actions of Mr Page will not be published until the time limit for avenues of appeal has passed and the victim has had an opportunity to read the report and discuss its contents with officials. It would not be appropriate to consider provision of the information requested whilst that process is ongoing.

Approved Accommodation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, on how many occasions whilst resident in approved accommodation in Belfast, was David Page visited by a designated risk manager or a member of staff from any other monitoring agency.

(AQW 32154/11-15)

Mr Ford: The report of the serious case review conducted into the actions of Mr Page will not be published until the time limit for avenues of appeal has passed and the victim has had an opportunity to read the report and discuss its contents with officials. It would not be appropriate to consider provision of the information requested whilst that process is ongoing.

Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre: Visit

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 30659/11-15, to detail the outcome of the review.

(AQW 32158/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Governor of Hydebank Wood has completed his investigation into the circumstances relating to a proposed visit. This has resulted in one individual manager being given written advice. The Governor has also written to all of the establishment's managers instructing that the specific approval of the Governor or Deputy Governor must be obtained before any offer is made to an individual or organisation to visit the establishment, or contribute to any prisoner activity.

Desertcreat Training College: Consultants

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how much has been paid to date to consultants in respect of development of the police, prison and fire officer training centre at Desertcreat; and to detail the total paid to each consultant.

(AQW 32159/11-15)

Mr Ford: The total amount paid to date to consultants in the development of the Northern Ireland Community Safety College at Desertcreat is £7,622,005. This is broken down as follows:

Design consultants	£7,185,148
Business case consultants	£397,717
Security consultants	£9,358
Financial consultants	£9,764
Property consultants	£15,000
Procurement legal advice	£3,050
Design consultant	£1,968
Total	£7,622,005

Age Limit for the Use of Firearms

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the proposed plan to lower the age limit for the use of firearms.

(AQW 32188/11-15)

Mr Ford: The proposal for an age limit of 12 years for the use of shotguns and certain airguns in particular circumstances is part of a package of changes on firearms on which I consulted. Agreement on all aspects of that package has not yet been reached.

Approved Accommodation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how long did David Page reside at Albert Street, Lurgan when he was supposed to be living in approved accommodation in Belfast; and on how many occasions was he visited or interviewed by a Designated Risk Manager whilst he was residing in Lurgan.

(AQW 32192/11-15)

Mr Ford: The report of the serious case review conducted into the actions of Mr Page will not be published until the time limit for avenues of appeal has passed and the victim has had an opportunity to read the report and discuss its contents with officials. It would not be appropriate to consider provision of the information requested whilst that process is ongoing.

Senior Staff in the Northern Ireland Prison Service: Spend

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how much has been spent on flights and accommodation for senior staff in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, on a weekly or monthly basis, in each of the last twelve months; and to detail how many staff are catered for in this regard.

(AQW 32194/11-15)

Mr Ford: All staff who are on secondment, detached duty, or travel on official business are entitled to flights and accommodation in line with the entitlements set out in the NICS HR Handbook. In respect of senior staff (Grade 7 and equivalent, and above), 27 individuals were provided with accommodation and/or flights in the last 12 months and the monthly expenditure is provided in the table below:

Month	Flights	Accommodation
March 2013	1,457	1,750
April 2013	1,592	1,789
May 2013	1,951	3,440
June 2013	1,691	2,020
July 2013	1,331	2,148

Month	Flights	Accommodation
August 2013	3,453	2,614
September 2013	2,976	3,962
October 2013	2,674	3,533
November 2013	2,888	3,746
December 2013	1,799	3,215
January 2014	2,432	3,378
February 2014	2,065	3,215

Animal Cruelty Case

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice whether he will review general sentencing policy following the response to a recent animal cruelty case, including widespread public anger at the leniency of sentencing.

(AQW 32204/11-15)

Mr Ford: Policy on the legislation governing animal welfare offences is a matter for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. My role is to ensure that proposals for offences and penalties, from any Minister, fit proportionately within the criminal law framework. Sentencing within this framework is entirely a matter for the judiciary and I consider it important that the independence of the judiciary is maintained.

The Lord Chief Justice, in his Programme of Action on sentencing, is enhancing the structures by which the judiciary ensure consistent and appropriate sentences. Under this Programme, guidelines for animal welfare offences heard in the Magistrates' Courts have been developed and are published on the Judicial Studies Board website.

Referral of a sentence by the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency is available for all offences

triable only on indictment, that is, those that can be tried only in the Crown Court. It is also available for a limited number of cases that can be tried either in a Magistrates Court or the Crown Court – known as hybrid offences – that have been specifically listed in statute. That list is deliberately limited to the more serious hybrid offences where public confidence in the judicial system could be seriously undermined by an inappropriate sentencing decision. A list of serious sexual offences is included, for example. The list is also limited to ensure that the independence of the judiciary is not undermined. Another issue is that of certainty for the offender so that, by and large, the sentence handed down should be final.

Animal welfare offences are not currently included in list of offences that can be referred to the Court of Appeal. An exercise to consider, more broadly, the ambit of the unduly lenient scheme is, however, already planned.

Age Limit for the Use of Firearms

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice whether there are plans to change the legal age at which people are entitled to use a firearm.

(AQW 32205/11-15)

Mr Ford: The proposal for an age limit of 12 years for the use of shotguns and certain airguns in particular circumstances is part of a package of changes on firearms on which I consulted. Agreement on all aspects of that package has not yet been reached.

New Police Museum

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether the £383,000 funding for the new Police Museum will meet the full costs of the museum; and if there will be a funding surplus, to detail how it will be spent.
(AQW 32210/11-15)

Mr Ford: No. A business case and funding for the Police Museum have already been agreed. This £383,000 relates to the unallocated amount from the Police Part Time Reserve Gratuity Scheme. I have made this funding available to the Police Museum to publicly mark the service and dedication of the Part Time Reserve during some of the most difficult days of the Troubles. This will provide a lasting and enduring tribute to their role in policing in Northern Ireland. It is not anticipated that there will be a funding surplus.

Police Museum: Funding

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether the £383,000 of funding for the new Police Museum represents the totality of unspent funds in respect of the £20m allocated by HM Treasury.
(AQW 32211/11-15)

Mr Ford: Yes.

Assets Recovery Community Scheme

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the groups who work with people with disabilities and special needs who have been successful in applying to the Assets Recovery Community Scheme; (ii) the amount of funding awarded to each group; and (iii) the total amount currently held by the Scheme.
(AQW 32267/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Assets Recovery Community Scheme is open to applications from schemes which meet the statutory criteria of being designed to prevent crime or reduce the fear of crime. In addition bids must be supported by a Policing and Community Safety Partnership or a criminal justice body. To date no project specifically designed to support those with disabilities and special needs has received funding, however a number of the projects have benefited a wide cross section of society.

The details of successful bids are published on the Department's website, www.dojni.gov.uk.

The Scheme's income is dependent on the value of assets recovered in court and, therefore, cannot be predicted. In the most recent round of funding, which was announced last week, £335,000 was allocated to 24 projects.

Legal Aid: Estimated Final Costing

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total Legal Aid to date, and estimated final costing, in the case of Bernadette McGeary, Stephen McGeary and Catherine Mooney, shown per defendant and broken down by Magistrates Court and Crown Court.
(AQW 32268/11-15)

Mr Ford: Magistrates' Court

Legal aid was granted to Bernadette McGeary in December 2008 for proceedings in the Magistrates' Court in relation to a charge of deception for representation by solicitor only. This charge against the defendant was dismissed. The total fee paid to the solicitor was £1,946.79 including VAT of £259.79 and disbursements of £202.48.

Legal aid was subsequently granted to all three defendants in 2012 for representation by solicitor only for proceedings in the Magistrates' Court. All three defendants were returned for trial.

All fees paid in respect of each solicitor for these Magistrates' Court proceedings have been paid and are detailed below:

Bernadette McGeary – Total of £1,413.78, including VAT of £235.63.

Stephen McGeary – Total of £1,142.88, including VAT of £190.48.

Catherine Mooney – Total of £1,254.10, including VAT of £209.02.

Crown Court

Legal aid certificates were granted for all three defendants for solicitor, senior and junior counsel to defend proceedings in the Crown Court. Fees in respect of each defendant are outlined below:

Bernadette McGeary

- no fees have as yet been paid. Estimates of fees are detailed below:

Solicitor – Total of £42,164.40 including VAT of £7,027.40.

Senior counsel – Total of £23,040.00 including VAT of £3,840.00.

Junior counsel – Total of £11,732.40 including VAT of £1,955.40

Stephen McGeary

This defendant transferred to a different firm of solicitors and senior counsel prior to the proceedings concluding. This will result in five practitioners being paid, i.e. 2 solicitor firms, 2 senior counsel and 1 junior counsel.

The first solicitor who represented this defendant has been paid, the total being £30,615.84, including VAT of £5,102.64.

No other fees for representation of this defendant have been paid, estimates are detailed below:

Second solicitor - Total of £15,466.80 including VAT of £2,577.80

First senior counsel – Total of £11,460.00 including VAT of £1,910.00.

Second senior counsel - Total of £5,280.00 including VAT of £880.00.

Junior counsel - Total of £3,423.60 including VAT of £570.60.

Catherine Mooney

- no fees have as yet been paid. Estimates of fees are detailed below:

Solicitor - Total of £15,574.80 including VAT of £2,595.80

Senior counsel - Total of £5,280.00 including VAT of £880.00.

Junior counsel - Total of £3,348.00 including VAT of £558.00

Prisons: Drug Detection

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31894/11-15, to detail (i) the progress made on tracing the origin of this drug after its detection in prisons, given it has not be prescribed since May 2011; (ii) how many convictions and disciplinary actions, or any other disposal, have ensued over the supply of this drug into prisons; and (iii) how many times the supply has been traced to (a) prisoners; (b) staff; (c) visitors; and (d) any other source.

(AQW 32269/11-15)

Mr Ford: Temazepam is a medicine that can be misused and for that reason it is no longer prescribed within prisons. Where it is detected through the regime of random and intelligence led drug testing, it will, in most cases, be a consequence of unlawful trafficking into prisons. Security Departments actively focus on eliminating the potential supply routes and have achieved measurable success this year in

doing so, as reflected by the Random Drug Testing rates. The data captured within prisons does not separately break down the sanctions and disciplinary actions for each particular substance.

Zero Tolerance Drugs Policy

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the terms of the three month zero tolerance drugs policy, based on PSNI involvement at HMP Maghaberry, produced any tangible results which would justify the reduction of random drugs testing in exchange for longer term reinvestment into drug intervention work and increases in intelligence led searching.

(AQW 32271/11-15)

Mr Ford: The joint operation between NIPS and PSNI at Maghaberry was originally to last for three months. The operation has been reviewed and extended several times and is ongoing. Since October 2013 the operation has yielded 103 drug related seizures. These cases are being proceeded with and the operation will continue to be reviewed. This operation has been successful in targeting the use of banned substances within the prison and has been used as part of the launch of what is a more effective use of resources in the area of combating drug misuse.

Prisoners continue to be randomly tested and the results provide an indication of the level of substance misuse within prisons.

That data would indicate that the levels of substance misuse are reducing at Maghaberry and across the Northern Ireland Prison Service.

Zero Tolerance Drugs Policy

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31910/11-15, to detail (i) why it is stated that the Northern Ireland Prison Service has a zero tolerance policy of drug abuse and has measures in place to tackle all substance abuse, when according to Prison Service Management Board Minutes of October 2013 such a policy was only introduced as a trial for three months; (ii) whether this response was provided during the trial; and (iii) whether the answer refers to a temporary or existent policy.

(AQW 32272/11-15)

Mr Ford: The trial referred to in Prison Service Management Board minutes was a joint NIPS/PSNI operation to combat the use and supply of drugs in one particular prison. This operation is still ongoing after being reviewed. NIPS has always had a stated zero tolerance to the misuse of drugs.

Chaplaincy Numbers, Responsibilities and Remuneration

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31893/11-15, when a Section 75 or other similar such equality proofing measure, will be completed in advance of any proposed change to chaplaincy numbers, responsibilities and remuneration.

(AQW 32276/11-15)

Mr Ford: NIPS is continuing to engage with senior Church representatives on a range of Chaplaincy issues following the review of the Chaplaincy provision within Prisons. When these meetings are concluded NIPS plans to carry out a screening exercise on the proposed future arrangements.

Animal Cruelty Case

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether he will review sentencing policy in animal cruelty cases, following the perception of leniency of the sentencing in a recent animal cruelty case in Belfast.

(AQW 32287/11-15)

Mr Ford: Policy on the legislation governing animal welfare offences is a matter for the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. My role is to ensure that proposals for offences and penalties, from any Minister, fit proportionately within the criminal law framework. Sentencing within this framework is

entirely a matter for the judiciary and I consider it important that the independence of the judiciary is maintained.

The Lord Chief Justice, in his Programme of Action on sentencing, is enhancing the structures by which the judiciary ensure consistent and appropriate sentences. Under this Programme, guidelines for animal welfare offences heard in the Magistrates' Courts have been developed and are published on the Judicial Studies Board website.

Referral of a sentence by the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency is available for all offences

triable only on indictment, that is, those that can be tried only in the Crown Court. It is also available for a limited number of cases that can be tried either in a Magistrates Court or the Crown Court – known as hybrid offences – that have been specifically listed in statute. That list is deliberately limited to the more serious hybrid offences where public confidence in the judicial system could be seriously undermined by an inappropriate sentencing decision. A list of serious sexual offences is included, for example. The list is also limited to ensure that the independence of the judiciary is not undermined. Another issue is that of certainty for the offender so that, by and large, the sentence handed down should be final.

Animal welfare offences are not currently included in list of offences that can be referred to the Court of Appeal. An exercise to consider, more broadly, the ambit of the unduly lenient scheme is, however, already planned.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Drug Testing

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice to detail the drugs tested for by the Northern Ireland Prison Service within the prison population.

(AQW 32303/11-15)

Mr Ford: The drugs test used by NIPS tests for MDMA, methadone, opiates, cannabis, cocaine, benzodiazepine, buprenorphine, barbiturates and amphetamines.

Random Drug Tests in Prisons

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Justice how often the Northern Ireland Prison Service conduct random testing for drugs within the prison population.

(AQW 32305/11-15)

Mr Ford: In addition to intelligence led, suspicion testing and risk assessment drug tests, on a monthly basis, a minimum of 5% of the population at Maghaberry and Magilligan Prisons will be selected for a random drug test.

At Hydebank Wood, 10% are tested. This reflects the smaller population.

Granted Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how much Catherine Mooney and Stephen McGeary contributed to their legal fees in conjunction with granted Legal Aid.

(AQW 32323/11-15)

Mr Ford: Criminal legal aid is non-contributory and accordingly neither party made any contribution to the cost of their defence.

Court of Appeal: Outstanding Judgements

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of outstanding judgements following cases heard before the Court of Appeal.

(AQW 32324/11-15)

Mr Ford: As at 31 March 2014, there are 14 outstanding Court of Appeal judgments.

Zero Tolerance Drugs Initiative

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the success and/or failings of the three month zero tolerance to drugs initiative and training and education programme in partnership with the PSNI at Maghaberry Prison, as detailed in the October 2013 Prison Service Management Board Minutes.

(AQW 32325/11-15)

Mr Ford: The joint operation between NIPS and PSNI at Maghaberry was originally to last for three months. Following a review by the governor and Lisburn District Commander both agreed that due to the success of the initiative it would be extended. A further review is to take place in early April. Since October 2013 to the end of February 2014 the operation has yielded 103 drug related seizures being dealt with PSNI. 123 prisoners have been referred for drugs counselling and 309 staff have received drug awareness training.

2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department was consulted by the PSNI prior to accepting an invitation to participate in the 2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade; and, if so, at what level and with what response from the Department.

(AQW 32408/11-15)

Mr Ford: The PSNI had an informal conversation with officials in my Department regarding the invitation to participate in the 2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. There was no formal consultation on this matter.

The attendance of PSNI officers at the St Patrick's Day Parade is a matter for the Chief Constable, who has operational independence from Ministers and is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, if his Department was consulted by the PSNI prior to accepting an invitation to participate in the 2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade, whether it was aware, or made itself aware, of the official guidelines governing the parade which stipulated that the only banner permitted was 'England Get Out of Ireland'.

(AQW 32409/11-15)

Mr Ford: The PSNI had an informal conversation with my Department regarding the invitation to participate in the 2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade. The official guidelines governing the parade were not brought to the attention of my officials at this time.

Attendance of PSNI officers at the St Patrick's Day Parade is an operational matter for the Chief Constable.

Filling Stations: Laundered Fuel

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Justice, in the interests of motorists, why are the names of the filling stations selling laundered fuel not being published.

(AQW 32426/11-15)

Mr Ford: I refer the Member to the response provided of 19 March 2014 to AQW 31619/11-15.

Laundered Fuel

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister of Justice to detail the filling stations selling laundered fuel in each constituency.

(AQW 32433/11-15)

Mr Ford: I refer the Member to the response of 19 March 2014 to AQW 31619/11-15.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: On-the-runs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the role of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) in relation to the supply of the names of ten on-the-runs, as per remarks made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on 27 March 2014; and to detail when this correspondence took place between the NIPS and the Northern Ireland Office.

(AQW 32480/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Secretary of State's remarks on 27 March 2014 merely reaffirm what Mr Justice Sweeney said in paragraph 65 of his Judgement on the Downey case, namely that a Northern Ireland Office (NIO) briefing note of 3 September 2002, which set out the history in relation to OTRs, indicated that a further 10 names of OTRs were raised by the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) in addition to those names provided by Sinn Fein and the Irish Government.

However, in line with the Executive's Ministerial Code and long standing constitutional convention that Ministers should not be told by their officials, whether directly or by access to departmental papers, information relating to the work of a previous Administration. I have seen neither the note of 3 September 2002 nor copies of any correspondence that took place between NIPS and the NIO on this subject prior to that date. I am therefore unable to make any assessment of the role NIPS played in this matter.

Super-Injunctions

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

(AQW 32484/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has awarded legal aid in applications where there has been a direction of the court for injunctive relief. Such items in applications are not separately coded or registered so it is not possible to provide specific cost details.

Department for Regional Development

Pension Schemes for Senior Management

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the amount of money contributed to pension schemes for senior management within NI Water; and (ii) the number of employees involved, in the last five years.

(AQW 31820/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): For the purposes of this question, Senior Management within NI Water has been interpreted as employees graded as Level 2 or Level 1 – the number fluctuates each year.

Year	Number of Senior Managers in NI Water	Total amount of Employer's Pension Contributions paid
2009/10	7-9	£ 247,143.49
2010/11	7-8	£ 213,652.35
2011/12	6-7	£ 176,485.43
2012/13	6	£ 182,007.50
2013/14 (to date)	6	£ 167,418.24

NI Water is currently reviewing its pension scheme in line with the wider reform of public service pensions.

The staff referred to in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 figures provided in the table above are:

1. NI Water's four Executive Directors who are Board members. This includes the Chief Executive who is the only Level 1 member of staff, and:
2. Two other senior members of the NI Water Executive Committee.

Non-Executive Directors do not participate in the NI Water pension scheme and hence have been excluded from the above figures.

Penalty Charge Notices

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 21277/11-15, to detail the number of Penalty Charge Notices were issued in the same towns from February 2013 to February 2014.

(AQW 32000/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in Dungannon, Omagh, Cookstown and Strabane, during the 12 months from 1 February 2013 to 31 January 2014, are detailed in the table below. I have also included the previous two year figures for comparison.

Town	PCNs Issued From 1 February 2011 to 31 January 2012	PCNs Issued From 1 February 2012 to 31 January 2013	PCNs Issued From 1 February 2013 to 31 January 2014
Dungannon	2,355	2,079	1,571
Omagh	5,098	4,263	3,876
Cookstown	1,946	1,542	1,489
Strabane	2,648	2,034	1,752

Car Parking Spaces for People with Disabilities in Coalisland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the (i) number; and (ii) location of car parking spaces for people with disabilities in Coalisland.

(AQW 32008/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The two on-street disabled spaces in Coalisland which are located at:

- Lisnakeill Court; and
- Meenagh Park.

Illegal Republican Roadside Monuments

Mr Moutray asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the (i) number; and (ii) location of illegal Republican roadside monuments in the Upper Bann constituency.

(AQW 32012/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have not been made aware of the presence of any such monuments in the Upper Bann constituency.

Ballymena: Cycle Lanes and Bicycle Boxes

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are any plans to introduce (i) cycle lanes; and (ii) bicycle boxes at traffic lights in Ballymena.

(AQW 32019/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My officials have been working with their counterparts from Ballymena Borough Council over the past year to consider future cycle routes in Ballymena. A number of routes have been identified, not only linking up existing cycle routes, but also creating new routes linking areas of residential development to the town centre and local schools. Construction and implementation of these routes will be subject to the availability of finance over the coming years.

The introduction of advanced stop lines for cyclists at traffic signal junctions can prove beneficial and improve road safety for cyclists. However, where they are provided, a lead in cycle lane is required on the approach to the junction, to allow cyclists to make their way safely past vehicles already queuing at the junction. None of the main traffic signalised junctions in Ballymena currently include these lead in cycle lanes to allow advanced stop line facilities to be provided at these junctions at present.

However, my recent fact finding study visits to Europe and the USA have provided me with much food for thought and illustrate the direction in which I want to move, building on the work that has already been done by providing cycling infrastructure which is fit for purpose. However, this will be a long term programme. To guide this, officials within my Department's Cycling Unit have begun work on developing a clear and aspirational vision for cycling, which will be articulated through the long term Cycling Strategy for Northern Ireland. The Unit is researching existing policies and best practice, taking account of the provision I have witnessed in established cycling societies. This will then form the basis for the development of policies, guidance and master plans in consultation with stakeholders.

Pay and Display Machines at Roads Service Car Parks

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average annual cost of maintaining pay and display machines at Roads Service car parks.

(AQW 32073/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The annual cost of maintaining one pay and display machine, which is contained in Roads Service's contract with its service provider, is £465.05.

Gransha Road Roundabout, Bangor

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on plans for capital works at the Gransha Road roundabout, Bangor.

(AQW 32094/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As you will be aware, my Department has commissioned consultants to examine possible options to improve pedestrian facilities at this roundabout. I can advise an initial report has now been received which is intended to place my Department in a better position to establish the best way forward.

While it will take some time for the report to be fully considered I have asked Mr Kevin Monaghan, Divisional Roads Manager (Acting), Roads Service Eastern Division, to keep you updated on the outcome.

Train Halt at Ballykelly

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department is taking to avail of European funding to develop a train halt at Ballykelly, to aid public transport provision for people wishing to avail of employment opportunities at the new headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

(AQW 32111/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I attended a meeting on the 21 January 2014 with the DARD Minister regarding the need for such a project. I explained the options and funding constraints. It was suggested that the three Departments involved (DARD / OFMDFM / DRD) would meet again if a Masterplan for Ballykelly is available. A new halt at Ballykelly would have to be justified in terms of an Economic Appraisal.

Opportunities for EU funding will be explored within this context.

Traffic Attendants: Penalty Charge Notices

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of traffic attendants whose duties cover towns where, in the last two years, there have been less than ten Penalty Charge Notices issued per year.

(AQW 32148/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's parking enforcement service provider employs approximately 170 Traffic Attendants (TAs). On any standard enforcement day approximately 107 are deployed to fulfil the requirements of routine deployment rotas and other ad-hoc requests from Departmental traffic managers, the PSNI, members of the public, special events etc. Towns in more rural settings, such as those listed below, will generally be visited as part of a driven schedule in which one or more of these towns will be visited in any one day. Details of the towns, in alphabetical order, and the number of TAs visiting them, in which less than ten Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have been issued, in each of the last two years are set out in the following table:

2012		2013	
Town	No. of Traffic Attendants (TAs)	Town	No. of Traffic Attendants (TAs)
Ahogill	2 TAs per visit	Ahogill	2 TAs per visit
Aughnacloy	1 TA per visit	Aughnacloy	1 TA per visit
Broughshane	2 TAs per visit	Broughshane	2 TAs per visit
Dungiven	2 TAs per visit	Donaghmore	1 TA per visit
Fintona	1 TA per visit	Dungiven	2 TAs per visit
Garvagh	2 TAs per visit	Garvagh	2 TAs per visit
Lisbellaw	1 TA per visit	Millisle	2 TAs per visit
Portballintrae	2 TAs per visit	Portballintrae	2 TAs per visit
Whitehead	1 TA per visit	Whitehead	1 TA per visit

Over and above the towns listed, there are numerous others that are not visited, or have been visited but no PCNs have been issued.

Transport Hub

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail his vision for the new integrated transport hub in Derry.

(AQW 32149/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In developing a new re-furbished station for Londonderry my vision is to deliver an innovative active travel and public transport hub.

The aim of the project would be to provide facilities for cyclists including parking, changing and maintenance within a refurbished station. In addition the station would be linked directly to the Peace Bridge and existing greenways. Opportunities would also be explored to extend walking and cycling infrastructure in the city, including between the university, Ebrington and cross-border links.

I believe we have a unique opportunity to deliver an innovative and inspirational project which reflects the ambitions the City has set for itself in the One Plan.

Meeting with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 31342/11-15, and with the exception of those who attended the meeting of 21 November 2013, to detail who was invited to attend including all public representatives; and of these, how many declined to attend.

(AQW 32153/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: This meeting was organised by Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council and would therefore be best placed to advise on list of attendees.

Coleraine Railway Station

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to upgrade Coleraine Railway Station to incorporate more advanced signalling in order to minimise delays at the Bushmills Road railway crossing.

(AQW 32176/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that the Coleraine / Londonderry Phase 2 project will modernise the signalling system between Coleraine and Londonderry and remove the requirement for trains to stop adjacent to the Coleraine signal box to exchange the token used for the current system. This work is programmed for completion at the end of 2016.

Passing Loop Between Derry and Coleraine

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development when the anticipated cost of the passing loop near Ballykelly on the Londonderry to Coleraine railway line will be made available.

(AQW 32177/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The design for the Coleraine / Londonderry Phase 2 works has a passing loop at Bellarena, not Ballykelly, which is approximately 7 miles away.

Translink have advised that the costs involved in the passing loop project include design, construction and civil and Permanent Way works, as well as signalling systems. The costs for this latter aspect of the project will be known in a few months' time.

Departmental Proposals: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail all departmental proposals under consideration for North Down in the next twelve months.

(AQW 32187/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have listed below my Department's proposals in relation to water and transport related schemes which are under consideration for the North Down area over the next twelve months. These include a proposal to commence a major investment by Northern Ireland Water to upgrade the water and sewerage system in the North Down area.

In addition my Department is also currently preparing work programmes in respect of roads related schemes for the 2014/15 financial year and once completed the programmes will be published in the Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These will also be made available on my Department's internet site.

Name of Proposal	Location of Proposal	Description of proposal	Timescale
Bangor Park & Ride	Bangor	Park & ride facility at Dufferin Avenue	Completion scheduled for March 2015
Bangor Line Sea Defences	Bangor Railway Line	Strengthening sea defences	Completion scheduled for March 2017
Seahill Platform Ramps	Seahill Railway Halt	Installation of ramps at Seahill Railway Halt platform	Completion scheduled for March 2015
Newtownards Bus Engineering Workshop Refurbishment	Newtownards	Refurbishment of Newtownards Bus Engineering Workshop	Completion scheduled for October 2017
Hollywood Sewer Network Improvements	Hollywood	Sewerage Networks Improvements	August 2014 – August 2015
Bangor Drainage Area Plan (DAP) Works Package 5 - Clandeboye Stream	Bangor	Sewerage Networks Improvements	October 2014 – October 2015
Bangor DAP Work Package 2: Rathmore Stream	Bangor	Sewerage Networks Improvements	December 2014 – April 2015
Bangor & Hollywood Public Realm	Bangor	Sewerage Networks Improvements	June 2014 – July 2014
Gransha Road, Bangor, Trunk Sewer replacement.	Bangor	Sewerage Networks Improvements	May 2014 – June 2014
165 Groomsport Rd, Bangor - Storm Sewer Upgrade	Bangor	Sewerage Networks Improvements	May 2014
High Bangor Road Donaghadee - Road Widening Scheme	Bangor	Scheme in conjunction with Roads Service -widening project	April 2014 – June 2014
Green Road, Conlig. Storm Sewer Extension.	Bangor	Development Driven – service to serve new development	April 2014 – July 2014
College Ave/ Shandon Drive, Bangor - Storm Sewer Requisition	Bangor	Development Driven – service to serve new development	August 2014 – October 2014
South Circular Road, Bangor, Storm Sewer Extension.	Bangor	Development Driven – service to serve new development	April 2014 – June 2014

Transport Hub

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development whether any transport hub, as recently envisaged for Londonderry, will be distinct from integrated transport centres incorporating bus and rail which exist in other parts of Northern Ireland.

(AQW 32193/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: On 18 March 2014 I announced a new project to develop plans for an integrated transport hub on the site of the Old Waterside Station in Londonderry, following consultation undertaken by Translink on proposals for a new rail station in Londonderry. This consultation identified the refurbishment of the Old Waterside Station in Londonderry as the preferred option and there are wider opportunities which I feel we should look to take advantage of as we develop this project.

I have been inspired by what I have seen elsewhere and the role that cycling and public transport can play in creating accessible and attractive urban environments. In light of that and the extensive work already undertaken to develop walking and cycling infrastructure in Londonderry, I believe we have a unique opportunity to deliver an innovative and inspirational project which reflects the ambitions the City has set for itself in the One Plan.

There is the potential for the refurbishment of the Old Waterside Station to create an innovative active travel and public transport hub. This hub would serve the wider city and surrounding area. It could assist in the regeneration of the city and enhance the reputation and vibrancy of Londonderry.

The aim of the project would be to provide facilities for cyclists including parking, changing and maintenance within a refurbished station. In addition the station would be linked directly to the Peace Bridge and existing greenways. Opportunities would also be explored to extend walking and cycling infrastructure in the city, including between the university, Ebrington and cross-border links.

Proposed Enniskillen Bypass

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the proposed Enniskillen bypass, including the dates of, and attendees at, the most recent discussions that have taken place within his Department on the scheme.

(AQW 32199/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question, AQW 32001/11-15, in which I provided an update on the proposed Enniskillen bypass.

In relation to the details of the most recent discussions within my Department regarding this scheme, I can confirm my officials continue to hold regular progress meetings with the appointed consulting engineers, Aecom, regarding development of the scheme. The most recent meetings with Aecom were held on 6 February 2014 and 5 March 2014.

In February 2014, my officials and staff from Aecom also met with landowners along the route corridor to determine their business and access needs. These meetings will help inform the final design of the scheme.

Derrychrin Primary School, Coagh: Road Safety

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures his Department will put in place to improve road safety in the area of Derrychrin Primary School, Drummeny Road, Coagh, given the safety concerns of parents and residents and following the recent accident at the school entrance.

(AQW 32207/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My officials met with the School Principal, Mr John McCormack, Mr Francie Molloy M.P. and his party colleague, Mr Gavin Bell on 13 March 2014 to discuss road safety concerns at Derrychrin Primary School.

It was mutually agreed that pupil safety at the school would be greatly improved if the carriageway in the vicinity of the vehicular and pedestrian accesses to the school was kept clear of parked vehicles. Therefore Roads Service is to provide a "school keep clear" marking at the site which should be in place within the next 6 to 8 weeks.

Local Transport Arrangements

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development what progress has his Department made in placing walking and cycling at the centre of local transport arrangements.

(AQW 32337/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: A key priority for my Department is to develop a long term vision, and a comprehensive province-wide bicycle strategy for Northern Ireland. This strategy will guide the development of a network of cycling and walking routes in our towns and cities, and ensure that local transport arrangements take account of bicyclists and pedestrians at the earliest possible stage in any transport plans.

I recently announced a new project to develop plans for an integrated transport hub on the site of the old Waterside Station in Londonderry where there is potential to create an innovative active travel and public transport hub. The development of cycling and walking will be at the heart of this project which will provide facilities for cyclists including parking, changing and maintenance within a refurbished station. In addition the station would be linked directly to the Peace Bridge and existing greenways.

The member will be aware of my Department's project to construct a combined pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Lagan. The aim is to develop an iconic, landmark, pedestrian and cycle bridge which will provide a safe, quiet route for cyclists and pedestrians travelling to and from the city centre. The location of this bridge will ensure improved accessibility to the city centre and Central Station for local communities and commuters.

I am committed to ensuring that walking and cycling is placed at the centre of local transport arrangements and that there is an increased focus and priority given to the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians to encourage greater participation in healthy and sustainable transport. We need to create an environment which invites people to walk and cycle as much as possible.

However, building a safe and accessible cycling infrastructure will take time and will happen in stages and should be part of an overall process whereby cities and towns are designed to improve the quality of life for the population.

Department for Social Development

Jobseekers Allowance: Returning UK National

Mrs Overend asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the rationale behind the introduction of new rules from 1 January 2014 for European Economic Area and returning UK Nationals seeking to claim Jobseekers Allowance.

(AQW 32038/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): From 1 January 2014 there will be a new requirement to have been living in the UK or the Common Travel Area (the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland) for a period of 3 months before an EEA national job seeker or a UK national who has lived or worked abroad can be treated as habitually resident.

A person claiming a jobseeker's allowance who has entered the United Kingdom or the Common Travel Area within the three months before making a claim, can only be treated as habitually resident in those places if they had already been habitually resident and were returning after a temporary absence.

This policy has been introduced to protect the benefit system and to discourage people who do not have any established connection with the UK, or any prospect of work, from migrating to the UK and seeking to claim Jobseeker's Allowance

immediately. It strengthens and provides tighter definition for the existing Habitual Residence test which will simplify the application of the rule.

Greater Carnagat, Newry: Replacement Window Frames

Mr Brady asked the Minister for Social Development when residents of the Greater Carnagat areas of Newry will receive their replacement window frames.

(AQW 32127/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that all properties in the Carnagat area of Newry currently have wooden double glazed windows and are not included in the double glazing programme. The Housing Executive's local office has advised of some complaints from the local residents group regarding the condition of the windows and any concerns will be addressed as part of the next External Cyclical maintenance scheme, due in 2015/16.

Social Housing Scheme: 5 Millisle Road

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 30714/11-15, (i) what social housing scheme is planned for 5 Millisle Road; (ii) which housing association is taking the scheme forward; (iii) whether planning permission has been granted; and (iv) if planning permission has not yet been granted, to outline the proposed timescale for the application.

(AQW 32137/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In relation to (i) and (ii) the Housing Executive has advised that the ten unit social housing new build scheme on the site of the former PSNI site at 5 Millisle Road, Donaghadee was allocated to Triangle Housing with the intention of progressing a scheme to start on site during the 2014/15 programme year.

However, as of 26 February 2014, Triangle Housing advised that, due to several issues affecting viability, they wished to withdraw from the development of the site. The Housing Executive has further advised that at this stage the scheme has been deleted from the Social Housing Development Programme, although their South Regional Planner is liaising with the NIHE's Development Programme Group about the potential for re-nomination of the site to another housing association.

In relation to (iii) and (iv) the Housing Executive has advised that there is no existing planning permission for the site and as development plans are not currently being progressed by a housing association there is no proposed timescale for a Planning Application.

Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development why people wishing to purchase a property from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive under the Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings can have their offer, once accepted by the Housing Executive, guzumped by a higher bidder.

(AQW 32174/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings (SPED) is a statutory scheme operated by the Housing Executive under the provisions of Article 29 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 to acquire by agreement houses owned by persons who, in consequence of acts of violence, threats to commit such acts or other intimidation, are unable or unwilling to occupy those houses. The legislation also requires that the Scheme provides for the disposal of such properties.

Current policy requires that all SPED properties, neither eligible nor required for transfer to a Housing Association, are to be advertised and disposed of on the open market for the best possible consideration. The Housing Executive therefore has a responsibility to seek the highest offer achievable through exhaustion of the bidding process and confirmation by Land and Property Services that the offer received represents the best obtainable price.

An offer is not deemed to be formally accepted by the Housing Executive until it has received approval by the Housing Executive Chief Executives Business Committee (CXBC) or Board as appropriate.

Policy requires that “the Estate Agent must ensure in all cases that any successful bidder is always advised that CXBC/Board approval is required for the disposal of the property at that price before the legal formalities can be completed and that any higher offer received in the intervening period may be accepted.” (Land & Property Manual, SPED Disposals, para 5.12).

The Housing Executive is also guided in the disposal of surplus property by “Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in Northern Ireland” guidance published by Land & Property Services, Central Advisory Unit which states:

“If a deadline for receipt of offers has been set this should not prevent consideration of higher offers received after the deadline nor should a further offer be ruled out of consideration because a lower offer has been accepted “subject to contract”. In such circumstances if a higher offer is received following the initial acceptance on a “subject to contract” basis, professional advice should be taken. In doing so the public body will need to weigh its duty to the taxpayer in regard to obtaining the best possible price for the asset, against the risk of the original bidders’ withdrawing their offers because of the delay, or accusations of bad faith. Where necessary, sufficient time should be allowed for enquiries into the late offeror’s financial credentials.”

While Department of Finance and Personnel guidance therefore allows the Housing Executive to consider acceptance of a late offer in the interests of best consideration for the public purse, in practice, once an offer has been formally approved by CXBC or Board, the bidder will be given first opportunity to complete the sale subject to a contract being signed within 16 days of the Housing Executive’s solicitor writing to inform the bidder that their offer has been accepted. No further offers would normally be accepted after this stage and until the bidder has been afforded the necessary opportunity to complete the sale.

Social Housing Units: County Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of social housing units completed in County Fermanagh in the last five years, broken down by (i) single storey; (ii) two storey and (iii) three storey buildings.

(AQW 32197/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested because the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information on social housing completions by building height. However, they do maintain a database which details the “House types” for individual social housing schemes. The table below provides details of all social housing completions in the Fermanagh District Council area from 1 April 2009 to 24 March 2014 broken down by house type.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

SOCIAL HOUSING COMPLETIONS 2009/10 – 2013/14, FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA BY HOUSE TYPE

Scheme Name	Year completed	Units	Houses	Bungalows	Flats	Shared	Detailed House Types
Old Tempo Road, Enniskillen	2009/10	12	-	-	-	-	House type data not available
Sycamore Drive, Enniskillen	2009/10	7	7	-	-	-	4 x 2Bed houses / 3 x 3Bed houses
Oakfield Court, Tempo Road, Enniskillen	2009/10	10	10	-	-	-	10 x 3Bed houses
Aghagay Meadows Phase 1, Newtownbutler	2009/10	4	3	1	-	-	1 x 3Bed bungalows / 1 x 3Bed house / 2 x 4Bed houses
Enniskillen EMI Phase 1 (Supported Housing)	2010/11	30	-	-	15	15	14 x 1Bed (wheelchair) flats / 1 x 2Bed (wheelchair) flat / 15 shared bedspaces (Supported housing)
Rural Acquisitions	2010/11	2	2	-	-	-	2 x 3Bed houses
3 Cherry Walk, Enniskillen	2010/11	1	1	-	-	-	1 x 2Bed house
Carrowshee Park, Lisnaskea	2011/12	19	15	4	-	-	2 x 2Bed bungalows / 8 x 2Bed houses / 2 x 3Bed bungalows / 7 x 3Bed (wheelchair) houses
Apex Acquisitions (Enniskillen)	2011/12	2	2	-	-	-	2 x 3Bed houses
Ballaghmore Heights, Enniskillen	2011/12	10	10	-	-	-	10 x 3Bed houses
Adrian Heights, Donagh	2011/12	5	5	-	-	-	2 x 2Bed houses / 2 x 3Bed houses / 1 x 4Bed house
Fermanagh Acquisitions	2011/12	1	-	1	-	-	1 x 2Bed (wheelchair) bungalow
Enniskillen Acquisitions	2011/12	2	-	1	1	-	1 x 3Bed bungalow / 1 x 3Bed flat

Scheme Name	Year completed	Units	Houses	Bungalows	Flats	Shared	Detailed House Types
PSNI site, Main Street, Lisbellaw	2012/13	12	8	-	4	-	4 x 2Bed flats / 8 x 3Bed houses
Aghagay Meadows, Newtownbutler	2012/13	3	1	2	-	-	1 x 4Bed house / 2 x 4Bed (wheelchair) bungalows
PSNI site, Cullion Road, Tempo	2013/14*	4	4	-	-	-	4 x 3Bed houses

* This figure is up to 24/03/14 and may not be the final completions figure as the programme year ends on 31/03/14

Tenancy Fraud

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 32044/11-15, why factual information cannot be provided.

(AQW 32202/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The difficulty with answering the question posed is that it is very much dependent on the definition of tenancy fraud, which will be a key area being considered by PAC. Whilst there were no formal cases of Tenancy Fraud reported in the past 12 months, the Housing Executive has recovered some 800 houses over the last number of years. As I have already advised, as this will be the subject of the PAC evidence session on 14 May 2014, I am unable to discuss further with you as this may pre-empt or pre-judge either the PAC Report or the subsequent Ministerial response.

Social Housing in the Omagh District

Mr Byrne asked the Minister for Social Development what plans his Department has to build social housing in the Omagh district over the next five years.

(AQW 32264/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that in the programme year, 2014/15, there are three schemes for 17 units scheduled to go on site in the Omagh district. These are detailed as follows:-

Omagh 16/17 Homeless/Care Leavers	
Gortmore Road	8 units
Omagh reinstatement/redevelopment	1 unit
Brookmont Road, Omagh	8 units

The Housing Executive has further advised that there are no schemes currently programmed in the Social Housing Development Programme for 2015/16 or 2016/17. This level of programming is reflective of low levels of housing need identified in Omagh district. Housing need is re-assessed on an annual basis by the Housing Executive's (South) Regional Planning function.

Derelict Houses: Dunclug Area of Ballymena

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development to list the number of derelict houses in the Dunclug area of Ballymena in each of the last ten years; and what action he is taking to address this issue.

(AQW 32266/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested because the Housing Executive does not collate information in that way. However, they have advised that their records indicate that over the past ten years 136 properties have been demolished in Dunclug Park and Gardens. This includes 72 flats in the multi storey blocks.

The Housing Executive has further advised that the current position is that there are four flats at the front of Dunclug Gardens due to be converted to two 2-bedroomed houses and this work should be on site in August 2014. Two flats in Dunclug Gardens are in the process of being reinstated and should be ready for allocation in May 2014. There are also two rows of properties at the top of the estate, which includes three fire damaged properties that are currently the subject of an economic appraisal.

Finally, the Housing Executive has confirmed that they currently have three properties in the middle of Dunclug Park which have NIHE Board and DSD approval for demolition. It is anticipated that demolition will take place in the coming months. It is hoped that this course of action will remove any blight associated with Housing Executive properties.

2015 Irish Open Golf Tournament

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will make funding available for the regeneration of towns and villages surrounding Royal County Down Golf Club prior to the 2015 Irish Open golf tournament.

(AQW 32311/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department has responsibility for the delivery of regeneration initiatives in urban towns throughout Northern Ireland. The definition of an urban town is a town with a population of 4,500 and above and my Department has providing funding towards the regeneration of all the urban towns surrounding the Royal County Down Golf Club.

My Department is currently funding a £2 million public realm in Ballynahinch town centre and a £250,000 Revitalisation Scheme in Newcastle town centre. In recent years my Department has also invested £7.6 million towards major public realms schemes to regenerate Downpatrick, Kilkeel and Newcastle.

Permitted Employment Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development for an update of the Permitted Employment Scheme.

(AQW 32362/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Social Security legislation makes provision for Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance claimants to engage in limited employment under a scheme known as the Permitted Work Scheme. The scheme was introduced in April 2002 to provide a stepping stone to employment.

It allows claimants to work up to 16 hours per week and earn small amounts in order to help them maintain contact with the labour market. The Permitted Work rules allow claimants to:

- work for less than 16 hours per week, on average, and earn no more than £101.00 a week for up to 52 weeks (current rates) or
- work for less than 16 hours per week, on average, and earn up to £101.00 per week as long as their illness is considered sufficiently severe that they meet the threshold of incapacity without undergoing a medical assessment or
- work and earn no more than £20 per week at any time for as long as they are on benefit or
- do supported Permitted Work and earn no more than £101.00 per week as long as they are on benefit

Work done under the Permitted Work scheme does not affect the claimant's entitlement to benefit or National Insurance credits.

Permitted Employment Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development to provide details of the budget for the Permitted Employment Scheme, in each of the last 4 years.

(AQW 32363/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Social Security Agency administers a Permitted Work Scheme which allows Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance claimants to work up to 16 hours per week and earn small amounts in order to help them to maintain contact with the labour market.

There is no budget associated with the Permitted Work Scheme.

Permitted Employment Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of people supported by the Permitted Employment Scheme, in each of the last 4 years.

(AQW 32364/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Social Security Agency administers a Permitted Work Scheme for Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance claimants. The Permitted Work Scheme is not a social security benefit and is not designed to financially support claimants. The primary aim of the scheme is to allow claimants receiving either of these benefits to maintain contact with the labour market during a period of incapacity.

In the last 4 years 14,588* claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance participated in the Permitted Work Scheme. A breakdown by year is shown below:

Year	Incapacity Benefit	Employment Support Allowance	Total
January 2010 – December 2010	3,140	706	3,846
January 2011 – December 2011	2,756	1,174	3,933
January 2012 – December 2012	1,960	1,550	3,510
January 2013 – December 2013	881	2,418	3,299
Total	8,740	5,848	14,588

The Department for Social Development's Analytical Services Unit is unable to provide the statistics that have been requested. The details provided have been taken from the Incapacity Division's internal monitoring systems and reflect the Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance claimants who participated in the Permitted Work Scheme during the dates stated. The management information provided is limited to standard reports with no facility to interrogate the system.

Help To Buy Scheme

Mr Clarke asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the Help to Buy scheme, including (i) the criteria that must be met in order to apply; and (ii) the deposit required.

(AQW 32419/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee Scheme was launched in October 2013 as part of a number of government measures aimed at stimulating the housing market. A mortgage supported by the Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee Scheme works in exactly the same way as any other mortgage except that under the scheme the Government offers the mortgage lenders the option to purchase a guarantee on mortgage loans.

Under the terms of the scheme, the Government guarantee up to 15 per cent of a purchaser's mortgage in return for a fee from the lender - i.e. the Government will guarantee to pay back the lender 15 per cent if the purchaser defaults on their payments. Because of this support, lenders taking part are able to offer home buyers higher loan-to-value mortgages in the 80-95% range.

The criteria that must be met in order to qualify for a mortgage supported by Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee Scheme are as follows;

- The property being purchased can be priced up to £600,000 and can be an existing or new-build home in the UK;
- The purchaser of the property must not own any other property anywhere in the world at the time of purchase through the Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme;
- The mortgage must be a repayment mortgage, not interest only. Offset and guarantor mortgages are also excluded from the scheme;
- The purchaser cannot let the property to somebody else;
- The mortgage can be taken out by an individual or individuals but not by a company;
- The purchaser cannot use the mortgage guarantee scheme with any other Government scheme;

- The deposit for the property can't come from a government scheme; and
- The purchaser does not have to pay any additional fee to Government to get a Help to Buy supported mortgage;

The minimum deposit required for the scheme is 5% of the total price of the house to be purchased. Borrowers across the UK, including Northern Ireland, can apply for mortgages under the scheme through participating lenders.

Housing Services

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Social Development to outline how the Housing Executive fits into his plans for the delivery of housing services over the next 5 years.

(AQO 5891/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive plays a critical role at a regional and strategic level in supporting the delivery of my Housing Strategy and as the largest social landlord in providing much needed social housing to around 90,000 tenants. These are functions that I see as key requirements for the next five, indeed 10 or 15 years.

However, as in all areas we need to continually review that the existing structures we have are best configured to meet the challenges we face now and in the future.

At the beginning of January 2014, the Housing Executive embarked on a programme to improve all aspects of its business.

The first stage of the transformation has been achieved with its internal restructuring process to address and bring clarity and focus between its landlord and strategic regional housing functions.

It is also embarking on a Journey to Excellence programme to ensure that they deliver top class regeneration and housing solutions, meeting the needs of our communities and partners now and in the future.

The Social Housing Reform Programme which I announced, in January 2013, is also exploring existing structures within the social housing sector.

I have recently advised the Committee for Social Development and the Northern Ireland Executive on the research and analysis conducted to date and the more detailed work I believe now needs to be taken forward over the coming year to enable the programme to progress to the next phase.

Decisions regarding the future of the Housing Executive will be taken in conjunction with Northern Ireland Executive colleagues. Until then, the Housing Executive's role will continue as currently mandated.

Social Housing

Ms McGahan asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the capacity of Housing Associations to deliver the social housing development programme.

(AQO 5888/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The current Programme for Government has committed to delivering 8,000 new social and affordable homes by 2015.

In 2011/12 and 2012/13 a total of 2,789 new social homes were started and a further 1,275 new starts are planned by 31 March 2014. A further 2,000 are currently planned and in development for 2014/15.

The motion passed by the Assembly on 24 March calls for me to deliver an additional 4,000 social and affordable homes over and above the current target of 8,000 over the Programme for Government period.

The 2,000 new social homes for 2014-15 is in itself a considerable step up from what went before and represents a significant challenge for housing associations to deliver. I am already on record as having concerns about the movement's capacity. Too few are actively involved in development and more need to step up to the mark.

I have a focused programme of work in place to remove blockages and support delivery and I am actively investigating the possibility of increasing delivery further, although it will be challenging to do this over a short timeframe.

Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Irwin asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the uptake of the boiler replacement scheme in the Newry & Armagh constituency.

(AQO 5896/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I cannot provide the information on a constituency basis; I can however provide the information by District Council.

Up to the beginning of March 2014 in the Newry and Mourne council area there have been 944 households who have had their boilers replaced and 453 in the Armagh City and District Council. The uptake in both areas is very encouraging with Newry and Mourne being the second highest council area for householders to have their boilers replaced under the scheme with only Belfast City Council having more boilers replaced.

Doury Road Regeneration Group

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development what measures are in place to ensure that the Housing Executive will fully participate in the Doury Road Regeneration Group.

(AQO 5897/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I thank the Member for his question and for the opportunity to update the Assembly on the Building Successful Communities Programme.

Doury Road is one of six areas where this programme will be piloted and it is intended that the first meeting of the Forum for this area will be held in April.

In terms of Housing Executive participation in the Building Successful Communities programme, I have appointed the Housing Executive's Vice-Chairman and its Director of Housing and Regeneration to the Programme Board. A Housing Executive representative has also been nominated to all Building Successful Community Forums, including Doury Road. Furthermore, the Housing Executive has given an assurance that they are committed to working with the Building Successful Community Forum for Doury Road and all the other Building Successful Communities pilot areas.

I have also given a commitment that communities will be at the heart of the development and implementation of all regeneration plans within pilot areas.

Rent Arrears

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister for Social Development how the current level of Northern Ireland Housing Executive rent arrears compares with the level in May 2011.

(AQO 5898/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the level of rent arrears at February 2014 was £14,159,000 compared to a total collectable income of £319,600,000 for 2013/14. They further advise that the level of rent arrears at May 2011 was £12,873,000 compared to a total collectable income of £290,660,000 for 2011/12.

The Housing Executive also advises that the increase in arrears should be considered in the context of an increase in collectable rental income, as rent increases over the years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 were 3.75%, 6.6% and 3.6% respectively.

Arrears at the beginning of the financial year totalled £14,604,000. This was made up of £11,230,000 for current and £3,374,000 for former tenant. At the end of February 2014 there has been a reduction of £445,000 in total arrears. This is made up of a reduction of £163,000 in current tenant arrears and £282,000 in former tenant arrears.

The Housing Executive operates a write off policy for former tenant debt. At tenancy termination any debt left on the account will be subjected to attempted recovery using a number of actions. In most instances tenants cannot be traced or have no means to repay the debt i.e. on benefits and the debt at this point is written off. However, when a former tenant makes an application for housing, the debt is flagged up again and reviewed with a view to recovery if appropriate and the debt is reinstated (that is reunited) against the former tenant.

The Housing Executive advise that arrangements to pay off arrears are generally calculated on a case by case basis, taking into account the individual's income.

The Housing Executive is committed to ensuring that arrangements taken are sustainable. For those tenants in receipt of a benefit from which direct deductions can be taken, the amount deducted towards arrears is currently £3.60 per week.

Benefit Uptake Programme: North Antrim

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Benefit Uptake Programme in North Antrim.

(AQO 5899/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Benefit Uptake is a priority for my Department and last summer I launched "Maximising Incomes & Outcomes – a 3 year Plan for Improving the Uptake of Benefits", the vision of which is to ensure that every individual and household across Northern Ireland is receiving all social security benefits to which they and their families are entitled.

A key priority in the maximising Incomes and Outcomes plan is to strengthen community level partnerships. My Department has organised a series of Benefit Uptake community road shows, the first of which was held in Ballymoney in June 2013. Similar events were also held in Glebeside, Balnamore and Stranocum. A further event was held in Ballycastle on 27 March 2014.

Other strategic priorities such as the direct targeting strand and the "Make the Call" freephone service have involved residents in the North Antrim area. For 2012/13 of the 25,000 claimants targeted in the direct targeting strand, 7% (1,822)

were from the North Antrim area. Additionally via the Make the Call campaign, 6% of callers (779) are from the North Antrim area. Both offer respondents full and confidential benefit entitlement checks.

I also recently announced the outcomes of the 2012/13 Programme, which generated £16.9 million in additional benefits and arrears. Total income generated for North Antrim¹ through the Benefit Uptake Programme last year was nearly £1.6million. Outcomes for this year's work will be known in the autumn.

¹ This figure is compiled from Ballymena, Ballymoney & Moyle District Council areas

Social Deprivation: Sport

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister for Social Development how sport can be used to help reduce areas of social deprivation.

(AQO 5900/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department does not have specific funding for Sport. However, through its Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, Volunteering Strategy and Modernisation Fund Capital Programme it recognises the valuable contribution sport can make in areas of deprivation by supporting a range of projects that promote physical activity. Sport can make a valuable contribution not only in delivering key outcomes of lower long-term unemployment, less crime, reductions in anti social behaviour, better health and improved educational attainment. It can also help to develop the individual pride, community spirit and capacity within these area as well as having long term economic benefits in relation to reduced health care costs and increased productivity.

My Department supports a range of projects and programmes that promote participation in sport and physical activity for example 'Sport in the Community' project which is operated in partnership by the IFA, GAA and IRFU to the refurbishment/ development of community sports facilities and the provision of sports equipment.

Social Housing: Land Shortage

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development, given the shortage of land for social housing developments, whether he has considered using available land at North Howard Street and Cupar Way to alleviate the objective housing need in this area of high demand.

(AQO 5901/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has a statutory responsibility for examining housing need. The Housing Executive also identifies where new housing is required.

Housing Associations, through the site registration process, or the Housing Executive, through its land assets, identify potential development sites.

There are no current site registrations by Housing Associations at North Howard Street or Cupar Way, Belfast, and no available NIHE owned sites available.

The Housing Executive will, consider any sites in this area that are brought forward by Housing Associations or identified through its Land and Strategic Regeneration Department to support social housing development proposals in areas where high need is identified. This will include future opportunity development sites for mixed-use, mixed-tenure regeneration to build sustainable communities.

Fuel Poverty

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development, given that 42% of households across Northern Ireland are in fuel poverty, whether he or his Department have had any discussions on the Warm Home Discount Scheme with his counterparts in the rest of the United Kingdom.

(AQO 5902/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Warm Homes Discount Scheme is a four-year scheme operating in Great Britain, which commenced in April 2011 and is scheduled to run to March 2015. The purpose of the scheme is to help low-income and vulnerable households with energy costs. The Scheme requires participating energy suppliers to give a rebate on their electricity bill to a specified group of their older customers on low incomes. The UK Government informs suppliers which households to support through sharing limited data between the Department for Work and Pensions and the energy suppliers.

The Warm Homes Discount Scheme is covered by legislation which does not apply in Northern Ireland. Responsibility for introducing any corresponding legislation in Northern Ireland would be a matter for the Department for Enterprise, Trade & Investment.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Parliament Buildings: Praxis

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission whether it has given any consideration to offering Praxis space to relocate the Secret Garden at Hillsborough Castle to Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 32005/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Following a tender competition in 2012 the Assembly Commission awarded a contract designed to deliver all catering services within Parliament Buildings and its catering outlets/services, namely: Members' Bar and Dining Room, Blue Flax restaurant, Café Recess, Gift/Coffee Shop, Automated Vending, functions and hospitality.

Please be assured that we explored all possibilities within our governance remit, however and unfortunately, due to the contract in place and the lack of spare accommodation within Parliament Buildings the Assembly Commission is not currently in a position to offer Praxis space to relocate the Secret Garden Café.

We have now referred this request to the Department of Finance and Personnel which has overall responsibility for the Stormont Estate.

MLAs: Travel to the USA

Mr Lunn asked the Assembly Commission how many MLAs travelled to the USA to represent the Assembly in March 2014; and in what capacity.

(AQW 32052/11-15)

Mr Cree (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Six MLAs travelled to the USA in March 2014. Mike Nesbitt, as Chairperson of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, represented that Committee at the St Patrick's Day events in Washington. Separately, five members of the Committee on Standards and Privileges travelled to Washington and held meetings with various parties as part of the Committee's review of the Assembly's Code of Conduct. Those members were Alastair Ross (Chairperson), Anna Lo (Deputy Chairperson), Cathal Boylan, Paula Bradley and Ian McCrea.

IT Provision

Mr Rogers asked the Assembly Commission to outline the current review of the IT provision to all Members and constituency offices.

(AQO 5812/11-15)

Ms Ruane (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): Ón bhliain 2012, mar chuid dá phleananna le trealamh agus seirbhísí TF uile a chuirtear ar fáil do Chomhaltaí a athnuachan agus a uasghrádú, sholáthair Coimisiún an Tionóil na háiseanna nua seo leanas. I mí na Nollag 2012, cheap Oifig na gCóras Faisnéise conraitheoir nua le seirbhísí idirlín leathan-bhanda a chur ar fáil do Oifigí Toghlaigh Comhaltaí sa dóigh is go bhfuil luasanna nasc idirlín níos fearr ag a mbunús. I mí Feabhra 2013, shuiteáil Oifig na gCóras Faisnéise 268 clóire ahtsholáthair nua i bhFoirgnimh na Parlaiminte agus in Oifigí Toghlaigh Comhaltaí. Idir mí Meithimh agus mí Mheán Fómhair 2013, mar chuid de thioscadal Ríomh-Phacáiste na gCoistí, fuair gach Comhaltaí ríomhaire táibléid Fuinneoga 8.

Tá rún ag Coimisiún an Tionóil na ríomhairí glúine uile a fuair Comhaltaí a athsholáthar i mí Iúil 2014. De bharr an tsuirbhé ríomhaire glúine a tugadh do Chomhaltaí agus do fhoirne na dToghlaigh i mí Nollag 2013, tá Oifig na gCóras Faisnéise ag forbairt mionchás gnó agus sonraíochta, agus beidh plé acu ar ball le hOifig an tSoláthair sa Tionól leis an dóigh is fearr an trealamh úr ríomhairí glúine a fhoinsiú.

Sa bhliain 2011, uasghrádaíodh bogearraí Microsoft Fuinneoga agus Oifig ar ríomhairí an Tionóil. De ghnáth, bheadh an trealamh seo in úd a athsholáthair faoin am seo, ach dar le hOifig na gCóras Faisnéise go bhfuil na ríomhairí deisce agus na monatóirí réscáileáin reatha oiriúnach don fheidhm go fóill. Dá bhrí sin, níl rún ag Coimisiún an Tionóil trealamh ríomhaire deisce a athsholáthar go dtí 2015.

Since 2012, as part of its plans to refresh and upgrade all IT equipment and services provided to MLAs, the Assembly Commission has delivered the following new facilities. In December 2012, Information Systems Office appointed a new contractor to provide broadband internet services to MLA Constituency Offices with the majority of offices able to avail of improved internet connection speeds. In February 2013 Information Systems Office completed the rollout of 268 new replacement printers in Parliament Buildings and MLA Constituency Offices. Between June and September 2013, as part of the Electronic Committee Pack project, each MLA was provided with an additional Windows 8 tablet computer.

The Assembly Commission plans to replace all laptop computers supplied to Members in July 2014. Following the laptop survey issued to MLAs and Constituency staff in December 2013, Information Systems Office is currently developing the detailed business case and specification and will shortly begin discussions with the Assembly Procurement Office to consider the most suitable route to source the new laptop equipment.

In 2011 the Microsoft Windows and Office software running on Assembly desktop computers was upgraded, and although this equipment would now normally be due for replacement, Information Systems Office considers that the current desktop PCs and flat-screen monitors are still fit-for-purpose. Consequently the Assembly Commission does not plan to replace desktop PC equipment until 2015.

Written Answers Index

Annex	WA 56	System of Allocation of Donor Lungs	WA 61
Additional MRI Scanner at Antrim Area Hospital	WA 71	Tenders for the Provision of Wigs	WA 68
Amalgam Dental Fillings	WA 59	Waiting List for a Care Package	WA 62
Bangor Minor Injury Unit: Sick Leave	WA 57		
Beds in Nursing Homes: Derry City Council Area	WA 57	Department for Employment and Learning	WA 24
Compulsory Work Uniform and Personal Protection Equipment	WA 68	Disability Employment Service	WA 29
Consultation on Tier 3 and Tier 4 Detoxification Services	WA 72	Driver and Vehicle Agency: Assistance for Staff	WA 25
Department of Social Protection: Memorandum of Understanding	WA 57	Employment Agency Inspectorate	WA 27
Derry City Council Area: Nursing Homes	WA 58	Key Skill Shortage	WA 31
Domiciliary Care	WA 63	Part-Time Courses	WA 26
Domiciliary Care: North Down	WA 66	Preventative Spending	WA 24
Downe Emergency Department: Closures	WA 59	Profoundly Deaf Students	WA 25
Downe Hospital and Lagan Valley Hospital: Repatriation Protocols	WA 59	Steps 2 Success: Procurement	WA 27
Downe Hospital: Transfer of Patients	WA 58	Student Accommodation	WA 26
Emergency Department and Minor Injuries Unit	WA 57	Student Accommodation	WA 26
Emergency Department Patients at Causeway Hospital	WA 63	Teacher Training Review	WA 30
Group Counselling Appointment: Woodstock Lodge	WA 66	University of Ulster: Funding	WA 30
Health Service: Staff Payment	WA 71	University of Ulster: GAA Tops	WA 29
Hospital Beds	WA 68	Youth Employment Scheme: South Antirm	WA 28
Inpatient Addiction Services	WA 64	Youth Training Review	WA 29
Lift in Bangor Hospital	WA 66	Department for Regional Development	WA 82
Maintenance of Bangor Hospital	WA 70	Ballymena: Cycle Lanes and Bicycle Boxes	WA 84
Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools: North Antrim Constituency	WA 65	Car Parking Spaces for People with Disabilities in Coalisland	WA 83
New Council Areas: Staff Commute	WA 66	Coleraine Railway Station	WA 86
Non-Admissions Policies	WA 64	Departmental Proposals: North Down	WA 86
Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Families and Next of Kin	WA 71	Derrychrin Primary School, Coagh: Road Safety	WA 88
Northern Ireland Prison Service Policy for Medication in Possession	WA 68	Gransha Road Roundabout, Bangor	WA 84
Nursing Care and Residential Care Beds: East Antrim Constituency	WA 59	Illegal Republican Roadside Monuments	WA 83
Nursing Homes in County Tyrone	WA 60	Local Transport Arrangements	WA 89
Nursing Home Waiting Lists	WA 58	Meeting with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	WA 86
Obesity Levels among Young People	WA 62	Passing Loop Between Derry and Coleraine	WA 86
Patients Awaiting a Lung Transplant	WA 60	Pay and Display Machines at Roads Service Car Parks	WA 84
Patients Awaiting a Lung Transplant	WA 61	Penalty Charge Notices	WA 83
Patients Diagnosed with Rare Diseases	WA 67	Pension Schemes for Senior Management	WA 82
Pinewood Residential Care Home	WA 65	Proposed Enniskillen Bypass	WA 88
Pinewood Residential Care Home	WA 65	Traffic Attendants: Penalty Charge Notices	WA 85
Public's Obesity Levels	WA 61	Train Halt at Ballykelly	WA 84
Statutory Residential Homes	WA 64	Transport Hub	WA 85
		Transport Hub	WA 88

Department for Social Development	WA 89	Boxing Investment Programme	WA 15
2015 Irish Open Golf Tournament	WA 95	Boxing Investment Programme	WA 18
Benefit Uptake Programme: North Antrim	WA 99	Boxing Investment Programme	WA 19
Boiler Replacement Scheme	WA 98	Foras na Gaelige: Income	WA 18
Derelict Houses: Dunclug Area of Ballymena	WA 94	New Council Areas: Staff Commute	WA 14
Doury Road Regeneration Group	WA 98	Department of Education	WA 19
Fuel Poverty	WA 100	Bangor Central Integrated Primary	WA 22
Greater Carnagat, Newry: Replacement Window Frames	WA 90	Commissioners at the South Eastern Education and Library Board	WA 20
Help To Buy Scheme	WA 96	Commissioners at the South Eastern Education and Library Board	WA 23
Housing Services	WA 97	Devenish College in Fermanagh	WA 21
Jobseekers Allowance: Returning UK National	WA 89	Educational Psychology Services: Waiting Times	WA 19
Permitted Employment Scheme	WA 95	Enrolment Figures	WA 21
Permitted Employment Scheme	WA 95	Enrolment Figures	WA 22
Permitted Employment Scheme	WA 95	Maintained Sector Grammar Schools: Lurgan	WA 23
Rent Arrears	WA 98	Minor Works in Non-Controlled Schools	WA 20
Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings	WA 90	New Council Areas: Staff Commute	WA 22
Social Deprivation: Sport	WA 99	Pupil Teacher Ratio	WA 24
Social Housing	WA 97	Review of Outdoor Education Provision and Resourcing	WA 22
Social Housing in the Omagh District	WA 94	Schools and Youth Services: Investment	WA 20
Social Housing: Land Shortage	WA 100	Schools: Time Spent on Physical Activity	WA 23
Social Housing Scheme: 5 Millisle Road	WA 90	South Eastern Education and Library Board: Meetings	WA 21
Social Housing Units: County Fermanagh	WA 91		
Tenancy Fraud	WA 94		
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	WA 2	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	WA 31
Animal Cruelty Legislation	WA 3	Budget Statement: Job Creation	WA 33
Delay in Single Farm Payments	WA 13	Contact Centre in Derry	WA 35
Delay in Single Farm Payments	WA 13	Direct Flights from Belfast	WA 32
Foyle River Ambassadors Citizenship Scheme	WA 4	Domestic Electricity Prices	WA 33
Licensed Dogs	WA 6	Horizon 2020 Competitive Funding Steam	WA 31
Remote Sensing Inspections	WA 2	International Data Centre: Derry's One Plan	WA 35
Remote Sensing Inspections	WA 3	InvestNI: Compliance with Statutory Obligations	WA 32
Rivers Agency	WA 6	People Employed by Injixo Ltd in Derry	WA 33
Rural Development Programme: West Tyrone Constituency	WA 6	Pilot Enterprise Zone	WA 33
Rural Development Programme: West Tyrone Constituency	WA 12	Recommendation 15: Response	WA 33
Single Farm Payments: Inspections	WA 13	Renewable Electricity and Renewables Obligation Certificates	WA 34
Single Farm Payments: North Antrim	WA 4	Renewable Electricity Generators	WA 34
Single Farm Payments: North Antrim	WA 4	Renewable Energy	WA 35
Single Farm Payments: North Antrim	WA 5	Unemployment in the North West	WA 32
Single Farm Payments: Outstanding Payments	WA 5		
Train Halt at Ballykelly	WA 3	Department of Finance and Personnel	WA 51
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	WA 14	Budget 2014	WA 52
Boxing Investment Programme	WA 15	Budget 2014	WA 52
		Budget 2014	WA 53

Civil Service Compensation Scheme	WA 53	Simon Community: Accommodation	WA 72
Civil Service: Flexible Working	WA 51	Super-Injunctions	WA 82
Economic Data	WA 53	Zero Tolerance Drugs Initiative	WA 81
Enterprise Zones	WA 54	Zero Tolerance Drugs Policy	WA 79
Financial Transaction Capital	WA 52	Zero Tolerance Drugs Policy	WA 79
PSNI: Treasury Reserves	WA 51		
Public Sector Hub: Downpatrick	WA 54	Department of the Environment	WA 35
Rate Relief Scheme	WA 54	Approved Equipment List for Taxi Meters	WA 44
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	WA 54	Approved Taximeter Centre	WA 43
Ambulance Cover: Down District	WA 55	ARC21 Waste Management Procurement Process	WA 46
Critical Care Facility at the Royal Victoria Hospital	WA 55	Ards Borough Council: Future of Exploris	WA 35
Mental Health Waiting Lists	WA 54	Carrickfergus Castle	WA 49
Department of Justice	WA 72	Department for Transport Consultation on Secondary Legislation	WA 36
2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade	WA 81	Drilling for Petroleum: Permitted Development Rights	WA 47
2014 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade	WA 81	Driver and Vehicle Agency	WA 49
Age Limit for the Use of Firearms	WA 75	Fixed Penalties: Taxi-Operators Licence	WA 48
Age Limit for the Use of Firearms	WA 76	Illegal Waste in Arney	WA 44
Animal Cruelty Case	WA 76	Land in Loughside Park: Re-Zoning	WA 40
Animal Cruelty Case	WA 79	Licensing of Taxi Operators	WA 42
Approved Accommodation	WA 74	Local Government Bill	WA 51
Approved Accommodation	WA 74	Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Commercial Dredging	WA 47
Approved Accommodation	WA 74	Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Mineral Extraction	WA 38
Approved Accommodation	WA 75	Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Mineral Extraction	WA 46
Assets Recovery Community Scheme	WA 77	Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Environmental Harm	WA 37
Chaplaincy Numbers, Responsibilities and Remuneration	WA 79	North West Region Waste Management Group	WA 46
Convicted Sex Offenders	WA 72	Operation Willow	WA 44
Court of Appeal: Outstanding Judgements	WA 80	Permanent Tree Preservation Orders	WA 39
Desertcreat Training College: Consultants	WA 74	Planning Applications: Lane Ways	WA 40
Filling Stations: Laundered Fuel	WA 81	Planning Officers	WA 44
Granted Legal Aid	WA 80	Planning Powers	WA 50
Hostel Accommodation	WA 73	Rates Convergence	WA 48
Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre: Visit	WA 74	Road Deaths	WA 42
Laundered Fuel	WA 81	Single Waste Authority	WA 38
Legal Aid: Estimated Final Costing	WA 77	Tamboran Resources: Drilling	WA 46
New Police Museum	WA 77	Taximeters: Launch Date	WA 43
Northern Ireland Prison Service: Drug Testing	WA 80	Taxi Operator Licences	WA 41
Northern Ireland Prison Service: On-the-runs	WA 82	Unapproved Quarries	WA 36
Police Museum: Funding	WA 77	Union Flag: Designated Days	WA 50
Prisons: Drug Detection	WA 78	Waste Management Contracts	WA 37
Random Drug Tests in Prisons	WA 80	Waste Procurement Programmes	WA 38
Reductions in Legal Aid Budgets	WA 73	Whiterock Leisure Centre	WA 47
Reoffending Rates	WA 73	Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	WA 101
Senior Staff in the Northern Ireland Prison Service: Spend	WA 75	IT Provision	WA 101
		MLAs: Travel to the USA	WA 101

Parliament Buildings: Praxis WA 101

**Office of the First Minister and
deputy First Minister**

	WA 1
Omagh Ethnic Community Support Group	WA 1
Play and Leisure Policy	WA 2
Preventative Spending	WA 1
Shackleton Barracks, Ballykelly	WA 2
St Lucia Barracks, Omagh	WA 1



Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

Online

www.tsoshop.co.uk

Mail, Telephone, Fax & E-mail

TSO

PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522

Fax orders: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: customer.services@tso.co.uk

Textphone 0870 240 3701

TSO@Blackwell and other Accredited Agents

ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

© Copyright Northern Ireland Assembly Commission 2014

ISBN 978-0-339-70334-6

