

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 4 July 2014**  
**Volume 96, No WA4**



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

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

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# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 4 July 2014

## Written Answers to Questions

### Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

#### **Model Aircraft Enthusiasts: Maze/Long Kesh Site**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether model aircraft enthusiasts will regain permission to use the Maze/Long Kesh site in Lisburn.

**(AQW 30992/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** There is no current agreement on Maze/Long Kesh. We continue to discuss a way forward.

#### **Shared Future**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how events such as the Giro d'Italia contribute to their shared future strategy.

**(AQO 6135/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Together: Building a United Community Strategy outlines a vision of a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

We recognise that sport is a powerful tool in bringing people together and the Strategy commits to supporting initiatives that use sport to build good relations. We know and have seen at first hand that sport can play a central role in breaking down divisions in society and can provide a mechanism to encourage sharing, learning and friendship, especially among young people.

For our people and neighbourhoods to begin to see the real tangible benefits of better good relations, we must all play our part in addressing division, intolerance, hate and separation. We are fully committed to this agenda and to driving forward on the commitments outlined in Together: Building a United Community. We are all too aware that a united community does not only bring social benefits but also economic advantages, such as increased tourism and investment opportunities.

The success of the Giro cannot be questioned and can only further strengthen the competitive position of our tourism industry and contribute to the economy in both the short and long term. Attracting the Giro to our shores has the potential to contribute significantly to the economy, through attracting additional visitors, including out of state visitors, and generating additional tourism revenue. However, perhaps most importantly, it has shone a positive light on our community and demonstrated the unity that can be created when we all work together for the benefit of all our people.

#### **Support for Religious and Ethnic Minority Groups**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what financial, or other, support is available from their Department for religious and ethnic minority groups.

**(AQW 33877/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF), managed by the Racial Equality Unit, has been providing support for voluntary and community organisations working with minority ethnic people and groups since 2003.

The fund, worth £1.1m per annum, is currently supporting approximately 30 projects.

The Racial Equality Unit also provides day to day assistance and guidance to individuals and groups in respect of their funding awards.

### **Social Investment Fund: Update**

**Lord Morrow** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the allocation of the Social Investment Fund.

**(AQO 6285/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Fund has been allocated across the nine Social Investment Fund Zones as follows:-

■ Belfast North	£9 million
■ Belfast South	£8 million
■ Belfast East	£8 million
■ Belfast West	£12 million
■ Londonderry/Derry	£9.5 million
■ Northern	£9 million
■ Western	£8 million
■ Southern	£8.5 million
■ South Eastern	£8 million

### **Flood Defence Measures**

**Mr McKinney** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they have received a report from the Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit on flood defence measures in 2013/14.

**(AQW 34175/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Performance and Efficiency Delivery Unit (PEDU) provided a report to the Executive, dated September 2012, entitled 'Review of Response to Flooding on 27 and 28 June 2012'. This report included a recommendation to review flood defence expenditure priorities. This action was allocated by PEDU for consideration by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department for Regional Development, working with their respective agencies.

### **Energy Efficiency Measures in Homes**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on their commitment to bring forward proposals to boost economic activity through the retrofitting of energy efficiency measures in homes.

**(AQW 34211/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Since this commitment to develop proposals was made in November 2012 steady progress has been made in exploring the potential for this initiative. A market testing exercise, completed in May 2014, indicated strong demand for the delivery of an energy retrofit programme. Plans are now in place for a series of pre-market engagement events with the industry, in the coming weeks, which will help to provide further clarity around the potential aims and objectives of this initiative.

The development of operational plans for potential delivery will continue in parallel with this pre-market engagement process.

All of this preparatory work will allow us to make decisions on proceeding to implementation, based on a clear view as to overall demand, market capacity, alignment to other programmes, realistic implementation timetable and available finance.

### **Sub-Budgets Allocation: Victims and Survivors Service**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the sub-budgets are allocated to the Victims and Survivors Service for Schemes 1-6 targeting individual victims/survivors via the Gateway Process.

**(AQW 34225/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The 2014-2015 opening budget for Schemes 1-6 has been set as £4m, with £1.8m allocated to Financial Assistance Scheme (Scheme 6) and £2.2m allocated to schemes 1-5. These are initial allocations and may need to be amended in line with client demand and Ministerial priorities.

### **Offer Letters for Victims and Survivors**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail a timeline of when offer letters will be issued to victims/survivors offering support under Schemes 1-6.

**(AQW 34226/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** Expressions of Interest for schemes 1-5 are currently being processed to ensure that when the schemes and budgets are opened for 2014-2015, the Service will be in a position to respond with minimum delay.

The Financial Assistance Scheme (Scheme 6) was opened to the seriously injured on the higher care component of Disability Living Allowance in April 2014. Payments have already been issued. The Scheme opened to remaining clients on 2 June 2014 and will close on 30 June 2014. Applications will be processed and payments made after this date.

### **Benefit Entitlement and Taxation: Survivors and Victims**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what steps they have taken to ensure that any monies received by victims/survivors through the Gateway Process will not impact on their benefit entitlement or taxation responsibilities.

**(AQW 34228/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** We have been liaising with the Department for Social Development to ensure that monies issued to victims/survivors for Financial Assistance (Scheme 6) are in keeping with guidelines. The Department for Social Development has issued guidance to ensure that Financial Assistance (Scheme 6) payments are disregarded in relation to means tested benefits. HMRC have responsibility for advising on taxation issues.

### **New Funding Cycle**

**Mr Nesbitt** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) what work has been undertaken on the preparation for the new funding cycle commencing 31 March 2015; (ii) whether there will be any new tendering process introduced in respect of Health and Wellbeing provision; and (iii) to detail the contractual period for group funding under the new funding cycle.

**(AQW 34250/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** In going forward there is a need to ensure funding continues to be directed to those victims most in need of support and services. To support this, the Commission for Victims and Survivors is commissioning research to evaluate the effectiveness of the funding

Programme 2013-2015. The recommendations from this report will inform funding for victims and survivors from April 2015 onwards.

OFMDFM, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and the Health and Social Care Board officials are working on a suitable approach for the provision of acute mental health services and physical aids within the health and social care system to develop an effective and sustainable cross-sectoral approach to treating psychological trauma.

It is expected that contractual arrangements with groups will cover a period of at least two years.

### **Funding Allocation for Victims and Survivors**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail how the £1.3m June monitoring round bid for victims and survivors funding will be allocated if the bid is successful.

**(AQW 34290/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** If the bid for £1.3m in the June Monitoring round is successful, it will enable the Victims and Survivors Service to maintain the existing level of service provision to the victims sector which includes £4m for Individual Needs Reviews and £5.9m for the Victims Support Programme.

### **Delivering Social Change Funding Allocation**

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail how the £6m June monitoring round bid for Delivering Social Change will be allocated if the bid is successful.

**(AQW 34293/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** There is currently a £14m resource budget allocation in 2014/15 for the Delivering Social Change Programme. However, the total current requirement in respect of the programme is some £20m.

The £20m programme requirement can be broken down as follows:

■ 6 Signature Programmes	£13.20m
■ Social Investment Fund	£ 2.40m
■ Childrens Hospice	£ 0.40m
■ Bright Start	£ 1.00m
■ Playboard	£ 0.33m
■ OFMDFM Support Cost	£ 1.27m
■ SIB DSC Delivery Unit	£ 0.50m
■ Northern Ireland European Regional Forum	£ 0.18m
■ Play and Leisure Programme	£ 0.50m
■ Other	£ 0.22m
■ Total	£ 20.00m

### **Departmental Spend on Heat, Electricity and Water**

**Mr Agnew** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much their Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34342/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Department of Finance and Personnel is responsible for paying most of the heating, electricity and water costs for our Department and will include these in their reply.

Departmental costs not covered by the DFP reply are detailed in the table below.

Year	Heat £	Electricity £	Water £
2009-2010	3348	7495	Nil
2010-2011	3264	12942	48
2011-2012	3670	10756	197
2012-2013	2540	11415	215
2013-2014	3109	10407	210

### Capital Social Investment Fund Projects

**Mr Easton** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the capital Social Investment Fund projects to extend community houses in North Down and Ards to accommodate the training needs of the community.

**(AQW 34389/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** This project is currently being processed through the economic appraisal process. Following initial consideration, we have agreed with the Steering Group a two stage approach; first stage to complete a scoping study to ascertain the potential to improve the community houses identified and what works can feasibly be progressed; the second stage to fund the resulting works identified.

Funding for both stages is subject to approval of the economic appraisal which we expect to determine over the summer and final costs resulting from the scoping study.

### Good Relations Grants

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the (i) Good Relations grants awarded in 2013/14; (ii) dates on which applications were called for; (iii) dates on which applications were received; (iv) dates on which awards were made; (v) outcomes of these grants; (vi) process for awarding Good Relations grants in 2014/15; (vii) the Good Relations grants awarded in 2014/15.

**(AQW 34628/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The 2013/14 Central Good Relations Fund provided funding for 36 groups the names of which are listed below.

- Active Communities Network
- An Gaelaras
- Ardoyne Youth Club
- Ards Dev and Community Network
- Arts for All
- Ballybeen Mens Motivational Group
- Belfast Interface Project
- Cara-Friend
- Cathedral Youth Club
- Charter NI
- Cinemagic
- Co-operation Ireland
- Corcrair Redmanville Community
- Corrymeela Centre
- Craigavon Intercultural Programme
- Early Years
- Edgarstown Residents Association
- Falls Community Council
- Football in the Community
- Groundwork NI
- Intercomm
- Killicomaine Residents Group
- Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group
- North Belfast Community Development and Transition Group
- NI Children's Enterprise

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ■ NICS Sports Association (NICSSA) | ■ Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group |
| ■ Peace Players International NI   | ■ Somme Heritage Centre            |
| ■ Poleglass Community Association  | ■ Springboard                      |
| ■ Rectory Rangers Football Club    | ■ Tides Training                   |
| ■ Shankill Parish Caring Assoc     | ■ Training for Women Network       |

Women Into Politics The 2013/14 Central Good Relations Fund opened for applications on 4 October 2013 and the closing date for applications was 22 November 2013. Decisions regarding funding were made in January 2014 and applicants were informed of decisions.

A wide range of activities were covered by the 36 groups awarded funding. All of the activities were designed to improve good relations outcomes. The activities included capacity building, cross community sporting and arts activities, shared activities on a cross community basis, programmes of volunteering and training for young people and building community cohesion

The Central Good Relations Fund for 2014-15 closed for applications on 10 February 2014. Preliminary consideration of the applications was carried out in advance of a selection panel meeting. The selection panel then agreed the first tranche of funding to be released and successful applicants were advised. Twelve applicants to date have been advised that they will receive Central Good Relations Funding and the names of the groups are listed below.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ■ Cinemagic                              | ■ Saint James Forum                |
| ■ Community Relations in Schools         | ■ Sandy Row Residents Association  |
| ■ Co-operation Ireland                   | ■ Somme Heritage Centre            |
| ■ Intercomm                              | ■ Sport Changes Life               |
| ■ John Paul II Youth Club                | ■ Springboard                      |
| ■ Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group | ■ Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group |

It should be noted that the Central Good Relations Fund is a small central scheme designed to distribute funding in year when and if it becomes available. We primarily fund good relations work through the Community Relations Council and local Councils. The fund does not and will not replace mainstream core or project funding.

## Social Investment Fund

**Mr Wells** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will announce the Revenue projects that will be funded by the Social Investment Fund.

**(AQO 6409/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** On 10 February we announced that £33 million will be invested in 23 projects, aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation through improved community-based services and facilities. This included 11 revenue projects.

Details of these 23 projects, along with the projects which are currently within the funding allocation for each zone and which are subject to approval through the economic appraisal process are available at

<http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/delivering-social-change/social-investment-fund/sif-projects.htm> .

We intend to issue letters of offer for all projects as soon as possible.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### System Failures for Telephone Enquires

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of occasions that the telephone helpline service experienced system failures preventing callers from contacting the office in the last twelve months.

**(AQW 34351/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** I am not aware of any failures by my Department's telephone helpline service during the last twelve months.

### Current Restrictions Relating to Live Export Sales

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the current restrictions relating to live export sales; and whether she intends to relax these restrictions to enable local producers to increase export sales.

**(AQW 34395/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I am not aware of any restrictions currently affecting live export Sales. Since the lifting of the European Commission's ban on the export of live cattle to other EU member states in May 2006, over 278,000 cattle have been exported from the north of Ireland to Europe.

Live exports take place on a regular basis from both premises of origin and EU Approved Assembly Centres (EACs) throughout the north. Animals entering the EAC must fulfil the requirements of Council Directive 64/432/EEC (cattle) and Council Directive 91/68/EEC (sheep/goats), as required by EU legislation.

A new EU Animal Health law proposal is currently being negotiated in Europe which considers some relaxation of conditions for cross border movement of animals with other landlocked Member States in accordance with the assessment of risk. My officials have been feeding into the development of the new EU Regulation in consultation with DEFRA in Britain and DAFM in the south. This provides us with an opportunity to frame the EU Regulation in a way that would facilitate the objectives of the All-Island Animal Health and Welfare Strategy and allow us to reach an agreement to achieve the free movement of animals within the island.

### Display of Cattle Movements at Local Marts

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she intends to provide guidance to livestock auctioneers relating to the display of cattle movements at local marts.

**(AQW 34396/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Animal Public Health Information System (APHIS) holds data on herd keepers' animal movements from birth to death. The collection of information held on APHIS is in accordance with Regulation 1760/2000 of the European Parliament establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products. Member States are obliged to set up a database with the intention of providing an open and transparent method of traceability from "farm to fork".

The display of cattle movement data at local marts by livestock auctioneers occurs as part of a commercial transaction entered into between the seller and buyer of an animal. This therefore falls outside my Department's remit.

### Meeting with the Ulster Farmers' Union

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the dates in 2014 when she has met the Ulster Farmers' Union; and the subject matters discussed at each meeting.

**(AQW 34398/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I met with representatives from the UFU on 21 January, 4 March and 13 May 2014 where we discussed a range of key agricultural issues including CAP reform, the Rural Development Programme, and the future potential of the agri-food industry.

I also attended the UFU Annual Dinner on 28 March.

### **Agri-Food Going for Growth Strategy**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will answer the question asked in AQO 6372/11-15.

**(AQW 34505/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I meet regularly with the DETI and DFP Ministers at Executive meetings, where a range of issues are discussed.

As outlined in my answer to the House on 17 June 2014, the DETI Minister and I jointly submitted proposals to the Executive in relation to Going for Growth in December 2013. I am delighted that the Executive has now agreed its response to Going for Growth; and has also agreed to support my proposals for a Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 of up to £623million. This funding will help us deliver on the aims and objectives in Going for Growth, including the Farm Business Improvement Scheme. Having received the Executive's approval, my Department will bid for up to £250million of additional funds to deliver the proposed 'Farm Business Improvement Scheme' as part of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

We intend to finalise and publish the formal Executive Response to Going for Growth on relevant websites over the coming weeks.

### **Conference Attendance**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she or a representative from her Department attended the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs conference on poor farm gate prices.

**(AQW 34603/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I am aware that Defra recently hosted a seminar for officials, which among other things looked at the global and British and north of Ireland consumer markets and the implications for trade and prices. I understand a senior representative from AFBI attended.

Obviously, I share the concerns of farmers about the recent drop in prices. I want to see a strong, profitable agri-food sector here in the north and that can only be achieved if farmers see a fair return for their high quality, traceable produce.

The price farmers receive for their produce is a commercial matter which is not within my remit. However, I hope that industry can work together to get a mutually agreeable resolution on pricing that will ensure a sustainable local agri-food industry focused on export-led growth. My Department and I will continue to work with all elements of the supply chain to help them to achieve those results.

### **Full Cost Recovery for Sections Contained in the Reservoirs Bill**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 34119/11-15, whether she has gained approval from the Department of Finance and Personnel not to pursue a full cost recovery for sections contained in the Reservoirs Bill.

**(AQW 34647/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) approval is not required in relation to including clauses in the Reservoirs Bill which would enable my Department not to pursue full cost recovery where considered appropriate. However, in accordance with the Department's charging policy, DFP approval will be sought, as required, in advance of any decision not to recover full costs if and when such circumstances arise after the legislation is in place.

## Tri-Council Fisheries Group Work Programme

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the work programme of the Tri-Council Fisheries Group for the last five years; (ii) the origin and extent of the funding made available to the group; (iii) the personnel who comprise the group; and (iv) the forward workplan recently agreed by the group.

**(AQW 34742/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Tri-Council Fisheries Working Group is a group formed and administered by, Ards Borough Council, Down District Council and Newry and Mourne District Council. My Department has no role in its functions and therefore the Group itself, or the Councils are probably best placed to advise on the matters you have raised.

## Pesticide and Planting Restrictions

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what guidance her Department can offer to farmers to explain the pesticide and planting restrictions, in relation to buffer strips running along watercourses.

**(AQW 34783/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Agri-environment agreement holders can opt to manage marginal areas along watercourses as ungrazed grass margins 'or 'riparian zones'. These act as buffer strips where pesticide use is prohibited. They also help to prevent pollution of the adjacent waterbody by organic and inorganic fertilisers. An additional 'riparian zone – native tree planting' option is available at suitable sites where planting along the waterway will not cause overshadowing of the watercourse. DARD Countryside Management Unit provides guidance on these options at the commencement of the agreement and within the relevant scheme booklet, received by all agreement holders. Further advice is available from local Countryside Management Advisers.

All Single Farm Payment and Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowance claimants are bound by Cross Compliance Statutory Management Rule 9 which states that 'plant protection products ('pesticides') must be used in accordance with the principles of good plant protection practice'. The Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products can be read at or downloaded from the DARD website together with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice (COGAP) for the prevention of Water, Air and Soil, which also gives advice on the implementation of buffer zones.

## Single Farm Payment Appeals

**Mr McCallister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Single Farm Payment appeals have been submitted in the last five calendar years; and of those appeals, to detail (i) how many have been upheld by the Appeals Panel; (ii) how many successful appeals have been paid; and (iii) how many payments have been withheld including the reasons for withholding payment.

**(AQW 34876/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Department operates a two-stage Review of Decisions process. The first stage involves an internal review and the second an External Panel. At Stage 2 the Panel make a recommendation, with the Head of the DARD Paying Agency making the final decision in all cases.

In the last 5 calendar years (i.e. 2009 – 2013), 1,817 applications for Review were submitted at Stage One and 325 at Stage Two, which comes to a total of 2,142.

- (i) Of the 325 Stage 2 applications received, 216 have been finalised and, in 54 of these cases, the Department changed its original decision either in whole or in part.
- (ii) In some of these cases, depending on the circumstances of the claim and the out workings of the change to the original decision, a refund of recovery may result. If this is the case, any monies due will have been repaid to the applicant.

- (iii) In the remaining 162 Stage 2 cases finalised, the Department's original decision remained unchanged. These decisions relate to a variety of issues relating to non-compliance with the scheme rules and include claims being made on ineligible land, duplicate field claims and cross-compliance breaches. In some other cases, where the Department's decision has been changed, the result will be a requirement to recover monies from the applicant, for example a penalty may result.

### **Cost of Hospitality: Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what has been the expenditure by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission on hospitality in 2013/14.

**(AQW 34972/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The total expenditure by the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (the Loughs Agency) on hospitality in 2013/14 was £9,963.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### **ESB Dam: Ballyshannon**

**Mr Ó hÓisín** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the impact on migratory fish stocks, such as eel and salmon, caused by the ESB Dam at Ballyshannon.

**(AQW 33689/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** The ESB dams at Cathaleen's Fall and Cliff at Ballyshannon represent a significant barrier to the passage of migratory fish, including wild Atlantic salmon and the European eel, through the Erne system. ESB is required by European law to take steps to minimise the impact on migratory fish.

Salmon smolts must make their way through the dams in their migration to the sea, and ESB estimates that around 90% of smolts survive passage through the turbines.

Both dams have a fish ladder, which extend from the power station tailrace over the dam into the head waters and consists of around 70 pools with a difference of one and a half feet between successive pools that allow adult salmon to navigate past the dam and into Lough Erne and its tributaries to spawn.

Another fish pass at Cathaleen's Fall allows eels to ascend the dam into a holding tank, where they are collected and transported by my inland fisheries staff for release into the Erne system.

While these are good aids to fish passage, it should be noted that no type of fish pass is 100% effective and my officials have regular meetings with colleagues in ESB and Inland Fisheries Ireland to monitor the operation of the fish passes and address any issues that may arise. This is particularly pertinent given the recent loss of around 100kg of elvers and I can assure you that I have made clear to my counterpart in the South the need for ESB to ensure the uninterrupted passage of fish through the facilities.

### **Walled City Tattoo in Londonderry**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the assistance available for (i) organising; (ii) holding; and (iii) promoting the Walled City Tattoo in Londonderry on 27 to 30 August 2014.

**(AQW 34613/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department provided a grant of £100,000 to contribute to costs associated with delivering The Walled City Tattoo in August 2014, additional funds to The Walled City Tattoo are part of a bid to DFP in the June Monitoring Round.

# Department of Education

## Elective Home Education

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education, in light of the intention to further regulate Elective Home Education, how many adverse incidents from this sector have been identified in the last three years. **(AQW 33973/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** There is no intention to further regulate home education at the present time. The Education and Library Boards (the Boards) have directly prepared guidance in relation to home education which reflects their existing legislative responsibilities and are currently consulting on that guidance. The outcome of the consultation process will be of assistance in informing any future proposals in this regard.

In terms of adverse incidents relating to the educational provision for home educated children, the Boards have advised that they are aware of less than 15 incidents.

Board	Adverse Incidents
South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB)	Less than 5* adverse incidents in the last three years
North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB)	Less than 5* adverse incidents in the last three years
Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB)	Less than 5* adverse incidents in the last three years
Western Education and Library Board (WELB)	None recorded <sup>^</sup>
Southern Education and Library Boards (SELB)	None recorded <sup>^</sup>

\* This figure is suppressed in order to protect the anonymity of children

<sup>^</sup> The WELB and the SELB have advised that they do not currently undertake monitoring of children and young people who are educated at home

The Boards have confirmed that they do not undertake assessments of the achievements and outcomes of children who are educated at home and the adverse incidents referenced by the Boards relate to the suitability of the education provided to home educated children.

## Capital Funding: SEELB

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how much capital funding has been allocated to each school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board in each of the last five years. **(AQW 34305/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not allocate capital funding to schools. At the beginning of the financial year capital funding is allocated to each of the five Education and Library Boards who are responsible for capital projects in the controlled sector.

Estate Operations Team (EOT) within the Department is allocated a capital funding minor works budget for the non-controlled sectors. EOT recently made a call for applications for capital minor works schemes. When submitted each application is assessed on its merits. Grant aid is allocated to successful schemes.

The following table details capital expenditure in all schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) area in each of the last five financial years:

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Abbey PS	104,384.37	91,948.44	114,322.18	84,875.41	15,461.61	410,992.01
Academy PS	122,548.13	0.00	51,443.73	44,221.69	69,270.65	287,484.20
Alexander Dickson PS	35,122.28	20,000.00	570.41	0.00	126,101.09	181,793.78
All Childrens Integ PS	4,941.65	1,968.64	332,752.18	555,562.87	47,905.52	943,130.86
Anahilt PS	0.00	57,968.46	6,756.15	-3,500.92	631.30	61,854.99
Andrews Memorial PS	69,189.19	34,416.71	300,174.92	56,941.52	4,257.34	464,979.68
Annsborough Integ PS	0.00	0.00	3,363.81	8,188.80	410.14	11,962.75
Ardmore House Spec School	18,096.21	0.00	58,670.57	1,036.35	58,095.55	135,898.68
Assumption GS	4,022,330.05	1,404,449.05	271,167.58	13,718.12	433,199.66	6,144,864.46
Ballycarrickmaddy PS	468.02	0.00	3,689.00	-38.02	50,762.24	54,881.24
Ballyholme PS	184,645.08	23,142.89	25,184.83	9,328.90	9,114.76	251,416.46
Ballymacash PS	30,816.51	438,506.77	83,610.22	97,253.46	113,607.99	763,794.95
Ballymacrickett PS	80,452.00	60,807.00	15,337.00	58,319.93	0.00	214,915.93
Ballymacrickett PS Meals	29,180.84	0.00	4,535.20	505.95	0.00	34,221.99
Ballymagee PS	47,337.80	9,180.93	34,659.76	54,459.35	96,198.17	241,836.01
Ballynahinch PS	154,803.32	70,588.15	30,580.96	2,010.83	0.00	257,983.26
Ballyvester PS	0.00	0.00	11,481.53	64.52	10,791.14	22,337.19
Ballywalter PS	4,350.00	0.00	54,944.21	18,316.04	3,199.45	80,809.70
Bangor Central Integ PS	0.00	48,001.09	287,082.64	45,906.85	72,182.45	453,173.03
Bangor GS	166,859.41	6,177,006.00	7,414,502.00	9,413,616.41	398,692.55	23,570,676.37
Bangor NS	0.00	0.00	8,242.77	0.00	250.37	8,493.14
Barbour NS	71,923.68	9,910.35	99,369.00	-8,377.79	2,000.00	174,825.24
Beechlawn Spec School	122,193.97	0.00	173,903.23	239,667.52	407,366.89	943,131.61
Belvoir Park PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	235,229.98	47,162.00	259,691.21	160,511.92	33,199.62	735,794.73
Blackwater Integ College	82,027.00	4,113.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86,140.00
Bloomfield Road PS	115,507.55	102,801.66	81,912.87	189,676.27	263,861.72	753,760.07

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Braniel PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	127,519.79	22,149.47	-1,535.27	19,700.98	52.37	167,887.34
Brookfield Spec School	191,692.18	23,870.00	21,857.23	0.00	6,833.43	244,252.84
Brooklands PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	291,392.19	0.00	21,876.97	604.98	3,058.00	316,932.14
Brownlee PS	217,239.44	19,254.54	3,335.00	314,059.99	281,033.93	834,922.90
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche Meals	0.00	88,083.05	0.00	0.00	-1,450.00	86,633.05
Cairnshill PS	113,887.05	11,467.61	0.00	15,817.68	205,192.37	346,364.71
Carr PS	0.00	5,290.00	7,794.40	64.51	13,487.42	26,636.33
Carrickmannon PS	-3,901.00	0.00	26,713.73	20,268.97	6,424.73	49,506.43
Carrowdore PS	41,219.96	0.00	15,430.54	-2,270.83	49,768.79	104,148.46
Carryduff PS	24,017.91	19,332.00	26,912.31	2,859.57	103,968.00	177,089.79
Castle Gardens PS	10,292.60	0.00	0.00	7,929.38	-9.54	18,212.44
Castlereagh NS	6,686.10	16,029.24	6,773.31	8,980.81	174.18	38,643.64
Castlewellan PS	7,155.30	0.00	60,058.56	4,944.81	-9.54	72,149.13
Cedar Integ PS	21,199.00	0.00	9,083.04	0.00	0.00	30,282.04
Christ the King PS Meals	0.00	0.00	8,404.00	8,100.50	0.00	16,504.50
Christ The Redeemer PS	0.00	415.00	0.00	0.00	4,523.04	4,938.04
Christ The Redeemer PS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,337.50	5,035.00	14,372.50
Clandeboyne PS	115,692.13	51,620.61	11,503.62	14,475.29	179.00	193,470.65
Clifton Spec School	37,837.82	10,370.95	415,245.06	21.14	3,111.00	466,585.97
CLOSED Drumbo PS	1,579.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,579.27
CLOSED Hilden Int PS	2,704.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.25	2,717.53
CLOSED Hillhall PS	1,800.77	0.00	-248.70	0.00	0.00	1,552.07
CLOSED Lambeg PS	5,654.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,654.91
CLOSED Lisnasharragh HS	2,121.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	225,283.00	227,404.59
CLOSED Newtownbreda PS	69,109.99	4,986.12	0.00	0.00	537.59	74,633.70

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Comber PS	50,947.24	0.00	0.00	8,484.00	237.70	59,668.94
Conlig PS	-30,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-30,050.00
Convent Of Mercy PS D'patrick	25,420.00	0.00	660,980.00	0.00	0.00	686,400.00
Convent Of Mercy PS D'patrick Meals	9,933.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,933.85
Crawfordsburn PS	231,807.39	6,000.00	3,094.51	22,902.05	17,696.20	281,500.15
Cregagh PS	0.00	5,015.88	478.11	107.93	3,058.00	8,659.92
Cumran PS	162,859.67	46,881.11	0.00	0.00	3,171.17	212,911.95
De La Salle HS	115,805.62	1,607.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,413.17
De La Salle HS Meals	11,812.99	0.00	0.00	3,005.00	228,273.10	243,091.09
Derriaghy PS	15,161.63	0.00	0.00	761.82	0.00	15,923.45
Derryboy PS	123,339.77	90,204.92	-1,981.39	1,120.03	197.22	212,880.55
Donaghadee HS	741,495.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	741,495.41
Donaghadee PS	88,708.36	0.00	137,787.94	9,770.10	86,867.28	323,133.68
Down Acad(Blackwater Integ fr01.09.08)	4,250.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,250.39
Down HS	190,715.68	28,384.88	61,133.17	318,577.27	269,394.19	868,205.19
Downpatrick NS	23,028.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	176.91	23,205.71
Downpatrick PS	-900.00	12,320.18	49,749.42	9,674.28	6,421.94	77,265.82
Downshire PS Hillsborough	27,475.21	3,842.62	12,942.49	0.00	7,794.77	52,055.09
Dromara PS	45,140.65	4,277.00	23,368.00	0.00	52,471.98	125,257.63
Drumlins Integ PS	71,988.38	46,220.66	53,876.00	13,950.00	853,547.36	1,039,582.40
Dundonald HS	505,685.12	105,461.26	95,419.45	-3,354.10	126.83	703,338.56
Dundonald PS	93,048.73	0.00	9,853.43	232,051.74	50,067.07	385,020.97
Dunmurry HS	46,857.05	0.00	0.00	142,699.11	3,163.37	192,719.53
Dunmurry PS	27,000.00	92,177.55	15,904.08	11,986.91	40,453.21	187,521.75
Fort Hill Integ College	379,327.76	9,435.04	549,206.55	264,006.13	372,472.06	1,574,447.54
Fort Hill PS	27,647.12	0.00	13,410.00	24,418.95	78,422.96	143,899.03
Friends School	182,627.70	79,981.00	81,334.08	26,845.14	125,961.06	496,748.98
Gilnahirk PS	80,151.46	138,110.03	211,587.48	13,980.47	5,215.50	449,044.94
Glasswater PS	44,884.69	10,000.00	3,169.11	104,518.76	171,011.32	333,583.88

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Glastry College	457,000.00	83,099.13	132,260.68	46,665.44	203,787.22	922,812.47
Glenbrook Road NS	82,324.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,187.81	84,512.21
Glencraig Integ PS	11,953.00	36,811.86	35,014.59	140,589.56	-3,439.56	220,929.45
Glenlola Collegiate	102,821.68	4,148.14	22,183.41	40,835.51	97,592.89	267,581.63
Good Shepherd NS	89,681.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	89,681.91
Good Shepherd PS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,080.50	0.00	15,080.50
Grange Park PS	12,578.18	16,610.66	77,279.46	282,851.28	67,364.70	456,684.28
Greyabbey PS	0.00	3,887.00	87,618.91	524.92	85,024.31	177,055.14
Harmony Hill PS	36,006.36	10,229.84	94,172.66	8,548.37	12,732.90	161,690.13
Holy Family PS	45,744.03	0.00	170.00	29,886.28	0.00	75,800.31
Holy Family PS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,371.80	0.00	9,371.80
Holy Trinity NS	35,024.00	12,013.00	14,093.18	0.00	0.00	61,130.18
Hollywood NS	133,471.03	-2,485.71	98,748.11	-9,124.84	0.00	220,608.59
Hollywood PS	1,426.98	51,936.96	401,322.39	207,411.50	60,799.06	722,896.89
Kilcooley PS	35,600.18	0.00	0.00	5,743.00	9,195.56	50,538.74
Killard House Spec School	2,121.63	131,534.93	21,471.37	3,384.10	51,047.06	209,559.09
Killinchy PS	6,807.20	0.00	9,372.65	-523.16	18,167.96	33,824.65
Killowen PS	142,103.69	9,490.60	29,483.91	95,828.21	165,442.11	442,348.52
Killyleagh PS	6,532.87	0.00	52,221.66	-414.57	0.00	58,339.96
Kilmaine PS	60,691.89	4,315.00	62,660.93	17,694.94	11,368.13	156,730.89
King's Road NS	415.00	0.00	2,000.00	-66.90	6,549.23	8,897.33
Kircubbin Community NS	8,794.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,794.69
Kircubbin Integ PS	588,696.60	41,270.07	373,422.20	73,271.19	98,981.51	1,175,641.57
Kirkistown PS	13,479.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	119,249.69	132,729.23
Knockbreda HS	796,000.00	122,956.94	92,843.09	2,176.57	0.00	1,013,976.60
Knockbreda NS	78,454.01	5,611.89	53.14	6,132.04	163.15	90,414.23
Knockbreda PS	22,426.37	33,764.79	305,948.52	351,163.25	14,731.18	728,034.11
Knockevin Spec School	389,034.93	8,858.77	181,865.84	147,567.83	17,344.38	744,671.75
Knockmore PS	0.00	3,553.20	16,822.28	15,976.17	6,355.00	42,706.65

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Lagan College	516,482.42	406,117.00	0.00	85,445.06	63,601.80	1,071,646.28
Largymore PS	518,052.89	38,716.68	129,731.90	19,238.13	3,650.84	709,390.44
Laurelhill Community Coll	194,253.38	83,475.86	46,941.25	38,318.48	246,400.89	609,389.86
Leadhill PS	7,900.37	0.00	7,282.00	-4,935.49	4,486.83	14,733.71
Legamaddy PS	0.00	18,940.00	0.00	0.00	453,206.00	472,146.00
Legamaddy PS Meals	0.00	0.00	9,540.33	0.00	0.00	9,540.33
Lisburn Central PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	20,339.82	0.00	2,282.00	64.51	3,047.83	25,734.16
Lisnagarvey HS	137,661.24	129,124.19	55,018.33	221,271.70	10,741.69	553,817.15
Lisnasharragh PS	128,785.47	10,028.70	294,131.38	14,596.25	19,921.55	467,463.35
Londonderry PS	0.00	60,923.39	3,949.54	283,853.80	504,397.71	853,124.44
Longstone Spec School	244,431.09	89,214.02	66,723.32	-778.48	208,438.27	608,028.22
Loughries PS	4,421.00	0.00	0.00	179.00	227.24	4,827.24
Loughview Integ PS	134,655.45	3,195.00	84.50	0.00	0.00	137,934.95
Lower Ballinderry PS	1,079,000.00	64,609.06	10,882.04	14,165.90	23,414.08	1,192,071.08
Maghaberry PS	67,190.53	95,147.76	21,521.36	23,272.49	35,741.19	242,873.33
McKinney PS Dundrod	19,189.69	0.00	3,000.00	-1,841.48	21,239.05	41,587.26
Meadowbridge PS	13,724.50	0.00	7,631.00	18,191.35	226.96	39,773.81
Millennium Integ PS	39,633.10	2,190.00	67,883.98	0.00	29,701.03	139,408.11
Millisle PS	41,524.52	55,362.45	136,907.51	-2,715.17	92,104.82	323,184.13
Moira PS	203,915.37	3,448.12	24,605.53	10,128.84	7,208.08	249,305.94
Moneyrea PS	116,294.20	0.00	158,017.06	1,566.09	20,502.37	296,379.72
Movilla HS	339,949.29	15,817.34	4,254.72	0.00	58.70	360,080.05
Newcastle PS	30,591.32	3,360.00	153,386.96	-78,222.67	115,489.61	224,605.22
Newport PS	1,516.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,516.77
Newtownards Model PS	31,789.76	0.00	495,315.41	215,902.83	42,256.22	785,264.22
Newtownards NS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72,464.06	72,464.06
Newtownbreda HS	4,667.00	132,381.31	211,826.28	444,958.92	520,734.83	1,314,568.34
Oakwood Integ PS	4,149.76	21,501.66	20,688.00	19,252.68	0.00	65,592.10
Old Warren PS	0.00	11,932.94	95.96	9,704.08	142,785.50	164,518.48

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Our Lady & St Patrick's College	162,374.96	36,246.40	21,890.25	15,594.35	0.00	236,105.96
Our Lady & St Patrick's PS	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,325.00	876.00	2,201.00
Our Lady & St Patrick's PS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,230.00	0.00	8,230.00
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS	4,168.00	0.00	7,695.30	92,510.00	4,970.00	109,343.30
Parkview Spec School	729,942.17	101,588.10	20,418.14	234,109.10	83,384.04	1,169,441.55
Pond Park NS	0.00	0.00	84,862.63	47,664.03	314.23	132,840.89
Pond Park PS	486,900.81	-34,000.00	10,310.81	8,014.82	2,982.19	474,208.63
Portaferry Integ PS	-3,365.88	0.00	6,133.00	0.00	0.00	2,767.12
Portavogie PS	0.00	7,559.18	3,000.00	-1,247.48	283,294.95	292,606.65
Priory Integ College	28,400.37	40,572.83	119,541.95	59,534.62	0.00	248,049.77
Rathmore PS	131,724.16	0.00	130,015.28	364.80	72,329.74	334,433.98
Redburn PS	12,703.51	27,498.41	211.38	67,284.87	85.25	107,783.42
Regent House	137,624.46	19,597.43	164,397.14	44,654.94	651,854.94	1,018,128.91
Riverdale PS	7,166.92	4,544.58	3,146.00	23,150.75	3,186.40	41,194.65
Rowandale IPS	12,152.71	23,848.00	1,390,389.60	196,735.80	806,500.53	2,429,626.64
Sacred Heart PS	30,698.00	3,018.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,716.07
Saintfield HS	53,655.60	39,025.21	395,113.24	41,442.97	35,310.04	564,547.06
Scoil Na Fuisseoige	5,115.00	120,573.00	1,290,590.00	610,700.00	18,385.00	2,045,363.00
Scoil Na Fuisseoige Meals	-10,625.86	2,125.25	38,500.00	38,500.00	0.00	68,499.39
Seymour Hill PS	12,354.53	51,215.02	-3,335.50	19,263.40	1,384.50	80,881.95
Shimna Integ College	968,339.43	114,770.00	28,654.00	552,500.00	531,134.20	2,195,397.63
Spa PS	0.00	0.00	241,036.53	434,568.05	2,251.70	677,856.28
St Aloysius PS	73,019.09	142,277.19	253,023.81	41,316.51	6,683.26	516,319.86
St Aloysius PS Meals	0.00	0.00	9,650.30	4,234.54	0.00	13,884.84
St Anne's PS, Donaghadee	8,305.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,305.68
St Bernard's PS	99,100.04	164,233.00	46,002.00	2,315.00	56,365.65	368,015.69
St Bernard's PS Meals	40,567.63	4,486.80	702.35	10,477.85	125,117.00	181,351.63

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
St Brigid's PS	2,934.07	0.00	30.00	12,122.36	0.00	15,086.43
St Colman's HS	0.00	588.00	0.00	171,348.00	0.00	171,936.00
St Colman's HS Meals	9,869.64	0.00	0.00	3,005.00	7,027.00	19,901.64
St Colman's PS Lisburn	94,323.00	73,057.00	1,747,320.00	853,767.00	272,420.00	3,040,887.00
St Colman's PS Lisburn Meals	4,138.20	0.00	217,099.67	113,275.80	0.00	334,513.67
St Colmcille's HS	68,607.00	184,672.00	0.00	299,225.59	15,825.00	568,329.59
St Colmcille's HS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,005.00	14,400.00	17,405.00
St Colmcille's PS Downpatrick	8,640.75	6,435.00	106,699.83	872.00	118,029.00	240,676.58
St Colmcille's PS Downpatrick Meals	0.00	11,795.00	0.00	3,005.00	0.00	14,800.00
St Colm's HS	1,131.00	1,316.00	44,226.00	13,488.00	0.00	60,161.00
St Colm's HS Meals	9,732.39	0.00	0.00	149,550.26	-4,620.00	154,662.65
St Columbanus College	147,083.00	235,983.00	24,353.00	369,954.39	704,792.26	1,482,165.65
St Columbanus College Meals	0.00	8,114.47	9,436.87	15,853.56	24,497.76	57,902.66
St Columba's College	167,811.89	6,636.00	3,418.19	0.00	0.00	177,866.08
St Columba's College Meals	8,926.17	0.00	20,933.82	2,283.80	3,005.00	35,148.79
St Finian's PS	82,789.00	48,993.00	4,882.00	1,709.00	0.00	138,373.00
St Finian's PS Meals	0.00	0.00	25,550.41	3,111.99	0.00	28,662.40
St Francis PS	0.00	0.00	1,005.00	187,061.66	18,179.38	206,246.04
St Ita's PS	121,332.00	0.00	20,728.00	48,651.00	20,379.94	211,090.94
St Ita's PS Meals	8,435.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,435.22
St Joseph's PS Carnacaville	94,777.39	0.00	2,860.29	300.00	0.00	97,937.68
St Joseph's PS Carnacaville Meals	0.00	0.00	8,404.00	0.00	0.00	8,404.00
St Joseph's PS Lisburn	195,743.00	195,987.00	117,189.63	13,020.18	241,379.47	763,319.28

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
St Joseph's PS Lisburn Meals	9,520.85	0.00	7,631.00	0.00	0.00	17,151.85
St Joseph's PS, Carryduff	33,479.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,479.28
St Joseph's PS, Crossgar	1,528.00	24,868.00	0.00	0.00	249.00	26,645.00
St Joseph's PS, Killough	58,749.00	44,004.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	102,753.00
St Kieran's NS	0.00	10,765.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,765.23
St Kieran's PS Meals	9,858.51	0.00	0.00	13,877.50	0.00	23,736.01
St Louis GS	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,433.00	0.00	3,433.00
St Luke's NS	0.00	0.00	7,389.97	0.00	0.00	7,389.97
St Luke's PS	41,373.00	0.00	240.00	70,270.80	0.00	111,883.80
St Luke's PS Meals	9,760.68	0.00	0.00	11,139.50	0.00	20,900.18
St Macartan's PS	0.00	2,180.00	0.00	0.00	2,739.22	4,919.22
St Malachy's HS	1,721.00	36,727.00	13,098.94	0.00	0.00	51,546.94
St Malachy's HS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,005.00	0.00	3,005.00
St Malachy's PS Bangor	0.00	4,006.00	0.00	223,283.45	0.00	227,289.45
St Malachy's PS Bangor Meals	0.00	0.00	28,277.53	-3,763.97	3,005.00	27,518.56
St Malachy's PS C'wellan	13,395.00	2,087.00	97,786.00	17,502.50	267,930.38	398,700.88
St Malachy's PS C'wellan Meals	9,954.31	0.00	0.00	11,105.50	5,035.00	26,094.81
St Malachy's PS, Downpatrick	0.00	7,452.00	0.00	74,147.00	0.00	81,599.00
St Malachy's PS, Newry	11,162.50	16,838.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28,000.50
St Mark's PS	4,289.02	24,497.00	16,306.00	1,446.00	0.00	46,538.02
St Mark's PS Meals	0.00	0.00	9,103.80	21,443.70	0.00	30,547.50
St Mary's HS	25,372.03	129,433.00	30,468.00	18,443.00	70,368.95	274,084.98
St Mary's HS Meals	0.00	0.00	0.00	130,428.43	2,556.59	132,985.02
St Mary's PS Kircubbin	110,956.95	0.00	105,675.00	71,734.00	3,604.33	291,970.28

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
St Mary's PS Kircubbin Meals	0.00	8,258.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,258.00
St Mary's PS N'castle (Junior)	15,379.00	67,840.18	1,790,588.00	1,328,852.00	162,888.00	3,365,547.18
St Mary's PS N'castle Meals (Junior)	3,499.59	5,000.00	230,000.00	149,000.00	1,296.00	388,795.59
St Mary's PS Portaferry	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,115.98	59,445.44	63,561.42
St Mary's PS Portaferry Meals	0.00	0.00	9,573.54	0.00	0.00	9,573.54
St Mary's PS, Ardglass	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,071.55	0.00	6,071.55
St Mary's PS, Aughlisnafin	14,144.00	3,354.60	78,104.00	0.00	0.00	95,602.60
St Mary's PS, Comber	6,209.00	48,163.00	5,764.00	1,453.52	0.00	61,589.52
St Mary's PS, Killyleagh	0.00	12,899.00	240.00	0.00	29,672.64	42,811.64
St Nicholas' PS Meals	0.00	0.00	13,895.94	3,005.00	0.00	16,900.94
St Parick's GS	288,195.10	22,427.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	310,622.10
St Patrick's HS	1,552.50	0.00	23,107.00	17,739.80	208,179.72	250,579.02
St Patrick's HS Meals	0.00	0.00	6,428.00	6,445.88	0.00	12,873.88
St Patrick's PS H'wood	184,000.00	63,415.00	23,760.00	0.00	249.00	271,424.00
St Patrick's PS H'wood Meals	0.00	0.00	50,739.52	600.30	0.00	51,339.82
St Patrick's PS, C'wellan	0.00	0.00	9,247.00	2,100.00	1,871.00	13,218.00
St Patrick's PS , Downpatrick	75,109.00	30,222.00	18,657.00	2,676.00	0.00	126,664.00
St Patrick's PS Saul	15,732.00	57,894.00	246.00	25,472.52	0.00	99,344.52
St Patrick's PS Saul Meals	228.45	0.00	0.00	9,137.20	0.00	9,365.65
St Patrick's PS, Portaferry	62,118.99	10,969.30	670.00	95,804.26	86,555.78	256,118.33
St Pat's PS P'aferry Meals	0.00	0.00	9,868.38	2,527.21	0.00	12,395.59

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
St Pat's PS B'nahinch	24,798.17	143,283.00	90,832.14	48,400.81	18,423.30	325,737.42
St Pat's PS B'nahinch Meals	0.00	0.00	9,139.31	-348.31	0.00	8,791.00
St Therese NS	0.00	623.00	444.36	0.00	0.00	1,067.36
Strangford College	85,200.00	29,079.00	2,444.00	0.00	0.00	116,723.00
Sullivan Upper	836,816.26	144,030.89	38,016.36	670,668.78	165,282.23	1,854,814.52
The High School B'nahinch	154,942.19	56,531.13	-9,326.33	59,031.93	115,119.36	376,298.28
Tonagh PS	6,165.45	86,236.62	77,555.17	60,279.10	89,955.19	320,191.53
Tor Bank Spec School	11,401.42	758.63	8,258.05	12,786.14	0.00	33,204.24
Towerview PS	602,000.00	95,610.00	49,999.53	-39,178.53	6,923.77	715,354.77
Trinity NS	13,876.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,598.81	21,475.61
Tullycarnet PS	15,662.15	0.00	8,404.00	0.00	67,532.68	91,598.83
Tyrella PS	403.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	403.24
Victoria PS Ballyhalbert	4,101.39	0.00	0.00	6,635.23	1,622.13	12,358.75
Victoria PS Newtownards	1,700.00	0.00	10,801.00	20,150.94	1,286.59	33,938.53
Wallace HS	158,730.85	90,865.51	56,607.32	137,236.23	108,925.50	552,365.41
Westwinds PS	85,391.62	0.00	9,435.79	0.00	58.70	94,886.11
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>24,367,860.45</b>	<b>14,300,923.99</b>	<b>25,940,753.77</b>	<b>23,610,869.12</b>	<b>14,796,757.61</b>	<b>103,017,164.94</b>

\* The SEELB has provided expenditure information in relation to the controlled sector and schools meals accommodation in the maintained sector.

\*\* Information relating to capital expenditure in the voluntary sector has been obtained from Departmental records.

\*\*\* In cases where there are minus figures these relate to accrual adjustments.

## Maintenance and Repairs of Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent on maintenance and repairs in each school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34475/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The following table details expenditure on maintenance and repairs in Controlled, Voluntary Maintained and Irish Medium Schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area in each of the last five financial years:

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Bangor NS	16,160.39	455.53	6,135.63	-3,844.64	4,590.01	23,496.92
Barbour NS	10,509.31	15,483.89	3,003.95	12,612.74	6,911.74	48,521.63

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Castlereagh NS	32,344.54	20,540.04	-13,828.55	40,598.66	6,459.05	86,113.74
Downpatrick NS	18,934.16	5,831.67	3,957.81	4,333.05	8,346.07	41,402.76
Glenbrook Road NS	8,794.72	10,639.27	1,771.47	31,461.20	6,939.25	59,605.91
Hollywood NS	5,353.63	3,166.88	3,602.21	620.81	29,389.12	42,132.65
Knockbreda NS	5,827.42	15,719.49	8,056.65	3,314.32	6,653.11	39,570.99
Newtownards NS	7,333.39	14,888.74	928.63	1,644.55	1,313.31	26,108.62
Pond Park NS	2,188.73	12,837.34	2,607.65	9,162.25	14,836.50	41,632.47
Trinity NS	8,435.89	19,656.55	21,844.33	24,049.50	20,091.42	94,077.69
King's Road NS	23,028.16	-1,845.69	3,149.71	65,615.01	-1,583.17	88,364.02
Convent Of Mercy NS	15,258.40	13,708.94	10,927.42	1,515.74	18,172.29	59,582.79
Good Shepherd NS	2,559.79	2,606.27	26,425.39	1,854.65	4,376.72	37,822.82
Holy Trinity NS	14,826.10	7,700.97	5,426.02	19,549.31	6,651.38	54,153.78
St Colmcille's NS	14,251.05	11,667.90	4,735.86	851.36	3,594.07	35,100.24
St Kieran's NS	37,113.92	3,926.33	1,685.27	1,118.75	2,431.49	46,275.76
St Luke's NS	25,500.29	3,960.47	7,723.94	-271.81	2,322.31	39,235.20
St Therese's NS	3,429.64	2,079.47	2,140.59	12,492.55	21,108.00	41,250.25
Kircubbin Community NS	1,133.67	5,407.16	-11.75	46.44	2,062.18	8,637.70
Abbey PS	28,944.05	27,319.40	49,540.50	11,094.65	23,539.74	140,438.34
Academy PS	9,169.31	48,973.53	20,142.46	177,651.32	23,784.96	279,721.58
Alexander Dickson PS	22,779.60	13,314.55	9,197.35	11,385.12	12,614.07	69,290.69
Anahilt PS	5,146.69	17,925.75	22,652.44	16,491.11	6,529.41	68,745.40
Andrews Memorial PS	27,565.47	104,771.70	24,797.80	69,003.08	66,900.27	293,038.32
Ballycarrickmaddy PS	27,430.66	18,921.77	7,330.36	3,943.27	7,180.87	64,806.93
Ballycloughan PS	12,736.68	3,701.65	1,478.73	319.92	146.26	18,383.24
Ballyholme PS	12,553.49	17,250.49	21,422.19	15,515.99	29,782.74	96,524.90
Ballykeigle PS	19,925.07	3,427.91	8,348.34	7,742.60	270.00	39,713.92
Ballymacash PS	25,670.17	28,363.07	8,668.30	57,509.44	137,698.59	257,909.57
Ballymagee PS	29,643.64	46,196.48	21,559.77	9,767.88	10,726.76	117,894.53
Ballynahinch PS	68,446.92	-914.20	23,501.25	36,851.57	8,679.03	136,564.57
Ballyvester PS	14,549.37	8,927.55	8,165.31	6,765.64	6,686.67	45,094.54

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ballywalter PS	14,613.14	32,279.42	13,155.29	106,144.54	-19,181.94	147,010.45
Belvoir Park PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	90,914.70	32,341.01	12,039.63	64,579.47	27,824.55	227,699.36
Bloomfield Road PS	79,231.92	35,872.60	5,146.81	32,219.18	5,931.48	158,401.99
Braniel PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	98,945.13	8,497.76	7,905.74	200,462.97	29,250.90	345,062.50
Brooklands PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	35,740.90	19,984.47	11,548.69	22,608.59	38,076.89	127,959.54
Brownlee PS	14,921.04	33,444.37	32,493.27	51,735.87	77,237.03	209,831.58
Cairnshill PS	62,380.57	23,809.00	8,136.78	4,082.49	136,677.68	235,086.52
Carr PS	6,731.38	8,003.60	17,029.28	13,586.82	10,136.38	55,487.46
Carrickmannon PS	10,364.91	9,295.48	9,970.17	7,052.01	7,257.34	43,939.91
Carrowdore PS	21,030.52	8,217.71	43,289.29	24,864.94	19,944.60	117,347.06
Carryduff PS	75,642.11	57,557.37	7,873.56	75,830.68	58,397.86	275,301.58
Castle Gardens PS	90,323.60	34,302.18	23,185.59	7,577.40	21,383.41	176,772.18
Castlewellan PS	22,244.66	15,777.06	17,411.82	9,093.05	20,881.19	85,407.78
Charley Memorial PS	264.91	586.26	-28.14	0.00	74.98	898.01
Clandeboyne PS	24,399.55	40,964.24	37,428.85	5,744.72	17,597.10	126,134.46
Comber PS	66,959.41	43,831.17	12,064.27	63,113.22	7,388.38	193,356.45
Conlig PS	72.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	72.00
Crawfordsburn PS	45,381.13	10,340.98	4,511.78	45,073.96	19,848.17	125,156.02
Cregagh PS	9,566.34	17,224.23	6,121.82	10,985.79	8,847.86	52,746.04
Crossgar PS	13,851.97	463.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,315.91
Derriaghy PS	33,387.22	31,424.34	668.00	0.00	1,575.00	67,054.56
Derryboy PS	8,112.58	12,287.76	6,242.21	13,374.04	13,447.55	53,464.14
Donaghadee PS	32,344.34	59,294.44	23,041.05	34,686.98	123,953.10	273,319.91
Downpatrick PS	11,603.41	46,070.45	10,777.35	21,459.11	64,317.68	154,228.00
CLOSED Downshire PS Dundrum	488.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	1,088.44
Dromara PS	25,658.25	23,787.09	21,208.71	18,403.81	6,473.77	95,531.63
CLOSED Drumbo PS	820.59	143.25	545.68	1,642.50	0.00	3,152.02
Dundonald PS	21,983.61	26,864.60	22,242.55	22,350.36	36,675.53	130,116.65
Dunmurry PS	21,344.43	14,832.66	63,488.06	5,568.17	16,853.01	122,086.33

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fort Hill PS	31,850.51	36,250.09	10,322.02	11,244.95	14,188.37	103,855.94
Gilnahirk PS	56,355.50	-3,628.16	15,036.84	29,203.17	24,172.50	121,139.85
Grange Park PS	11,506.42	8,185.56	29,131.99	101,895.29	118,353.95	269,073.21
Greyabbey PS	18,442.13	12,141.00	9,905.40	6,692.80	22,807.27	69,988.60
Harmony Hill PS	58,379.83	54,303.66	21,087.33	71,986.64	64,137.56	269,895.02
CLOSED Hillhall PS	205.78	2,138.25	-220.17	0.00	0.00	2,123.86
Hollywood PS	12,512.23	11,035.60	5,373.18	92,293.09	16,616.12	137,830.22
Kilcooley PS	79,169.21	72,659.07	73,895.06	25,735.74	35,351.68	286,810.76
Killinchy PS	32,463.56	34,462.58	9,729.94	18,450.15	61,611.17	156,717.40
Killowen PS	22,798.98	28,631.50	60,996.71	104,429.09	30,804.01	247,660.29
Killyleagh PS	10,922.80	9,258.88	10,394.16	11,828.10	8,564.72	50,968.66
Kilmaine PS	17,405.27	12,135.41	18,923.31	7,432.51	26,024.31	81,920.81
Kirkistown PS	15,847.12	6,285.10	11,386.43	31,396.63	6,319.35	71,234.63
Knockbreda PS	30,073.52	74,284.59	4,433.39	3,125.50	12,466.57	124,383.57
Knockmore PS	45,253.68	17,084.79	7,410.11	1,810.78	42,767.11	114,326.47
CLOSED Lambeg PS	13,052.63	3,988.62	1,751.84	244.87	0.00	19,037.96
Largymore PS	15,941.26	22,672.03	10,459.20	20,400.04	34,114.69	103,587.22
Leadhill PS	21,336.58	45,310.35	-5,864.36	17,784.24	29,359.17	107,925.98
CLOSED Legacurry PS	0.00	56,271.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,271.60
Lisburn Central PS (Inc Nursery Wing)	18,878.18	60,334.54	52,859.65	8,142.72	26,429.19	166,644.28
Lisnasharragh PS	158,383.98	47,562.30	62,696.78	120,976.14	14,429.63	404,048.83
Londonderry PS	27,317.19	51,992.78	40,760.33	142,691.30	8,503.98	271,265.58
Loughries PS	5,728.60	33,735.60	-5,903.48	15,894.29	15,861.92	65,316.93
Lower Ballinderry PS	7,524.28	5,971.30	8,206.50	7,028.99	12,445.28	41,176.35
Maghaberry PS	14,968.67	19,218.57	3,235.58	5,340.40	22,460.81	65,224.03
McKinney PS Dundrod	25,667.11	22,027.25	15,587.13	48,336.14	7,994.83	119,612.46
Millisle PS	22,901.39	14,386.87	8,238.32	21,292.94	19,003.73	85,823.25
Moirá PS	32,861.82	27,287.28	10,561.21	37,639.51	35,676.44	144,026.26
Moneyrea PS	17,440.47	11,255.99	10,491.96	12,638.81	13,137.32	64,964.55
Newcastle PS	51,356.80	51,458.76	36,711.82	21,189.97	19,052.67	179,770.02
N'ards Model PS	12,733.76	31,164.87	26,620.02	9,131.91	40,288.26	119,938.82

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
CLOSED Newtownbreda PS	2,686.54	2,728.79	3,527.63	77.60	102.51	9,123.07
Old Warren PS	56,022.91	13,795.83	4,794.40	58,523.31	-24,022.45	109,114.00
Pond Park PS	5,917.61	4,893.73	8,525.14	13,739.82	18,343.12	51,419.42
Portavogie PS	15,151.20	24,351.11	18,554.36	42,912.45	26,782.85	127,751.97
Rathmore PS	12,313.37	40,741.53	37,180.87	115,161.64	48,460.64	253,858.05
Redburn PS	848.10	13,460.10	762.35	5,826.42	0.00	20,896.97
Seymour Hill PS	10,053.30	25,408.94	7,990.36	29,419.53	65,483.91	138,356.04
Spa PS	16,442.71	12,955.78	16,448.80	26,586.61	31,050.67	103,484.57
Tonagh PS	15,218.82	9,574.43	52,417.23	8,287.33	31,090.28	116,588.09
Towerview PS	240.48	3,369.69	8,002.53	3,936.10	20,143.70	35,692.50
Tullycarnet PS	12,539.56	8,880.57	32,477.01	3,914.87	17,180.17	74,992.18
Tyrella PS	1,844.85	11,199.32	-7,470.47	1,537.73	25,213.98	32,325.41
Victoria PS Ballyhalbert	2,180.75	2,305.66	2,348.66	3,309.23	3,162.01	13,306.31
Victoria PS N'ards	10,924.75	39,295.98	8,897.58	16,954.28	12,697.90	88,770.49
Westwinds PS	16,842.63	44,666.28	9,842.97	2,507.59	84,978.92	158,838.39
Downshire PS Hillsborough	16,627.55	25,928.70	21,188.00	12,440.59	29,337.37	105,522.21
Cumran PS	17,623.69	24,367.50	9,431.42	9,941.36	15,145.60	76,509.57
Riverdale PS	16,816.93	5,938.62	14,829.86	7,330.98	16,028.24	60,944.63
Meadowbridge PS	13,581.92	5,276.26	3,970.35	4,944.99	22,789.11	50,562.63
Glasswater Primary School	1,655.49	12,068.00	20,053.52	10,597.79	30,631.17	75,005.97
St Mary's PS Aughlisnafin	6,134.91	6,320.97	3,284.89	3,945.71	15,901.76	35,588.24
Ballymacricket PS	4,607.36	-1,405.90	10,975.65	6,687.79	5,617.91	26,482.81
Ballymacward PS	12,259.97	4,257.14	4,279.78	9,059.48	19,051.36	48,907.73
Christ the Redeemer	34,954.03	17,978.89	19,012.35	27,863.22	30,300.95	130,109.44
Convent Of Mercy PS	13,628.51	36,007.69	-2,849.52	-3,895.14	0.00	42,891.54
St Caolan's PS	5,553.98	5,040.80	1,334.02	3,289.43	17,349.93	32,568.16
CLOSED Drumaghliis PS	349.29	636.91	454.56	-57.14	0.00	1,383.62
Christ the King PS	12,959.32	21,609.41	6,591.81	6,799.77	9,436.56	57,396.87
St Francis' PS	13,329.98	7,587.24	7,466.64	3,697.95	24,395.78	56,477.59

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Good Shepherd PS	42,088.10	14,529.82	5,825.91	123,123.82	7,890.23	193,457.88
Holy Family PS	10,232.32	20,963.69	22,186.23	17,807.57	14,925.94	86,115.75
Legamaddy PS	47,629.26	18,834.94	33,496.93	27,537.05	11,360.02	138,858.20
Sacred Heart PS	10,924.93	24,334.66	21,107.80	14,052.91	17,781.23	88,201.53
Scoil Na Fuisseoige	86.64	17,451.20	3,983.45	551.86	4,831.83	26,904.98
St Aloysius PS	30,919.22	22,935.76	35,451.21	141,976.40	151,999.96	383,282.55
St Anne's Convent PS	5,172.29	19,860.23	2,133.55	573.53	6,779.65	34,519.25
St Bernard's PS	148,768.77	31,866.99	25,947.73	77,780.03	107,439.59	391,803.11
St Brigid's PS	37,259.68	24,084.36	18,739.41	31,958.95	70,389.35	182,431.75
St Colman's PS Lisburn	902.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,014.55	1,916.55
CLOSED St Colman's PS Moira	377.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	377.28
St Colmcille's PS -D'patrick	42,465.57	109,447.10	31,800.90	3,438.07	25,564.46	212,716.10
St Comgall's PS - Bangor	33,130.12	12,086.32	10,938.05	8,834.53	14,059.35	79,048.37
St Finian's PS	67,063.23	35,134.36	7,933.10	4,045.86	103,122.07	217,298.62
St Joseph's PS Ballycruttle	37,189.20	5,769.46	1,319.44	6,013.02	6,967.40	57,258.52
St Joseph's PS Carnacaville	49,901.17	27,941.73	9,301.61	25,791.56	9,585.27	122,521.34
St Joseph's PS Carryduff	15,906.96	3,216.49	644.98	635.03	2,461.87	22,865.33
St Joseph's PS Crossgar	6,208.61	5,400.29	2,520.90	9,550.79	4,861.89	28,542.48
St Joseph's PS Killough	47,651.79	35,598.62	402.85	21,363.66	15,231.77	120,248.69
St Joseph's PS Lisburn	41,263.03	45,814.46	33,285.36	16,022.89	66,762.25	203,147.99
St Joseph's PS Strangford	38,216.95	1,790.26	960.77	984.24	12,238.58	54,190.80
St Joseph's PS Tyrella	13,928.77	38,682.14	3,724.64	13,573.24	10,366.54	80,275.33
St Kieran's PS	70,853.10	61,938.32	13,651.28	69,521.03	25,446.22	241,409.95
St Luke's PS	115,764.19	-11,237.85	27,855.21	102,555.80	-1,141.28	233,796.07
St Macartan's PS	7,080.37	25,855.60	7,697.51	17,579.22	23,065.08	81,277.78

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
St Malachy's PS Bangor	617.67	38,176.77	14,308.47	27,011.91	61,511.21	141,626.03
St Malachy's PS C'wellan	132,714.93	31,881.59	14,792.69	26,516.71	58,324.88	264,230.80
St Malachy's PS Kilclief	7,299.71	-1,795.45	1,264.73	1,254.19	6,964.48	14,987.66
St Malachy's PS Kilcoo	25,735.20	11,258.18	13,577.94	301.67	22,442.46	73,315.45
St Mark's PS	58,732.94	16,315.51	126,036.62	10,688.22	26,494.96	238,268.25
St Mary's PS Ardglass	37,200.24	11,689.49	5,741.93	8,105.10	8,413.77	71,150.53
St Mary's PS Ballygowan	876.30	18,413.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,289.54
St Mary's PS Comber	16,019.24	4,318.10	1,429.47	2,444.09	4,939.16	29,150.06
St Mary's PS Killyleagh	57,291.01	-2,074.45	42,289.33	93,104.04	11,395.35	202,005.28
St Mary's PS Kircubbin	49,479.80	37,819.66	21,617.26	3,697.31	59,735.02	172,349.05
St Mary's PS Portaferry	80,968.36	33,083.50	116,699.68	26,421.66	19,493.40	276,666.60
St Mary's PS Saintfield	11,028.25	11,159.54	9,752.28	4,449.78	9,387.34	45,777.19
St Nicholas' PS	44,000.34	91,630.66	45,278.43	177,522.11	-20,672.51	337,759.03
St Pat's Boys' PS D'patrick	28,584.11	33,023.06	-19,908.13	0.00	0.00	41,699.04
St Patrick's PS B'nahinch	66,693.61	45,063.87	101,206.92	24,051.02	58,642.44	295,657.86
St Patrick's PS C'wellan	7,435.69	5,350.31	2,470.19	1,172.20	9,543.13	25,971.52
St Patrick's PS Holywood	49,622.48	13,748.03	4,799.79	10,582.90	36,346.74	115,099.94
St Patrick's PS Portaferry	27,790.04	4,486.57	8,203.09	1,102.68	21,024.64	62,607.02
St Patrick's PS Saul	5,125.44	5,156.69	4,884.09	1,733.90	11,462.06	28,362.18
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS (inc Nursery Unit)	5,082.15	9,075.00	5,006.84	12,283.23	17,880.29	49,327.51
St Mary's PS Newcastle	-1,899.33	15,671.53	7,785.40	1,978.54	4,973.89	28,510.03

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	33,310.20	5,313.89	7,527.20	27,337.74	-2,334.67	71,154.36
St Ita's PS	21,667.84	15,656.60	25,933.31	22,400.87	23,313.92	108,972.54
Our Lady & St Patrick's PS	0.00	0.00	48,575.37	148,523.61	61,820.16	258,919.14
All Childrens Int PS	8,668.75	10,864.82	6,535.18	4,314.96	12,631.90	43,015.61
Annsborough Int PS	11,217.00	15,357.01	3,769.64	5,241.05	2,837.09	38,421.79
Hilden Int PS	144.21	3,330.94	2,316.02	179.92	15,515.45	21,486.54
Portaferry Int PS	22,291.07	31,741.90	1,758.28	5,711.63	17,545.05	79,047.93
Bangor Central Int PS	252,849.55	129,906.36	25,683.26	64,638.44	78,647.19	551,724.80
Kircubbin Int PS	22,818.66	36,395.19	4,485.31	3,211.74	35,903.51	102,814.41
Glencraig Int PS	77,774.43	40,466.84	14,995.43	10,472.19	22,331.78	166,040.67
Nendrum College	346.50	434.85	173.53	67.00	74.07	1,095.95
Donaghadee HS	13,615.50	940.57	0.00	1,191.55	0.00	15,747.62
Dundonald HS	42,761.33	163,933.59	111,765.99	30,969.12	23,639.87	373,069.90
Dunmurry HS	81,953.68	115,486.63	17,966.77	14,604.01	0.00	230,011.09
Glastry College	44,389.70	96,800.82	43,790.78	50,143.10	115,744.41	350,868.81
Knockbreda HS	8,718.23	47,891.05	61,116.88	43,430.89	37,405.22	198,562.27
Laurelhill Community Coll	58,347.23	54,950.81	36,645.11	40,509.78	44,926.68	235,379.61
Lisnagarvey HS	144,575.17	80,824.33	103,423.60	35,088.06	145,302.72	509,213.88
CLOSED Lisnasharragh HS	43,196.09	7,360.70	1,841.10	3,089.91	10,627.47	66,115.27
Movilla HS	84,998.88	57,531.67	97,568.96	109,702.71	60,373.88	410,176.10
Newtownbreda HS	115,666.99	99,104.04	54,020.42	42,589.26	121,834.23	433,214.94
Saintfield HS	33,593.90	59,336.39	22,406.89	19,596.49	46,897.34	181,831.01
The High School B'nahinch	17,956.07	92,010.72	47,266.92	18,189.06	129,048.90	304,471.67
Bangor Academy	2,669.97	2,813.85	-894.00	67.00	239.91	4,896.73
De La Salle	296,856.27	63,918.37	58,224.20	28,711.31	53,667.07	501,377.22
St Colman's HS	146,523.39	26,925.83	17,356.32	269,409.64	51,237.94	511,453.12
St Colmcille's HS	26,559.99	40,455.99	19,824.74	28,544.80	41,553.87	156,939.39
St Colm's HS	88,925.19	77,321.93	218,773.01	136,495.22	86,612.86	608,128.21
St Columbanus' Coll	61,070.22	37,656.03	61,084.35	86,410.65	110,455.91	356,677.16

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
St Columba's HS	105,039.63	31,231.88	21,685.55	7,837.48	83,883.88	249,678.42
St Malachy's HS	69,730.45	88,079.53	61,447.82	95,653.99	39,169.01	354,080.80
St Mary's HS	40,337.39	68,766.61	89,525.44	52,337.90	154,298.87	405,266.21
St Patrick's HS	48,913.77	49,174.93	22,877.65	25,657.12	277,794.13	424,417.60
Fort Hill Int College	199,499.95	9,191.62	34,772.37	195,060.22	267,947.40	706,471.56
Priory Int College	21,724.08	37,874.00	64,950.63	126,542.31	92,249.96	343,340.98
Down HS	261,750.75	141,272.25	95,415.92	426,472.06	181,136.81	1,106,047.79
Glenlola Collegiate	31,086.98	21,223.96	22,402.08	16,782.93	53,600.76	145,096.71
Regent House	48,206.21	46,311.56	12,915.46	34,783.36	41,868.88	184,085.47
Ardmore House Spec School	14,797.10	29,499.40	60,507.29	22,858.31	24,373.61	152,035.71
Beechlawn Spec School	104,164.98	72,980.89	27,799.36	18,948.05	53,922.98	277,816.26
Brookfield Spec School	7,651.68	8,734.52	12,388.04	26,473.74	35,174.27	90,422.25
Killard House Spec School	45,433.91	63,144.87	23,917.29	18,477.08	42,627.71	193,600.86
Longstone Spec School	29,126.93	24,944.33	46,772.04	36,163.87	22,139.00	159,146.17
Clifton Spec School	33,050.81	15,060.72	9,961.61	28,576.22	21,160.17	107,809.53
Tor Bank Spec School	111,213.75	26,714.89	19,471.90	4,011.80	0.00	161,412.34
Parkview Spec School	79,236.40	43,381.28	43,168.07	10,119.13	27,235.93	203,140.81
Knockevin Spec School	23,749.38	28,765.29	18,333.28	11,793.55	123,806.60	206,448.10
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>7,405,018.74</b>	<b>5,710,049.51</b>	<b>4,283,518.30</b>	<b>6,533,687.85</b>	<b>6,661,820.51</b>	<b>30,594,094.91</b>

\* In cases where there are minus figures these relate to accrual adjustments.

Information regarding Voluntary Grammar Schools and Grant Maintained Integrated Schools has not been included as this information is not held by the Department.

## Elective Home Education

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Education how many children in the Southern Education and Library Board area receive elective home education.

**(AQW 34486/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) has advised that, at 1st January 2014, 58 children and young people were registered with the SELB as being home educated. However, the

Department recognises there may also be other young people who are being home educated at home who are not currently registered with the SELB hence the actual figure may be higher.

### Voluntary Redundancy Requests from Teachers

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Education how his Department works to respond to requests for voluntary redundancy from teachers; and what is the timescale for dealing with such requests.

**(AQW 34618/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department does not offer a voluntary redundancy scheme for teachers, rather my Department has provided for a Cost Based Teaching Redundancy exercise to assist schools to reduce their cost base through a reduction in their full-time equivalent (FTE) staff numbers.

Guidance was issued to all Employing/Funding Authorities on 10 February 2014 advising of the process, with applications to be submitted to the Department by 16 April 2014 after the relevant Employing Authorities had completed their due diligence in respect of the applications they received.

During May 2014 my Department scrutinised the applications against the criteria; however, due to the difficult financial environment that the Executive is facing, the decision on the approval of teaching redundancy applications was delayed. On 28 May 2014 my Department advised Employing/Funding Authorities of the applications which were deemed not to meet the criteria after strict prioritisation (based on need) was applied and invited them to submit any further evidence that would support these applications. This additional information was scrutinised by my Department during June 2014 and each application placed in order of priority based on need.

I made my funding decision regarding the 167 applications for teaching redundancies on Thursday 19 June 2014, having considered the latest information available in respect of the overall funding position for both my Department and the Executive. Funding Authorities and CCMS were advised of my decision on 20 June 2014. Initially, 46 applications were approved and on Thursday 26 June a further tranche of 30 applications was subsequently approved.

As you are aware, I have bid in June Monitoring, for £10m in respect of severance.

The Executive has not yet agreed the June Monitoring paper.

### School Maintenance and Repairs

**Mr Anderson** asked the Minister of Education how much has been spent on maintenance and repairs in each school in the Southern Education and Library Board, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34620/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The following table details expenditure on maintenance and repairs in Controlled, Voluntary Maintained and Irish Medium Schools in the Southern Education and Library Board area in each of the last five financial years:

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Abercorn PS	19,754.25	9,783.82	5,672.45	14,913.50	30,147.34	80,271.36
Aghavilly PS	12,990.88	4,078.25	1,538.30	3,020.70	1,199.00	22,827.13
Anamar PS	6,240.66	12,749.41	4,606.10	9,731.95	7,985.50	41,313.62
Annaghmore PS (Portadown)	852.60	0.00	4,819.88	0.00	61.07	5,733.55
Annalong PS	32,701.67	14,479.71	9,914.14	22,620.55	14,333.90	94,049.97
Ardmore PS (Lurgan)	337.44	2,011.95	2,341.51	0.00	0.00	4,690.90

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Armagh Christian Brothers' PS	20,272.68	36,167.42	18,259.67	14,107.28	36,356.14	125,163.19
Ashgrove NS	1,899.04	5,565.55	3,455.19	1,112.59	2,099.13	14,131.50
Aughamullan PS	4,300.18	3,684.04	8,512.69	38,862.21	23,179.48	78,538.60
Augher Central PS	1,527.29	10,438.24	26,085.28	42,840.17	3,804.48	84,695.46
Aughnacloy College	55,186.13	15,801.56	59,845.63	36,693.65	206,124.80	373,651.77
Aughnacloy PS	14,176.54	12,485.83	32,886.80	87,062.90	26,618.49	173,230.56
Ballydown PS	33,195.26	10,781.38	23,943.39	22,864.16	35,418.05	126,202.24
Ballyholland PS	1,082.28	4,693.00	4,421.10	2,513.89	24,897.25	37,607.52
Ballylifford PS	2,607.43	7,848.08	4,945.06	7,732.32	103,333.49	126,466.38
Ballyoran PS	33,953.22	12,481.40	29,930.73	56,070.45	32,525.07	164,960.87
Ballytrea PS	6,269.44	8,686.96	3,945.81	5,129.16	8,282.48	32,313.85
Banbridge Academy	80,023.93	91,111.32	71,420.15	81,784.21	96,120.32	420,459.93
Banbridge HS	48,982.58	67,699.25	25,593.75	64,406.63	57,496.70	264,178.91
Banbridge NS	21,013.60	5,464.17	2,320.17	1,920.95	8,286.75	39,005.64
Benburb PS	1,437.87	1,491.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,929.02
Bessbrook PS	8,565.76	21,043.76	10,330.25	13,543.01	215,707.13	269,189.91
Birches PS	7,794.16	19,009.23	2,701.12	83,810.24	5,774.72	119,089.47
Bleary PS	9,213.27	7,494.96	16,341.85	10,059.01	14,592.66	57,701.75
Blessed Patrick O'Loughran PS	2,565.05	12,309.86	4,309.52	2,559.51	4,710.29	26,454.23
Bocombra PS	24,407.03	19,051.84	11,999.24	31,640.60	11,877.11	98,975.82
Brackenagh West PS	5,358.07	9,158.13	9,257.39	16,365.32	5,880.44	46,019.35
Bronte PS	12,813.01	21,763.09	17,249.42	5,386.42	6,829.43	64,041.37
Brownlow College	40,588.24	39,863.87	36,753.09	40,321.70	73,784.64	231,311.54
Bunscoil an luir	4,930.68	5,253.29	1,588.89	1,949.76	4,195.83	17,918.45
Bush PS	13,243.81	9,984.22	34,665.45	13,428.21	21,268.60	92,590.29
Carntall PS (Clogher)	4,877.44	14,421.92	19,205.67	7,646.83	7,928.51	54,080.37
Carrick PS (Lurgan)	33,578.52	18,307.32	21,017.12	47,001.40	52,003.08	171,907.44
Carrick PS (Warrenpoint)	4,129.14	4,873.95	3,463.87	3,381.02	3,870.95	19,718.93
Churchill PS	22,508.48	7,557.49	5,281.92	5,615.52	6,556.42	47,519.83

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Churchtown PS	3,264.58	4,867.35	3,376.96	3,454.97	7,072.99	22,036.85
Clare PS	4,162.58	9,008.16	8,617.37	11,433.38	7,750.84	40,972.33
Clay PS	5,367.20	18,845.92	4,751.74	6,933.99	15,086.64	50,985.49
Clintyclay PS	5,243.20	3,310.42	7,674.21	2,443.66	1,965.00	20,636.49
Clogher Regional PS	3,805.50	2,561.10	1,851.21	2,216.04	0.00	10,433.85
Cloghoge PS	23,828.70	19,280.94	13,502.86	13,974.26	35,387.49	105,974.25
Clonalig PS	6,856.83	8,070.62	9,299.46	16,040.15	21,638.28	61,905.34
Clontifleece PS	7,332.24	1,521.29	7,500.58	18,921.98	2,416.54	37,692.63
Clounagh Junior HS	52,374.51	42,866.57	196,215.66	110,663.97	95,803.63	497,924.34
Coagh PS	8,726.34	4,905.86	20,923.51	4,829.08	3,782.95	43,167.74
College Farm NS (Armagh)	3,808.94	3,357.73	5,083.42	3,326.61	3,961.48	19,538.18
Collone PS	1,613.20	1,645.44	1,913.65	1,661.88	1,661.88	8,496.05
Cookstown HS	99,753.59	70,779.12	146,833.73	220,214.37	116,914.47	654,495.28
Cookstown NS	4,406.40	8,558.43	3,018.35	7,609.55	5,264.56	28,857.29
Cookstown PS	37,217.34	27,529.04	56,299.26	60,898.17	41,388.63	223,332.44
Cortamlet PS	3,274.57	9,262.04	10,012.21	9,429.71	19,310.16	51,288.69
Craigavon Senior HS	34,501.63	89,464.99	38,149.10	68,924.85	132,528.02	363,568.59
Crievagh PS	3,490.09	4,206.95	8,893.54	1,788.13	3,583.91	21,962.62
Darkley PS	4,148.69	4,845.71	30,669.70	8,005.67	9,633.92	57,303.69
Derrychrin PS	11,241.96	6,081.11	5,850.94	20,941.60	3,371.64	47,487.25
Derryhale PS	7,176.70	3,755.34	8,578.98	1,871.81	23,124.11	44,506.94
Derrylatinee PS	3,085.07	10,793.53	1,795.92	1,014.22	8,401.15	25,089.89
Dickson PS (Lurgan)	21,554.75	13,414.46	23,683.32	20,566.53	15,320.36	94,539.42
Donacloney PS	12,364.24	7,703.54	13,495.00	10,201.13	25,521.31	69,285.22
Donaghey PS	17,086.35	21,248.90	3,061.42	6,648.39	4,715.98	52,761.04
Donaghmore PS (Dungannon)	10,277.63	6,141.16	14,838.81	39,798.01	7,436.74	78,492.35
Downshire NS	5,026.86	7,868.68	5,240.79	17,543.25	5,926.09	41,605.67
Dromintee PS	3,609.46	2,437.31	687.27	1,460.04	14.68	8,208.76
Dromore (New Nursery)	7,362.32	4,998.04	7,773.23	3,895.26	2,502.48	26,531.33

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Dromore Central PS	10,241.31	15,306.55	58,625.83	14,225.09	8,165.47	106,564.25
Dromore HS	61,573.50	36,350.62	39,461.84	126,925.94	86,400.06	350,711.96
Dromore Road PS	2,645.41	3,874.06	5,441.89	4,999.52	8,061.60	25,022.48
Drumadonnell PS	23,220.68	6,882.71	22,679.18	5,002.47	6,502.62	64,287.66
Drumcree College (Portadown)	55,372.98	34,712.17	48,638.67	34,249.33	40,941.30	213,914.45
Drumglass HS	0.00	590.00	0.00	362.25	570.00	1,522.25
Drumgor PS	27,358.13	37,578.19	21,920.75	55,182.00	16,119.11	158,158.18
Drumhillery PS	6,939.08	17,909.01	5,101.00	6,971.20	5,293.41	42,213.70
Drumsallen PS	14,751.43	6,702.39	25,056.74	17,793.72	5,420.74	69,725.02
Dungannon NS	3,227.43	2,146.52	2,363.79	1,272.75	3,174.70	12,185.19
Dungannon PS	26,311.23	17,738.89	18,994.81	10,293.60	15,225.38	88,563.91
Edenderry NS	6,601.73	1,731.46	2,566.85	1,432.33	1,427.52	13,759.89
Edenderry PS (Banbridge)	12,732.53	20,742.87	16,544.03	19,802.63	28,535.12	98,357.18
Edenderry PS (Portadown)	32,815.17	11,610.91	8,937.77	16,121.35	38,837.61	108,322.81
Edendork PS	11,705.63	6,096.12	8,386.04	18,761.22	4,898.77	49,847.78
Eglish PS (Dungannon)	1,585.20	2,539.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,124.69
Fair Hill PS	6,668.33	11,043.16	13,843.90	14,209.48	7,590.73	53,355.60
Fivemiletown College	48,125.37	45,671.98	45,652.51	44,725.03	86,932.80	271,107.69
Fivemiletown PS	23,858.67	22,352.58	8,711.08	14,402.27	16,612.71	85,937.31
F'miletown NS	2,219.94	3,223.94	1,577.22	2,096.87	5,610.57	14,728.54
Foley PS	20,684.82	4,784.63	10,249.56	12,462.58	62,120.18	110,301.77
Gaelscoil Aodha Rua	0.00	0.00	114.05	202.85	70.56	387.46
Gaelscoil Eoghain	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.00	5,621.08	5,743.08
Gaelscoil na mBeann	0.00	0.00	0.00	838.04	8,509.04	9,347.08
Gaelscoil Ui Neill	3,302.27	9,291.27	24,662.26	8,569.73	8,960.66	54,786.19
Gilford PS	25,405.61	11,163.98	25,152.77	21,012.49	14,013.51	96,748.36
Grange PS (Kilkeel)	2,701.14	8,426.23	10,715.77	8,284.59	5,667.09	35,794.82
Grove NS	16,977.67	11,645.90	4,268.44	4,918.88	37,397.45	75,208.34

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Hamiltonsbawn PS	6,738.22	3,002.18	1,882.54	5,533.29	41,809.37	58,965.60
Hardy Memorial PS	9,122.88	30,592.48	9,898.57	13,191.27	17,320.22	80,125.42
Harrison NS	13,949.12	6,564.75	6,103.42	9,335.98	2,812.10	38,765.37
Hart Memorial PS	25,943.88	13,599.20	50,579.97	32,369.16	102,757.09	225,249.30
Holy Cross PS (Attical)	10,162.84	8,109.52	6,816.66	17,361.96	7,790.52	50,241.50
Holy Trinity College	93,246.97	20,398.14	57,850.88	34,437.67	120,705.61	326,639.27
Holy Trinity PS (Cookstown)	23,532.10	26,706.61	49,606.46	53,728.33	42,450.22	196,023.72
Howard PS	10,937.58	11,435.20	9,809.73	12,459.57	18,437.52	63,079.60
Iveagh PS	9,102.80	26,124.45	10,756.69	19,800.95	12,876.46	78,661.35
Jonesborough PS	748.65	14,481.54	5,676.46	5,576.31	17,066.94	43,549.90
Keady PS	3,644.86	5,306.52	4,654.65	7,592.87	664.58	21,863.48
Kilbroney PS	3,765.75	7,650.72	6,268.80	24,186.28	25,652.82	67,524.37
Kilkeel HS	56,349.12	74,082.73	53,103.35	66,193.66	41,516.18	291,245.04
Kilkeel NS	10,283.02	5,283.57	5,283.64	4,151.60	4,447.60	29,449.43
Kilkeel PS	6,811.20	7,996.69	19,165.32	17,404.90	16,043.28	67,421.39
Killeen PS	40,800.43	5,741.46	4,239.14	12,911.96	31,770.56	95,463.55
Killicomaine Junior HS	57,189.17	108,383.52	19,783.47	31,245.32	201,450.61	418,052.09
Killowen PS	2,617.44	2,656.49	48,620.73	6,180.05	7,587.78	67,662.49
Killylea PS	6,952.80	5,406.53	16,497.00	13,958.68	12,236.18	55,051.19
Killyman PS	8,674.01	18,212.14	10,406.24	29,674.54	12,745.12	79,712.05
Kings' Park PS	54,215.10	27,994.59	68,350.73	44,038.37	235,972.66	430,571.45
Kingsmills PS	2,344.48	11,944.97	2,925.20	3,097.51	15,547.65	35,859.81
Laghey PS	2,900.96	5,539.61	1,400.60	6,118.32	4,225.12	20,184.61
Lisferty PS	6,285.38	8,332.43	6,732.71	19,093.57	13,312.94	53,757.03
Lismore Comprehensive School	122,165.44	161,844.92	123,778.83	144,409.60	60,713.40	612,912.19
Lisnadill PS	4,445.14	5,867.33	5,198.02	5,181.91	10,144.61	30,837.01
Lissan PS	5,225.13	8,179.15	6,305.42	15,018.41	7,307.19	42,035.30
Little Flower NS	4,203.47	3,120.60	2,893.46	1,575.71	1,061.73	12,854.97
Lurgan College	83,133.34	65,798.73	58,722.01	119,884.19	61,629.82	389,168.09
Lurgan Junior HS	66,133.06	71,224.47	56,349.01	134,395.69	127,468.65	455,570.88

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Lurgan Model PS	30,405.98	39,909.74	9,191.19	20,668.75	26,977.57	127,153.23
Maralin Village PS	6,910.55	7,663.92	5,796.25	13,172.45	14,716.80	48,259.97
Markethill HS	72,581.40	65,419.51	38,777.35	105,115.72	186,947.40	468,841.38
Markethill PS	26,063.64	27,453.63	7,304.34	7,985.35	252,697.32	321,504.28
Millington NS	15,725.83	6,495.35	9,517.58	8,663.45	17,865.24	58,267.45
Millington PS	58,370.68	17,728.89	34,500.41	134,620.15	210,394.91	455,615.04
Milltown PS	3,854.92	7,429.01	3,834.14	8,643.36	6,957.57	30,719.00
Minterburn PS	1,085.56	2,068.85	1,619.95	2,700.39	1,954.12	9,428.87
Moneydarragh PS	3,307.45	2,134.64	1,746.45	69,175.79	13,841.88	90,206.21
Moneymore PS	26,665.41	16,511.72	29,809.19	12,430.28	5,244.92	90,661.52
Mount St Catherine's PS	18,035.78	29,123.53	5,912.11	23,774.61	208,033.79	284,879.82
Mountnorris PS	6,925.65	7,254.84	5,772.01	5,208.69	9,596.56	34,757.75
Moy Regional PS	27,561.80	40,701.05	8,187.33	22,061.58	31,091.77	129,603.53
Moyallon PS	5,481.60	7,290.40	17,202.18	5,198.59	11,285.07	46,457.84
Mullaglass PS	3,264.56	14,214.13	6,514.60	8,643.21	11,540.52	44,177.02
Mullavilly PS	8,755.77	5,846.42	15,013.52	20,669.06	3,925.88	54,210.65
Newmills PS	4,338.09	9,700.84	2,337.94	5,501.01	13,787.96	35,665.84
Newry HS	20,297.62	39,692.76	180,378.54	157,766.68	135,935.82	534,071.42
Newtownhamilton HS	20,716.30	43,651.06	21,562.02	9,974.61	141,367.79	237,271.78
Newtownhamilton PS	4,395.80	6,285.03	468.17	1,274.20	1,655.24	14,078.44
North Lurgan NS	6,286.53	20,068.05	3,311.25	3,079.05	11,338.42	44,083.30
Orchard County PS	-11,631.47	7,920.18	5,875.58	32,515.53	8,307.59	42,987.41
Orritor PS	14,603.89	12,535.59	5,887.25	38,020.92	44,700.09	115,747.74
Our Lady's PS (Tullysarran)	7,192.35	4,610.06	4,409.63	6,945.21	6,561.87	29,719.12
Our Ladys/St Mochuas PS	8,772.77	23,663.13	13,550.78	4,432.20	23,572.19	73,991.07
Portadown College	84,847.12	70,445.78	87,002.94	139,397.61	108,648.42	490,341.87
Poyntzpass PS	4,102.06	11,095.68	8,078.72	19,152.52	16,144.45	58,573.43
Presentation PS (Portadown)	29,649.34	14,581.97	13,702.38	13,852.87	15,785.46	87,572.02
Primate Dixon Memorial PS	34,989.29	15,134.41	23,760.61	25,174.96	12,349.62	111,408.89

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
Queen Elizabeth II PS Pomeroy	9,093.38	2,467.33	2,701.84	2,262.56	2,542.15	19,067.26
Railway Street NS	3,802.11	3,802.48	3,150.94	4,287.05	8,420.75	23,463.33
Rathfriland HS	41,135.70	35,384.96	39,982.80	69,036.05	27,773.75	213,313.26
Richmond PS	3,074.13	3,754.77	2,388.34	3,042.88	2,018.47	14,278.59
Richmount PS	-7,002.68	4,870.75	4,179.22	31,828.40	-11,902.03	21,973.66
Roan PS	9,229.64	21,935.86	8,379.27	7,604.62	7,869.08	55,018.47
Sacred Heart PS (Rock)	10,339.65	10,151.99	6,064.40	11,732.82	15,901.30	54,190.16
Scarva PS	19,371.66	4,995.48	4,013.42	19,080.75	117,303.48	164,764.79
Seagoe PS	20,401.93	23,893.92	18,034.71	19,042.43	38,725.59	120,098.58
Seaview NS	4,374.12	5,629.75	4,218.01	6,218.95	5,345.29	25,786.12
St Anthony's PS	30,472.24	15,317.56	17,900.25	38,713.50	41,883.71	144,287.26
St Brendan's PS	24,327.97	17,625.18	13,861.92	26,997.58	38,488.29	121,300.94
St Brigid's Boys' High (Armagh)	24,883.65	17,064.42	27,522.87	33,082.11	30,335.22	132,888.27
St Brigid's PS (Augher)	3,744.83	3,790.20	9,071.00	14,176.58	18,681.29	49,463.90
St Brigid's PS (Drumilly)	5,980.86	8,588.43	11,321.90	8,868.89	14,127.52	48,887.60
St Brigid's PS (Glassdrummond)	6,018.56	5,540.18	9,403.05	52,517.66	7,818.24	81,297.69
St Brigid's PS (Mountjoy)	10,110.50	6,893.14	7,130.05	7,382.21	11,797.45	43,313.35
St Bronagh's Primary	2,091.28	3,305.22	3,295.48	1,649.83	6,188.53	16,530.34
St Catherine's Coll	121,597.71	74,142.65	110,459.98	194,760.72	93,728.95	594,690.01
St Ciaran's High (Ballygawley)	137,868.93	133,612.47	121,732.98	74,478.14	51,577.54	519,270.06
St Clare's Convent PS (Newry)	47,397.33	11,779.33	30,905.29	15,415.64	14,542.46	120,040.05
St Colman's Abbey PS (Newry)	24,582.07	10,249.97	36,853.84	12,964.23	12,845.42	97,495.53
St Colman's PS (Annaclone)	4,641.38	4,870.92	6,804.60	14,139.83	7,598.61	38,055.34
St Colman's PS (Dromore)	2,865.34	4,503.75	3,544.10	10,991.60	24,420.35	46,325.14
St Colman's PS (Kilkeel)	42,996.50	8,792.13	12,286.91	29,858.07	13,886.60	107,820.21

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
St Colman's PS (Laurencetown)	40,906.01	7,244.75	8,369.08	8,943.74	7,950.37	73,413.95
St Colman's PS (Saval)	9,695.03	6,788.24	14,450.11	5,831.77	8,008.19	44,773.34
St Colmcille's PS (Armagh)	607.70	655.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,263.68
St Columban's Coll (Kilkeel)	31,350.60	12,905.75	10,174.48	23,599.05	14,803.59	92,833.47
St Dallans PS	11,746.53	27,023.16	12,847.50	9,442.92	12,267.43	73,327.54
St Francis of Assisi (Keady)	5,454.96	9,688.31	10,516.28	31,083.05	23,437.53	80,180.13
St Francis PS (Aghaderg)	8,029.98	14,674.60	11,627.96	10,560.58	11,747.02	56,640.14
St Francis PS (Lurgan)	60,279.66	12,863.20	56,089.51	122,820.13	44,260.20	296,312.70
St James PS (Drumatee)	3,933.42	5,201.69	3,017.97	3,778.55	2,679.67	18,611.30
St Jarlath's PS	31,966.85	6,228.31	13,532.22	6,747.83	18,919.17	77,394.38
St John The Baptist NS	2,017.12	3,316.82	7,714.47	3,626.36	9,187.63	25,862.40
St John The Baptist PS	53,436.19	-4,542.77	13,116.91	18,505.69	22,281.61	102,797.63
St John's New PS (Middletown)	14,118.29	4,721.14	4,501.96	7,787.17	4,632.91	35,761.47
St Johns PS (Eglisli)	4,247.95	12,004.51	4,221.35	8,598.16	2,351.23	31,423.20
St John's PS (Gilford)	35,982.60	12,385.44	16,545.71	23,676.31	4,378.43	92,968.49
St John's PS (Glenn)	1,624.16	1,469.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,093.35
St John's PS (Kingsisland)	9,981.68	20,350.49	6,024.18	10,058.91	13,504.99	59,920.25
St John's PS (Moy)	10,329.65	8,275.74	6,363.79	6,509.11	16,111.03	47,589.32
St Josephs and St James PS Poyntzpass	7,634.69	5,351.05	6,457.11	4,511.17	5,479.70	29,433.72
St Joseph's Boys' High (Newry)	128,260.69	104,746.95	58,834.59	65,194.93	32,318.76	389,355.92
St Joseph's Convent PS (Newry)	38,656.43	36,907.76	35,410.19	18,054.71	9,531.84	138,560.93

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
St Joseph's High (C'maglen)	28,838.21	37,458.97	28,899.06	43,555.11	65,897.96	204,649.31
St Joseph's High (Coalisland)	65,499.62	65,534.62	61,464.61	64,133.70	23,134.32	279,766.87
St Joseph's PS (Ballymartin)	890.64	18,898.79	14,858.28	7,313.56	7,068.89	49,030.16
St Joseph's PS (Bessbrook)	10,043.94	11,497.97	37,090.21	13,998.82	23,026.21	95,657.15
St Joseph's PS (Caledon)	3,881.64	3,502.42	7,335.20	4,703.92	4,347.97	23,771.15
St Joseph's PS (Galbally)	18,549.05	21,216.98	12,195.28	10,770.26	32,208.06	94,939.63
St Joseph's PS (Killeenan)	5,753.81	40,899.13	22,357.51	19,590.31	11,558.13	100,158.89
St Joseph's PS (Madden)	7,621.20	5,671.02	1,590.20	4,222.32	923.68	20,028.42
St Joseph's PS (Meigh)	11,505.35	3,727.55	15,417.98	48,146.64	50,879.26	129,676.78
St Joseph's PS (Poynzpass)	7,187.34	3,044.62	-630.73	2,055.00	713.90	12,370.13
St Laurence's PS (Belleeks)	2,677.11	6,381.37	6,807.98	11,797.88	11,356.94	39,021.28
St MacCartan's Convent PS	8,581.95	14,146.35	2,527.98	2,719.41	4,685.75	32,661.44
St Malachy's NS	7,101.83	6,100.30	7,752.11	4,208.71	2,533.91	27,696.86
St Malachy's PS (Armagh)	4,834.75	10,272.69	6,656.49	5,613.53	22,580.96	49,958.42
St Malachy's PS (Ballymoyer)	2,979.36	4,964.84	14,521.58	2,284.56	3,431.54	28,181.88
St Malachy's PS (Carnagat)	22,152.53	17,536.74	8,161.63	15,222.31	58,949.38	122,022.59
St Malachy's PS (Carrickcroppan)	13,260.77	25,298.22	17,869.84	7,189.80	14,021.78	77,640.41
St Malachy's PS (Drummullan)	9,485.98	6,212.88	7,094.64	5,117.79	19,697.85	47,609.14
St Malachy's PS (Glencull)	10,757.78	9,381.97	17,201.22	2,198.47	22,984.18	62,523.62
St Mark's High (W'point)	52,792.49	94,909.27	47,034.72	44,270.86	136,947.38	375,954.72
St Mary's Boys' PS (Rostrevor)	670.63	62.07	6,388.32	1,001.92	1,086.03	9,208.97

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
St Mary's Girls' Junior HS (Lurgan)	32,058.27	17,536.62	34,293.55	43,035.96	32,003.51	158,927.91
St Mary's High (Newry)	72,660.96	101,384.45	79,742.54	58,923.25	28,073.33	340,784.53
St Mary's PS (Aughnacloy)	17,383.24	6,176.55	11,528.46	14,242.11	15,826.70	65,157.06
St Mary's PS (Ballygawley)	5,427.66	6,355.60	2,579.33	3,898.97	9,155.96	27,417.52
St Marys PS (Banbridge)	7,634.17	22,845.73	23,083.41	9,566.78	21,925.36	85,055.45
St Mary's PS (Barr)	1,631.86	16,425.10	23,323.06	3,737.20	5,886.59	51,003.81
St Mary's PS (Cabra)	21,220.26	2,015.82	2,894.12	3,810.26	14,713.24	44,653.70
St Mary's PS (Derrymore)	15,162.45	9,557.33	2,906.23	18,549.41	107,666.46	153,841.88
St Mary's PS (Derrytrasna)	5,757.51	4,874.64	6,026.68	3,658.81	11,130.39	31,448.03
St Mary's PS (Dunamore)	3,109.33	17,453.69	70,996.29	28,084.20	21,729.34	141,372.85
St Mary's PS (F'miletown)	12,798.03	8,080.49	4,266.17	5,226.00	14,888.79	45,259.48
St Mary's PS (Glassdrumman)	3,995.07	6,405.44	7,045.32	12,929.22	11,846.98	42,222.03
St Mary's PS (Granemore)	31,510.84	8,045.73	8,631.87	10,209.27	14,268.18	72,665.89
St Mary's PS (Lisbuoy)	3,093.99	7,275.16	3,917.54	2,110.90	9,194.75	25,592.34
St Mary's PS (Maghery)	5,001.72	6,480.74	4,418.97	3,270.24	3,466.13	22,637.80
St Mary's PS (Mullaghbawn)	7,878.45	13,121.47	41,070.03	66,019.75	83,156.77	211,246.47
St Mary's PS (Pomeroy)	17,334.11	18,067.18	6,820.48	7,323.74	17,407.06	66,952.57
St Mary's PS (Rathfriland)	10,016.24	18,108.73	13,236.44	6,869.57	6,460.14	54,691.12
St Mary's PS (Stewartstown)	27,200.76	11,964.17	20,020.28	12,651.21	12,853.86	84,690.28
St Marys PS Dechomet	7,611.75	8,030.09	2,195.25	2,564.70	3,546.68	23,948.47
St Matthews PS (Magheramayo)	4,459.65	7,037.42	2,104.30	3,063.34	12,882.25	29,546.96

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
St Michael's PS (Clady)	13,180.38	2,910.94	2,909.29	4,534.00	4,463.00	27,997.61
St Michael's PS (Finnis)	3,581.45	4,317.34	11,661.84	17,431.36	6,694.06	43,686.05
St Michael's PS (Newtownhamilton)	14,885.83	1,754.43	9,207.40	10,152.85	4,027.17	40,027.68
St Oliver Plunkett's PS (Ballyhegan)	12,191.03	28,829.03	57,970.81	8,482.15	74,570.32	182,043.34
St Oliver Plunkett's PS (Forkhill)	5,575.66	6,353.12	1,617.57	3,193.57	-767.42	15,972.50
St Olivers PS (Carrickrovaddy)	6,962.63	1,863.26	1,538.27	18,343.44	10,435.62	39,143.22
St Patrick's (B'bridge)	31,174.71	36,835.75	44,186.11	158,772.31	367,679.04	638,647.92
St Patrick's Coll (D'gannon)	31,763.53	35,884.61	40,072.36	43,634.38	34,300.34	185,655.22
St Patrick's High (Keady)	55,816.31	42,669.34	38,767.89	64,724.02	35,460.03	237,437.59
St Patrick's PS (Aghacommon)	16,295.53	19,543.68	18,440.60	21,093.48	13,301.64	88,674.93
St Patrick's PS (Annaghmore)	29,258.39	4,929.40	6,370.11	23,401.38	7,443.21	71,402.49
St Patrick's PS (Armagh)	38,567.89	14,182.75	25,723.40	17,062.95	28,834.10	124,371.09
St Patricks PS (Aughadarragh)	30,563.18	2,665.03	5,125.95	3,999.09	6,427.05	48,780.30
St Patrick's PS (Ballymaghery)	23,618.44	9,415.48	16,540.95	44,428.41	13,530.74	107,534.02
St Patrick's PS (Crossmaglen)	44,388.87	25,954.08	20,580.85	26,881.32	187,846.43	305,651.55
St Patrick's PS (Cullyhanna)	20,088.19	18,752.88	23,062.54	29,162.00	40,619.06	131,684.67
St Patrick's PS (Derrynaseer)	15,969.55	16,725.10	5,141.13	17,949.49	7,265.89	63,051.16
St Patrick's PS (Donaghmore)	3,036.59	5,994.51	5,713.51	6,377.83	4,660.23	25,782.67
St Patricks PS (Drumgreenagh)	6,021.22	4,060.57	9,411.69	1,537.52	6,650.28	27,681.28
St Patrick's PS (Dungannon)	59,048.50	31,217.60	36,213.60	56,539.59	68,593.46	251,612.75
St Patricks PS (Loup)	4,756.29	8,031.91	13,499.78	4,077.13	69,056.84	99,421.95

<b>School Name</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>Total</b>
St Patrick's PS (Maralin)	10,020.10	6,762.27	6,925.98	6,558.95	4,379.93	34,647.23
St Patrick's PS (Mayobridge)	4,481.61	12,675.88	36,563.95	7,800.66	9,293.42	70,815.52
St Patrick's PS (Moneymore)	24,711.46	18,940.11	24,934.46	9,870.92	12,898.04	91,354.99
St Patrick's PS (Mullinahoe)	3,147.51	8,115.38	38,789.71	3,873.54	4,283.63	58,209.77
St Patrick's PS (Newry)	18,452.15	22,016.09	56,506.89	49,868.83	12,350.41	159,194.37
St Paul's High (B'brook)	85,558.75	61,075.29	42,818.67	54,971.49	78,896.71	323,320.91
St Paul's High (Lurgan)	55,868.96	17,979.05	44,027.79	70,178.43	21,038.39	209,092.62
St Paul's PS (Cabra, R'friland)	8,269.33	4,119.28	7,007.65	6,614.28	4,780.34	30,790.88
St Peter's PS (Cloughreagh)	658.30	1,931.36	2,330.69	8,693.23	5,609.30	19,222.88
St Peters PS (Collegelands)	7,976.55	22,484.94	15,756.69	6,925.11	7,824.89	60,968.18
St Peter's PS (Moortown)	10,670.13	10,540.21	43,192.37	8,473.27	232,650.86	305,526.84
St Ronan's PS (Newry)	18,179.50	16,699.83	10,361.13	28,832.99	32,468.23	106,541.68
St Teresa's PS (Lurgan)	11,581.52	33,397.34	23,587.10	23,235.04	7,991.17	99,792.17
St Teresas PS, Tullyherron	1,710.11	4,494.16	7,232.80	30,662.80	6,708.48	50,808.35
Stewartstown PS	19,999.49	10,551.49	3,853.29	25,731.24	8,160.78	68,296.29
Tamnamore PS	672.96	89.14	175.82	0.00	0.00	937.92
Tandragee Junior HS	43,087.49	21,503.82	34,978.21	87,996.99	49,134.57	236,701.08
Tandragee NS	10,914.40	13,061.92	4,600.73	8,048.60	4,717.26	41,342.91
Tandragee PS	10,233.04	19,028.19	12,207.24	48,071.19	32,045.40	121,585.06
Tannaghmore PS	35,963.21	16,128.80	38,738.08	24,401.11	11,254.76	126,485.96
The Armstrong PS	34,502.20	16,472.25	27,399.08	31,353.20	54,868.72	164,595.45
The City Of Armagh HS	31,090.80	32,332.03	22,777.59	37,839.77	26,138.71	150,178.90
The Cope PS	7,709.80	7,378.19	19,494.32	6,594.74	195,187.07	236,364.12
The Dreincourt PS	5,291.52	3,352.62	3,826.63	3,666.87	7,363.43	23,501.07

School Name	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Tullygally PS	23,988.98	26,941.18	32,962.30	34,707.12	23,651.69	142,251.27
Tullymacarette PS	165.69	58.59	0.00	44.37	0.00	268.65
Walker Memorial PS	13,895.33	5,800.11	7,813.07	29,500.53	11,091.76	68,100.80
Waringstown PS	11,825.39	10,643.92	12,287.57	24,230.11	13,529.98	72,516.97
Windsor Hill PS	6,029.17	5,233.81	3,374.82	4,896.41	58,985.53	78,519.74
Woods PS	8,828.82	8,600.78	9,971.13	7,359.87	8,383.32	43,143.92
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>5,461,444.69</b>	<b>4,901,735.12</b>	<b>5,445,534.05</b>	<b>6,806,076.06</b>	<b>8,910,829.47</b>	<b>31,525,619.39</b>

\*In cases where there are minus figures these relate to accrual adjustments

Information regarding Voluntary Grammar Schools and Grant Maintained Integrated Schools has not been included as this information is not held by the Department.

## Illuminate

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the introduction of Illuminate for pupils and students who are unable to attend due to illness.

**(AQW 34680/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Illuminate is an online collaboration tool, incorporating video streaming, which is available to all of our schools and has been used successfully for some time. Illuminate should not be considered the only appropriate e-Learning tool that can be used to help pupils who are based at home due to illness, it is just one of a number of available e-Learning tools.

The Joint Working Party (which is comprised of representatives of the teaching unions and employing authorities) set up a working group to develop a protocol on Home to School e-Learning. This protocol is currently in draft and it is expected that it may be finally approved in the Autumn (2014).

## Irregularities in the Examinations Process

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of schools where irregularities in the examinations process are alleged to have taken place; and what action was taken in each case.

**(AQW 34709/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In the January 2014 and June 2014 examination series, the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) has dealt with 51 irregularities (instances of alleged malpractice) originating from 32 centres, including 1 centre in England. 40 of these relate to alleged candidate malpractice and 11 to alleged teacher malpractice or centre maladministration.

Each instance has been, or is currently being, investigated and managed by the CCEA Malpractice Committee in line with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) policies and procedures.

Of the 40 allegations of candidate malpractice, 24 cases have been closed and penalties were imposed in 20 of these. Details are shown in the table below.

Penalty	No. of Candidates
Written Warning	9
Loss of all marks for the Unit	10
Disqualification from the Unit	1

Only one of the cases of alleged teacher malpractice or centre maladministration has been closed, with no sanction being applied.

## Capital Funding

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education (i) to list the schools in North Down that sought capital funding for new school buildings; (ii) what each school scored in each of the criteria against which the proposals were judged; (iii) each school's total score; and (iv) the score of the lowest scoring school to receive capital funding, as announced in his statement on Tuesday 24 June 2014.

**(AQW 34710/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The South Eastern Education and Library Board, having consulted with School Authorities, forwarded the following schools for consideration as potential new build projects in North Down:

(i)

Primary Schools	Post Primary Schools
Bangor Central Integrated Primary School	Priory College
Crawfordsburn Primary School	St Columbanus College
Grange Park Primary School	Sullivan Upper School
Hollywood Primary School	
Rathmore Primary School	

(ii) and (iii) As outlined in my Statement on Tuesday 24 June each proposed project on the list was taken through the protocol process and hence was subject to a number of 'Gateway Checks' including ascertaining any sustainability or outstanding area planning issues. Any schools deemed to have unresolved 'gateway' issues were not considered further. Priory College and St Columbanus College did not pass the gateway checks.

The scores for the remaining schools are set out below:-

Name of School	Rationalisation	Operating on Split Sites	Condition of Accommodation	Suitability of Accommodation	Reliance on Temp Accommodation	% of SEN registered pupils	% of pupils eligible for FSM	School Enhancement Project	Total
Bangor Central PS	0	0	1.10	12.45	5.00	0.48	5.96	0	24.99
Crawfordsburn PS	0	0	0.77	12.23	5.88	2.70	2.21	0	23.80
Grange Park PS	0	0	4.63	12.99	1.25	0.58	2.55	0	21.99
Hollywood PS	10	0	2.79	7.17	2.86	1.45	3.35	0	27.62
Rathmore PS	0	0	6.89	3.49	1.48	0.59	2.15	0	14.60
Sullivan Upper School	0	0	0.51	16.00	1.06	0.76	0.01	-5	13.35

**NB:** Rounding of individual scores may result in some lack of correspondence in row totals.

- (iii) The score of the lowest scoring school to receive capital funding in the Primary school sector was 44.63 and in the Post Primary sector was 31.00.

### **Buddy Up Programme**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education what action his Department is taking to secure the future of the Buddy Up programme between Holycross Nursery, Boys Primary and Girls Primary Schools, Edenderry Nursery School, Glenwood Nursery School, Wheatfield Primary School and Community Relations in Schools; and how can they involve the participations in the future roll-out of the Buddy Scheme as part of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy.[R]

**(AQW 34711/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education has not contributed to the 'Buddy Up' programme supported by Community Relations in Schools (CRIS).

The Education and Library Board led Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) Enhancement scheme provides funding for cross community work in statutory nursery, primary and post-primary schools. In the absence of other sources, the schools may be able to apply under the terms of the scheme although the level of funding is limited.

The Department of Education is taking forward the commitment set out in Together Building a United Community to roll out a buddy scheme in all publicly funded nursery and primary schools.

Department of Education officials met with Community Relations in Schools (CRIS) representatives in late 2013 to discuss the CRIS programme. They have also engaged with the Education and Library Boards colleagues to discuss how a buddying scheme might be delivered across the North. Officials are developing a business case and no model to deliver the programme has been agreed.

### **School Capital Building Programme**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education, further to his Statement on the School Capital Building programme on 24 June 2014, when a new school in the controlled sector will be commenced in the East Londonderry constituency.

**(AQW 34718/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Only one school, Ballykelly Primary School, from East Derry constituency was identified as a priority for new build by its managing authority, Western Education & Library Board (WELB).

A protocol was applied to prioritise the potential major works projects announced on 24 June. The outcome of this was that Ballykelly Primary School did not achieve a high enough ranking when the protocol was applied and therefore it was not one of the schools included in the announcement.

The protocol can be viewed at:

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/protocol\\_for\\_selection\\_for\\_the\\_selection\\_of\\_major\\_capital\\_works\\_-\\_24\\_june\\_2014\\_\\_pdf\\_290kb\\_.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/protocol_for_selection_for_the_selection_of_major_capital_works_-_24_june_2014__pdf_290kb_.pdf)

### **Teacher Redundancy**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education when was it known that 93 teacher applicants had not met the criteria for redundancy approval; and why this information was not immediately conveyed to the individuals and schools affected.

**(AQW 34755/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I made my funding decision regarding the 167 applications for teaching redundancies on Thursday 19 June 2014, having considered the latest information available in respect of the overall funding position for both my Department and the Executive. Funding Authorities and CCMS were advised of my decision on 20 June 2014. Initially, 46 applications were approved and on Thursday 26 June a further tranche of 30 applications was subsequently approved.

## Solar Panels on Schools

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Education (i) what funding has been set aside for installing solar panels on schools; (ii) who controls this funding; (iii) what body decides which schools should receive solar panels; and (iv) to outline the tendering and contracting processes.

**(AQW 34764/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:**

- (i) I have agreed to invest up to £10 million to fund a range of energy efficiency measures across the schools' estate in 2014/15. The installation of solar panels is one aspect of this programme. Other energy efficiency measures which will be considered under the programme include the conversion of heating systems from oil to gas; boiler upgrades; replacement of single glazed windows with double glazing; roof insulation and the installation of energy and water monitoring systems. Under the programme £1 million has been allocated to each Education and Library Board (ELB) for works on controlled schools; with a further £1 million being made available for non-controlled schools in each Board area. The portion of the £10 million programme used for the installation of solar panels will be determined following sifting and scoping applications from the schools.
- (ii) ELBs will control the funding for controlled schools and the Department will oversee funding for non-controlled schools. A Programme Board will be established to provide strategic oversight of the programme.
- (iii) The Department, ELBs and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) are currently assessing the applications to ensure each school is viable and sustainable. The list will then be passed to the relevant ELB who will proceed with scoping each school site. This will inform the decision on whether a school will receive solar panels. ELBs will make the decision in respect of controlled schools while the Department will make the decision for non-controlled schools.
- (iv) ELBs will manage the procurement process for both the professional services to scope and design the works, and the work to procure and install the equipment. This will be through an invitation to tender process or using existing Term Service Contract, as deemed appropriate by the ELBs. These services are supplied by the ELBs to non-controlled schools under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement between the ELBs and the Department.

## Abbey Community College

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Education where the new build for Abbey Community College will be built; and for an estimated time period for this work to be completed.

**(AQW 34765/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The location of the school will be a matter for consideration in the economic appraisal that will be prepared for the capital project.

In my Statement of 24 June I said that different projects will progress at different speeds and given the likely timescales required to complete the economic appraisal, design and procurement processes, significant spend is unlikely before financial year 2016/2017. Progression of this project to construction stage is also dependent on the availability of capital budget however the school should have a valid expectation that construction will follow within a reasonable timescale.

## Industrial Action: CCEA

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education what assurances he can give that the stop-gap measures taken to mitigate against the ongoing industrial action with staff in the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) have not compromised, and will not compromise, the integrity of CCEA examination results.

**(AQW 34767/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have received assurances from CCEA that its summer series examinations will not be adversely affected by the action being taken. The industrial action does not apply to its contracted teams of expert examiners. Therefore, marking will continue as normal and grades issued as scheduled.

The action is being taken by a small group of staff who provide support to the examining teams and contingency plans are in place to ensure that the examining teams continue to receive the support they need to undertake and complete this very important work.

### **Regional Strategy Group: Elective Home Education**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to list the attendees at meetings of the Regional Strategy Group when the issue of Elective Home Education has been discussed.

**(AQW 34768/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Chairperson of the Regional Strategy Group on Special Educational Needs has confirmed that the attendees at meetings of the Group when the issue of Elective Home Education was discussed were as follows:

#### **19 November 2012**

- Acting Chief Executive – WELB (Chair)
- Assistant Senior Education Officers – NEELB, SEELB, SELB, WELB
- Principal Educational Psychologists – BELB, NEELB, SEELB, WELB
- Special Education Advisors – NEELB, SELB
- DE – Principal Officer Special Education Team, Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team, Deputy Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team
- 13 May 2013

#### **Chief Executive BELB (Chair)**

- Assistant Senior Education Officers – BELB, SEELB, SELB, WELB
- Principal Educational Psychologists – BELB, NEELB, SEELB, WELB
- Special Education Advisor – NEELB
- DE – Principal Officer Special Education Team, Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team, Deputy Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team
- Also in attendance - Principal Officer Area Planning Policy Team and two representatives from Health and Social Care.

#### **3 June 2013**

- Chief Executive BELB – (Chair)
- Assistant Senior Education Officers – BELB, NEELB, SEELB, SELB, WELB
- Principal Educational Psychologists – BELB, NEELB, SEELB, WELB
- Special Education Advisors – NEELB, SELB
- DE – Principal Officer Special Education Team, Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team, Deputy Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team
- Also in attendance – one representative from CCEA and three representatives from the Public Health Agency.

**3 March 2014**

- Chief Executive BELB – (Chair)
- Assistant Senior Education Officers – NEELB, SEELB, SELB, WELB
- Principal Educational Psychologists – BELB, NEELB, SEELB, WELB
- Special education Advisors – NEELB, SELB

**7 April 2014**

- Chief Executive BELB – (Chair)
- Assistant Senior Education Officers – BELB, NEELB, SEELB, SELB/WELB
- Principal Educational Psychologists – BELB, SEELB
- DE – Principal Officer Special Education Team, Principal Officer Special Education and Inclusion Review Team
- Education and Training Inspectorate – Managing Inspector

**Post-Primary Places**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many P7 children in each Education and Library Board area have yet to be allocated a post-primary place for September 2014.

**(AQW 34770/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have advised that at 26 June 2014, the number of P7 children in each area who have yet to be allocated a post-primary place for September 2014 are as follows:

Belfast ELB	2
Western ELB	12
North-Eastern ELB	2
South-Eastern ELB	10
Southern ELB	5

**Redundancy Offers**

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many schools will be forced into a deficit situation as a result of redundancy offers being withdrawn.

**(AQW 34771/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Since 2011, I have implemented a strategic cost reduction programme. This was required so that the Education sector could live within its very challenging budget position over the 2011-15 Budget period.

A cost reduction teacher redundancy programme was initiated by the Department in February 2014. All applications have been assessed and prioritised against strict criteria. Of the applications, 76 met the criteria and I have authorised the funding of these redundancies.

The remaining applications have not been approved as they do not meet all of the criteria.

**Irish Language Examinations**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many children attained Grade A or A\* in (i) A-level; and (ii) GCSE in the Irish language, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34775/11-15)**

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

	2010/11		2011/12		2012/13	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Year 14 pupils achieving grade A or A* in A-level Irish	167	54.4	155	56.2	142	50.2
Total year 14 pupils with entries in A-level Irish	307		276		283	
Year 12 pupils achieving grade A or A* in GCSE Irish <sup>1</sup>	713	43.1	570	39.6	622	38.5
Total year 12 pupils with entries in GCSE Irish <sup>1</sup>	1656		1441		1615	

**Source:** RM Education

1 Excludes Gaeilge

## Irish Medium Education Background

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many children from a (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary Irish medium education background are attaining Grade A or A\* at (a) GCSE; and (b) A Level, compared to the number of children from a non-Irish medium education background.

**(AQW 34776/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Based on the format of examination entry information held by the Department, it is not possible to match individual grades awarded at GCSE and A-level to those pupils educated in Irish medium primary schools or Irish medium units in post-primary schools. However, as the format of the data held does enable grades to be attributed at a post-primary school level, the table below presents the requested information for Colaiste Feirste along with all other NI post-primary schools including those with Irish medium units.

### Pupils attaining at least one grade A or A\* at GCSE or A-level, 2012/13

Number		GCSE		A-level	
		%	Number	%	Number
All Subjects	Colaiste Feirste	73	93.6	15	33.3
	All other NI post-primary schools <sup>1</sup>	11645	50.5	4859	43.3

**Source:** RM Education

1 Excludes Colaiste Feirste pupils, but includes those from Irish medium units in other schools.

## Local Produce in Schools

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Education (i) what was the annual expenditure on food in schools in each Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years; (ii) of this total expenditure, what was the expenditure on food produced in Northern Ireland; and (iii) whether this food is clearly identified as having been produced in Northern Ireland on menus and at point of service.

**(AQW 34788/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The expenditure on food costs by each Education and Library Board in the last three financial years is as follows:

	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
BELB	£2,560,688	£2,546,223	£2,922,337
NEELB	£2,765,870	£2,884,918	£3,151,003
SEELB	£2,130,000	£2,477,000	£2,714,000
SELB	£3,900,579	£4,092,721	£4,421,723
WELB	£3,475,000	£3,450,000	£3,734,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,832,137</b>	<b>£15,450,862</b>	<b>£16,943,063</b>

The Boards do not hold records which break down expenditure between food produced in the north of Ireland and food produced elsewhere.

The Boards do not identify at service points or on menus if the food is produced in the north of Ireland.

### **Redundancy Payments to Teachers**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of Education why funding is not available to provide redundancy payments to teachers.

**(AQW 34798/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have provided funding for 76 teacher redundancies which were deemed to meet all 4 criteria of the cost reduction school based teaching redundancy process.

The remaining 91 applications have not yet been funded as they are deemed not to meet all 4 criteria of the cost reduction school based teaching redundancy process. Further scrutiny is ongoing in respect of these remaining applications.

### **Glastry College: Ballyhalbert**

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Education when the boiler, roof and window replacement work will begin at Glastry College, Ballyhalbert.

**(AQW 34804/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** As Glastry College, Ballyhalbert, is a controlled secondary school, the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) is responsible for capital works at the school.

The SEELB has advised that a replacement boiler has been ordered and it is anticipated that it will be installed, tested and commissioned by 31 August 2014. Extensive roofing repair works have been designed and are currently being priced with a view to the work being completed by 31 March 2015. Replacement windows are also currently being designed however it is unlikely that the SEELB will be able to carry out the work in the 2014/15 financial year. The SEELB will revisit this project and consider it in conjunction with the competing needs of the whole controlled estate in 2015/16.

### **Ballee Community High School**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Education to detail the process for the disposal of the Ballee Community High School, following its closure in August 2014; and whether any agency has indicated an interest in utilising the site.

**(AQW 34811/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Before a decision to dispose of any school in the controlled sector is reached, the relevant Education and Library Board (ELB) will ascertain if it has further alternative educational use for the premises. Once confirmed that the ELB no longer needs the premises, it is then established if there is interest from any other educational body. If none is determined, the ELB will commence the formal disposal process, with the approval of my Department.

Disposal is in line with the guidelines in the Land and Property Services' document 'Central Advisory Unit – Disposal of Surplus Public Sector Property in NI (March 2013)'. These guidelines apply to all Government departments.

Further information regarding the disposal process for all schools and the LPS document can be found at: [http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/13-schools\\_estate\\_pg/schools-estate-disposals-and-grant-recovery.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/13-schools_estate_pg/schools-estate-disposals-and-grant-recovery.htm)

Ballee Community High School is under the management of the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB). NEELB has not yet formally declared this property surplus to requirements nor has any agency indicated an interest in utilising the site following the school closure.

### **School Reports: Access**

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Education what rights absent fathers have to access their childrens' school reports.

**(AQW 34812/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The general rights of parents to information on their child's education, including the annual pupil report, are detailed in the Education (Pupil Reporting) Regulations (NI) 2009. These Regulations outline the minimum information that the report must contain along with details on the timing and manner of provision. Individuals involved in disputes in this area may also wish to obtain legal advice on the specifics of their case.

A copy of the Regulations can be accessed at: [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/2009/nisr\\_20090231\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/2009/nisr_20090231_en_1)

### **New Capital School Builds: North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education, further to his Statement on 24 June 2014, for an update on the progress of new capital school builds in North Down.

**(AQW 34825/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** There are no new capital school builds in the North Down constituency at the present time.

### **Small Works Contracts in Schools**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the tender process for contractors for small works in schools, to explain the reasons for the variation between (i) retention percentages; and (ii) the length of time that the retained money is held back from contractors, across the different Education and Library Boards.

**(AQW 34841/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Four of the Education and Library Boards use the same figure of 5% for retention percentages for minor works. The same four ELB's release half of this retention at the completion of the work and will normally hold back the remaining 2.5% for 52 weeks.

The Belfast Education and Library Board have two main procurement processes neither of which uses retention. When negotiating its Strategic Partnership Agreement the contract did not extend to include retention. BELB also uses Term Service Short contracts which, as part of their terms, do not include retention.

### **Pupils Diagnosed with Down Syndrome**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 34251/11-15, how much was spent on children diagnosed with Down syndrome, with a statement of Special Education Needs, in each Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34846/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Education and Library Boards have advised that they are not able to provide actual spend on pupils with Down Syndrome. As I stated in my response to AQW 34251/11-15 funding is linked to individual needs with each child accessing a range of provision and special educational needs (SEN) services as identified within each child's statement of SEN. It is, therefore, not possible to attribute costs specific to each child.

### Statement of Special Educational Needs

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Education how many children with Down syndrome were in receipt of a statement of Special Educational Needs in each Education and Library Board area, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34848/11-15)**

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

Number of statemented pupils with Down syndrome by ELB, 2011/12 – 2013/14

Year	BELB	WELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	Total
2013/14	44	116	114	103	128	505
2012/13	41	108	109	97	128	483
2011/12	41	105	104	96	122	468

**Source:** NI school census

**Notes:**

- 1 Figures include funded children in voluntary and private preschool centres, nursery schools, primary (including nursery, reception and year 1-7 classes), post primary and special schools.
- 2 Figures refer to the ELB in which the school the pupil attends rather than the ELB in which the pupil is resident
- 3 Figures include pupils at stage 5 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice only.
- 4 Pupils in the figures above do not necessarily have a statement because they have Down's syndrome
- 5 Data refers to any special educational need rather than primary need

### Entitlement Framework

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Education how schools are expected to fulfil the Entitlement Framework in its final implementation stages given the proposed cuts in key stage 4 and 5 according to circular 2014/15 issued on 10 June.

**(AQW 34860/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** You will be aware that additional Entitlement Framework funding support has been provided as a contribution to the costs associated with developing an expanded curricular offer at Key Stage 4 and post 16 and that I extended this support to the end of this budget period. It has always been the intention that Entitlement Framework funding would be a transitional contribution rather than a permanent funding stream.

Schools are funded through their core delegated budget to deliver their statutory obligations, including the curriculum. Following full implementation of the Entitlement Framework I expect that the delivery of all aspects of the curriculum, including the Entitlement Framework will be mainstreamed in schools and across all Area Learning Communities. However, I will continue to explore funding in future years if it is available.

## Schools on the Lisanelly Campus

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education whether any schools on the Lisanelly campus will have ownership of their sites; and to outline the plans for ownership for the site.

**(AQW 34887/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The ownership of the Lisanelly Shared Education Campus in Omagh rests with the Department of Education. My officials will work with the relevant school managing authorities regarding any legal arrangements necessary to ensure the effective operation of the individual schools involved on the site.

## Development Proposals

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 33626/11-15, to list the (i) decisions made on development proposals in the last twenty four months; and (ii) development proposals outstanding to (a) increase; and (b) decrease places.

**(AQW 34888/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** A record of current development proposals and decisions made in the last twenty four months is available on my Departments website.

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/14-schools\\_estate\\_devprop\\_pg.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/14-schools_estate_devprop_pg.htm)

## Transformation or Closure of Schools

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has advised Education and Library Boards to carry out public consultations on development proposals for the transformation or closure of a primary or post-primary school during the months of July and August.

**(AQW 34889/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department has no direct role in the Development Proposal (DP) process prior to publication of a DP, and does not determine when Education and Library Boards carry out their public consultations on potential DPs.

The legislation underpinning the DP process, Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, outlines the statutory consultation that must be undertaken before a DP is published. The Board or person making the proposal must consult with the Board of Governors, Staff and Parents of pupils and the Board must also consult with other schools which would, in their opinion, be affected by the proposal. Following publication of a DP there is a two-month period during which comments can be sent directly to the Department.

## Teacher Exemption at Secondary Level Education

**Mr Lunn** asked the Minister of Education whether his Department or the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister plan to carry out a public consultation into changes in teacher exemption at secondary level, now that the introduction of Education and Skills Authority has been postponed for the foreseeable future.

**(AQW 34890/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** OFMDFM has responsibility for this legislation, which governs the exception.

## Pupils Diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy

**Mrs McKeivitt** asked the Minister of Education how many (i) primary; (ii) post-primary; and (iii) special educational needs school pupils have been diagnosed with muscular dystrophy.

**(AQW 35014/11-15)**

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

Number of pupils recorded with muscular dystrophy, 2013/14

School Type	Number of pupils
Primary	21
Post-primary	17
Special	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>

**Source:** NI school census

**Notes:**

- 6 Figures include funded children in primary (including nursery, reception and year 1-7 classes), post primary and special schools.
- 7 Figures include pupils at stages 1-5 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.
- 8 Data refers to any special educational need rather than primary need

## Department for Employment and Learning

### Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 33777/11-15, to detail the expenditure incurred by his Department to increase the employment opportunities for young adults with developmental disabilities in the last three years.

**(AQW 34366/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** The Department for Employment and Learning provides a range of services, programmes and support options to young adults with developmental difficulties, in order to prepare them for work, and then to directly assist them to progress towards, move into and sustain paid employment.

This provision transcends departmental services, including specialist Careers Advice, Further Education, Skills Development, as well as a number of disability employment and employability programmes.

In addition to the significant human resource and other running costs associated with the direct delivery of these services by departmental staff, the Departmental budget expenditure incurred to increase the employment prospects and opportunities for young adults with developmental disabilities in the last three years is as follows:

#### Disability Employment programmes

##### Workable (NI)

The expenditure on 16 to 24 year old clients with a learning disability or difficulty on the Workable programme:

- 2011/2012 - £49,880.00
- 2012/2013 - £49,880.00
- 2013/2014 - £49,880.00

Total expenditure on Workable during the three year period was £149,640.00

**Access to Work (AtW)**

The expenditure on 16 to 24 year old clients with a learning disability or difficulty on the Access to Work programme:

- 2011/2012 - £10,710.24
- 2012/2013 - £43,354.89
- 2013/2014 - £68,752.90

Total expenditure on AtW during the three year period was £122,818.03

**Work Connect.**

The Work Connect programme commenced in September 2012. Expenditure on 16 to 24 year old clients with a learning disability or difficulty on the Work Connect programme:

- 2012/13 - £19,733.00
- 2013/14 - £5,832.50

Total expenditure on Work Connect during the three year period was £25,565.50

**Parkanaur College, Dungannon**

Expenditure on the students attending Parkanaur residential vocational training college:

- 2011/12 - £193,584.00
- 2012/13 - £258,286.00
- 2013/14 - £327,974.00

Total expenditure on Parkanaur College during the three year period was £779, 844.00

**Further Education provision and expenditure**

The Department currently provides £4.5 million of ring-fenced funding per annum to Further Education (FE) colleges through the Additional Support Fund (ASF). This fund helps provide additional support to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD), to enable them to complete a course of study and progress to further study or employment.

The table below shows the most recent available data on the number of student enrolments with moderate to severe learning difficulties and the associated SLDD funding received by the colleges. In addition to the funding below, £2 million was allocated in each of those years through the ASF. As a result of the continued increase in the number of enrolments, the Department has increased the overall ASF allocation by £1 million per annum for 2013/14 and beyond.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Enrolments</b>	<b>£</b>
2010-11	2483	£1,981,278
2011-12	2467	£1,992,982
2012-13	3094	£2,615,832
Total	8044	£6,590,092

## Training Programmes

### Training for Success

The Training for Success (TfS) programme has four strands and provides a guaranteed training place for all eligible unemployed young people aged 16 and 17, with extended eligibility for those with a disability up to age 22.

Two strands, Skills for your Life and Skills for Work, focus on those young people who have barriers, including learning and other developmental difficulties, and the training and support offered aims to address these and to help the young people to benefit from training.

### Disability related funding for TfS

The Department's additional financial support to enable young people with a disability to participate on the TfS programme includes the following:

- A weekly training fee premium to help Suppliers provide significant additional input of resources (e.g. training time, equipment, or support) in order for the disabled participant to benefit fully from the training;
- Taxi costs to and from the Supplier's premises where it is accepted that public transport is not a suitable or viable option for a young person with a disability; and
- Contracted support for the main delivery partners of TfS, provided by a number of local disability organisations who specialise in the area of employment and training for people with learning difficulties and other disabilities.

### Expenditure

The figures below represent the amount paid in respect of those participating in Training for Success over the past three financial years, who are recorded as having a disability.

<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>
£17,462,041	£17,237,133	£14,187,102

### Additional Specialist Disability Support

<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>
£943,847	£856,059	£649,628

### Projects funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund

Over the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014 the Department has provided funding under Priority 1 of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund (ESF) Programme to 11 projects that aim to increase employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. The projects target mainly young people with learning disabilities, but may also include older people with learning disabilities among their participant groups.

Priority 1 of the ESF Programme, 2007-2013, is entitled 'Helping people into sustainable employment' and aims to assist unemployed and economically inactive people by helping them to enter, remain, and make progress in sustained employment.

The total funding allocated by the Department to these 11 projects during the three year period was £21,205,797. This amounted to 65% of the total funding received by the projects, whilst the remaining 35% would have been provided through additional public sector match funding. Effectively, the total funding received by these 11 disability projects therefore totalled £32,624,303 over the three year period up to March 2014.

## Contribution of Radio Station Blast 106

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the contribution that the community radio station Blast 106 has made to the learning experience of young people who have completed work placements with the organisation as part of their course; and the impact on these young people following Ofcom's refusal to renew the station's licence.

**(AQW 34479/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My Department provides a range of employment programmes that are available to adults of all ages.

The aim of such programmes is to assist the unemployed or economically inactive to find and sustain employment, some of which include periods of work experience. Provision of work experience placement can be within the Private, Public or Voluntary and Community Sectors. Blast 106 has provided a number of valuable placement opportunities for Steps to Work programme participants seeking experience in the media related occupational area. The organisation has also supported participants attain qualifications in film and TV production.

The Steps to Work programme recognises that skills to find employment are more readily obtained by active participation in a work setting with an employer or a voluntary organisation taking into consideration the participant's job goals and work aspirations. Whilst it is regrettable when a business can no longer offer work experience opportunities, my main concern has to be that all programme placements are of the highest quality to equip individual participants with a range of core skills and behaviours to improve their long term prospects of finding and sustaining employment.

## North Down Training Ltd

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he is aware of the concerns and reservations of parents and students regarding the proposed movement of training facilities from Dundonald to Newtownards by North Down Training Ltd.

**(AQW 34632/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** I am aware of the concerns and reservations of parents and students involved in this relocation.

North Down Training Ltd is one of the suppliers contracted to provide the Training for Success programme in this area. North Down Training Ltd has given a reassurance to my Department that it will continue to provide the best possible training experience for all programme participants.

Officials from my Department's Careers Service and Training Programmes Branch have spoken with programme participants and their parents to discuss their apprehensions about the move and will continue to do so to give guidance and help with the transition.

Disability Support arrangements for participants are also in place and will continue to be available as required.

The Training for Success Operational Guidelines are explicit about what is expected of all Suppliers in terms of programme content and support given to participants. My Department's Supplier Performance Branch monitors all contracted Training Suppliers to ensure compliance with requirements.

## Non-Academic Senior Managers

**Mr Gardiner** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many non-academic senior managers are employed in each Further Education College and Higher Education Institution.

**(AQW 34736/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** As my Department does not hold this information, officials contacted the Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges.

Please see the attached tables for the breakdown per institution.

**Higher Education Institutions**

	<b>Number of non-academic senior managers</b>
Queen's University Belfast	9
University of Ulster	3
Stranmillis University College	0
St. Mary's University College	1
Open University	5

**Further Education Colleges**

	<b>Number of non-academic senior managers</b>
Belfast Metropolitan College	4
Northern Regional College	4
North West Regional College	4
South Eastern Regional College	4
Southern Regional College	4
Southwest College	4

**Queen's University: Community Background of Teaching Staff**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for a breakdown of the community background of teaching staff in the School of English at Queen's University, Belfast.

**(AQW 34745/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** As my Department does not hold the information you have requested you may wish to contact Queen's University Belfast directly on this matter.

**Disabled Students' Allowance**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many students were in receipt of Disabled Students Allowance in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34759/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** The numbers of full time undergraduate students in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance for the last five academic years (rounded to the nearest hundred) are as follows:

- 2008/09 1,200
- 2009/10 1,200
- 2010/11 1,500
- 2011/12 1,500
- 2012/13 1,700.

**Disabled Students' Allowance**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department is taking to increase the awareness and uptake of the Disabled Students Allowance.

**(AQW 34760/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** Disabled Students' Allowances are available to students who have a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty and are attending a Higher Education course. This allowance is not means tested and is available in addition to the usual tuition fee and maintenance support.

Students and their families can access information by obtaining a copy of the booklet "Bridging the gap: a guide to Disabled Students' Allowances in higher education". It is automatically sent to a student who indicates by ticking the relevant section in their student support application form that they have a disability. The booklet and separate information on Disabled Students' Allowances can be downloaded on the NIdirect website and the student finance NI website. The booklet can also be obtained at University open nights for parents and students. In addition, the Education and Library Boards visit schools and colleges each year to promote the student financial support package.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Boosting Tourism

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide a geographic breakdown of her Department's expenditure in relation to boosting tourism, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34237/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** All of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) funding programmes operate on an open call basis.

(i) Tourism Development Scheme (TDS):

<b>District Council Area</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Antrim	£51,606.00	£1,001,341.00	£0	£1,052,947.00
Ards	£0	£38,325.00	£0	£38,325.00
Armagh	£195,922.00	£65,041.48	£0	£260,963.48
Ballymena	£0	£617,682.00	£0	£617,682.00
Ballymoney	£0	£179,730.00	£0	£179,730.00
Banbridge	£45,000.00	£0	£0	£45,000.00
Belfast	£190,000.00	£1,754,181.80	£19,563,462.62	£21,507,644.42
Coleraine	£250,000.00	£4,803,451.60	£0	£5,053,451.60
Londonderry	£222,814.75	£800,000.00	£1,435,692.00	£2,458,506.75
Down	£1,851,380.96	£290,597.54	£27,500.00	£2,169,478.50
Dungannon	£0	£118,857.00	£0	£118,857.00
Fermanagh	£0	£40,670.00	£0	£40,670.00
Larne	£0	£85,305.00	£259,935.19	£345,240.19
Limavady	£31,237.50	£0	£141,545.00	£172,782.50
Newry And Mourne	£139,813.50	£167,947.46	£253,500.00	£561,260.96
North Down	£29,477.27	£257,508.00	£0	£286,985.27
Moyle	£70,500.00	£0	£0	£70,500.00
Omagh	£0	£120,448.00	£0	£120,448.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,077,751.98</b>	<b>£10,341,085.88</b>	<b>£21,681,634.81</b>	<b>£35,100,472.67</b>

## (ii) Tourism Events Fund:

<b>District Council Area</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Antrim	£15,000.00	£0	£0	£15,000.00
Ards	£0	£0	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
Armagh	£12,000.00	£35,000.00	£35,000.00	£82,000.00
Ballymena	£0	£15,000.00	£104,500.00	£119,500.00
Belfast	£458,924.00	£340,500.00	£400,000.00	£1,199,424.00
Coleraine	£71,000.00	£150,000.00	£80,000.00	£301,000.00
Londonderry	£40,000.00	£60,000.00	£60,000.00	£160,000.00
Down	£38,000.00	£0	£45,000.00	£83,000.00
Dungannon	£0	£10,000.00	£0	£10,000.00
Fermanagh	£35,000.00	£90,000.00	£95,000.00	£220,000.00
Larne	£35,000.00	£25,000.00	£15,000.00	£75,000.00
Lisburn	£103,000.00	£207,000.00	£115,000.00	£425,000.00
Magherafelt	£35,000.00	£30,000.00	£15,000.00	£80,000.00
Moyle	£0	£25,000.00	£15,000.00	£40,000.00
Omagh	£0	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£30,000.00
Multiple	£57,000.00	£205,000.00	£55,000.00	£317,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£899,924.00</b>	<b>£1,207,500.00</b>	<b>£1,064,500.00</b>	<b>£3,171,924.00</b>

## (iii) Business Support:

Invest NI provides advice and a range of programmes and financial support to help with the establishment and development of tourism accommodation and other commercial tourism businesses.

Invest NI is currently working on the presentation of performance information at sub-regional level for 2013/14. It intends to publish the information once the figures have been fully validated. Detail on Invest NI's spend within companies operating in the Tourism Sector by Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) is provided below, therefore, for the last full three years for which information is available 2010/11 to 2012/13:

<b>Parliamentary Constituency Area</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Belfast East	41,109	92,986	39,196	173,291
Belfast North	27,306	96,308	68,031	191,646
Belfast South	73,913	26,790	47,543	148,246
East Antrim	0	6,000	0	6,000
East Londonderry	65,389	22,336	16,894	104,619

<b>Parliamentary Constituency Area</b>	<b>2010/2011</b>	<b>2011/2012</b>	<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	559,501	28,115	254,866	842,482
Foyle	14,054	34,762	48,887	97,703
Mid Ulster	5,000	4,955	31,431	41,386
N/A	4,000	0	0	4,000
Newry And Armagh	5,000	0	0	5,000
North Antrim	104,595	160,817	119,103	384,516
North Down	204	775	290	1,269
South Antrim	4,682	318	8,974	13,974
South Down	3,535	4,000	32,094	39,629
Strangford	0	0	3,730	3,730
West Tyrone	24,582	4,400	0	28,982
<b>Total</b>	<b>932,870</b>	<b>482,561</b>	<b>671,041</b>	<b>2,086,472</b>

### **Tourism Potential of Upper Bann**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the steps she has taken to boost the tourism potential of Upper Bann, including the (i) details of investment; (ii) dates of investment; (iii) recipients of investment; and (iv) amounts invested in the last three years.

**(AQW 34241/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** All of NITB's funding programmes operate on an open call basis.

(i) Tourism Development Scheme (TDS):

11 applications were submitted for the Upper Bann area over the last three financial years (April 2011 - March 2014). Of these, 6 projects failed to meet the eligibility criteria, 3 projects subsequently withdrew, 1 was approved and 1 application continues through the approval process.

<b>District Council Area</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Assistance Offered</b>	<b>Description of Assistance</b>
Banbridge	2011/12	£45,000	Signature Projects Programme (total project cost £90,000) - Support for relocation and fit-out of Banbridge TIC

(ii) Tourism Events Funding Programme:

Two applications from Upper Bann have been received in the last 3 years. Neither met the eligible criteria.

(iii) Business Support:

Invest NI provides advice and a range of programmes and financial support to help with the establishment and development of tourism accommodation and other commercial tourism businesses.

Invest NI is currently working on the presentation of performance information at sub-regional level for 2013/14, including the Upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA). It intends to publish the information once the figures have been fully validated. Detail on assistance offered in Upper Bann to companies operating within the Tourism sector is provided below, therefore, for the last full three years for which information is available 2010/11 to 2012/13:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Assistance Offered</b>	<b>Description of Assistance</b>
Kilmore Hotels Limited	2010/11	£1,000	Support to improve the company's capability.
Kilmore Hotels Limited	2011/12	£1,608	Energy efficiency review.
Kilmore Hotels Limited	2011/12	£2,621	Improving information systems.
Aventure Consulting	2012/13	£698	Encouraging trade and exports.

### **Public Procurement Contracts for Supplies, Services and Construction**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to what extent her Department has implemented the Programme for Government 2011-15 commitment that all public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction works will include social clauses; and to what level such clauses have been implemented.

**(AQW 34277/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** From 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014 DETI awarded 140 procurement contracts for supplies and services work, which included standard Health and Safety and Equality clauses. No Construction contracts were awarded.

Twenty contracts had clauses to encourage participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to widen the scope of those able to apply and ultimately create new jobs at SME level. Eighteen contracts had sustainability social clauses which included encouraging companies to dispose of waste in an ecologically friendly manner, protect the environment by managing development sustainably, promotion of renewable energy and helping local unemployed set up in business. Eleven contracts contained a requirement for the creation of work placements for 326 training weeks.

### **Renewables Obligation Certificates**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much was awarded through Renewables Obligation Certificates to individuals generating electricity from renewable sources and who were not connected to the main electricity grid, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34279/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Ofgem Renewables and CHP Register, which my Department uses to obtain data on Renewables Obligation Certificates, does not distinguish between generators connected or not connected to the electricity grid.

### **Renewables Obligation Certificates**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many individuals, who are generating renewable energy and are not connected to the main electricity grid, are currently receiving payment through Renewables Obligation Certificates.

**(AQW 34289/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I would refer the Member to the reply I gave to AQW 34279/11-15.

## InvestNI Funding

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many applicants supported by InvestNI have sought funding from (i) The Technology Strategy Board/ Small Business Research Initiative; and (ii) FP7/ Horizon 2020, in each of the last six financial years and the current financial year.

**(AQW 34330/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI's support to companies making applications to the Technology Strategy Board and EU R&D programmes is both pro-active and reactive. Invest NI classify support as "minor" or "detailed" interactions.

- **Minor Interaction** – An applicant was alerted to the opportunity, has attended an information event that Invest NI has hosted or actively participated in, was signposted to an National Contact Point (NCP) or European Commission Desk Officer, TSB Lead Technologist/Advisor or “\_connect” (TSB participant on-line support platform) or has met with an Invest NI R&D Advisor on one occasion;
- **Detailed Interaction** – Invest NI has had a further role, this could be feedback on a draft application, finding a partner or provision of funding for proposal preparation or part-funding for the project.

As tracking minor interactions is not always possible, Invest NI reports, as per its 2011-2015 Corporate Plan, on applications submitted from detailed interactions only.

	<b>FP7 applicants</b>	<b>Horizon 2020 applicants</b>	<b>TSB applicants</b>	<b>SBRI applicants</b>
2008-2009	11**	N/A	16	N/A*
2009-2010	3**	N/A	27	N/A*
2010-2011	15	N/A	21	N/A*
2011-2012	31	N/A	7	N/A*
2012-3013	37	N/A	26	12
2013-2014	4	12	38	7
2014-2015	N/A	25	4	8

N/A - Programme not operating during this period

N/A\* - Invest NI had no active role

\*\* Actual number of applicants for 2008-2010 may be higher. Difficulty reporting applicants due to; time lag (successful versus unsuccessful) of official EC statistics and lack of detail (i.e. researcher names) in reporting of universities applicants.

## NITB: Criteria for Assessing Events

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the criteria used by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board when assessing the success of large scale events such as the Giro d'Italia.

**(AQW 34360/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The evaluation of large scale events such as the Giro d'Italia is based on ascertaining if the objectives and targets outlined within the original business case were successfully delivered.

These will be different for each event, however on the whole the objectives will be around repositioning Northern Ireland on a global stage, visitor numbers and spend, satisfaction levels and return on investment.

The key objective for the Giro d'Italia was the international media profile and repositioning Northern Ireland on a global stage.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board has procured an external and independent company to evaluate and calculate the success of the Giro.

## Wind Farms

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of power is (i) currently generated; and (ii) estimated to be generated from wind farms by the end of 2015.

**(AQW 34364/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** In the 12 month period to the end of March 2014, approximately 18% of all electricity generated was from onshore wind. It is difficult to estimate how much electricity will be generated from onshore wind by the end of 2015 as it will depend on a number of factors including wind availability and future deployment of wind farms. The current Programme for Government includes a target of 20% of electricity consumed to come from renewable sources by 2015.

## Research and Development Project Definition Support

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to Research and Development Project Definition Support, to detail the number of businesses that have applied for this funding in each of the last four years; and of these (i) how many have been successful; and (iii) how much funding has been allocated, in each of the last four years.

**(AQW 34376/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Please see table below which shows the amount of businesses applying and receiving Project Definition support over the last 4 years.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
No of businesses that have applied for funding	32	57	46	54
No of businesses that were successful	32	56	43	49
Funding approved £m	0.47	1.15	0.72	1.02

## Departmental Spend on Heat, Electricity and Water

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much her Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34404/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has spent the following on heat, electricity and water in the last five financial years

Financial Year	(i) Heat (Gas/Oil)	(ii) Electricity	(iii) Water
2009/10	£51,808	£138,493	£14,091
2010/11	£52,821	£129,569	£16,833
2011/12	£53,034	£144,632	£12,729
2012/13	£63,918	£146,983	£17,571
2013/14	£63,556	£139,629	£17,428

## The Open Championship: Portrush

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the announcement that The Open Championship will be played in Portrush, what lessons have been learned to better benefit local traders within the town of Portrush, given that the bussing in and out of spectators caused in a fall in footfall within the town during previous international golf events.

**(AQW 34405/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Countries choose to host iconic global events such as The Open for the medium to longer term economic benefits such events bring, rather than any shorter term gains.

However, a key lesson from hosting the Irish Open held at Royal Portrush in 2012, is to ensure ticket holders can regain access to the event grounds, therefore enabling them to use the local facilities throughout the day if they choose to do so. The R&A, owners of The Open, have a re-entry policy for ticket holders thus this will not be an issue when the event is hosted here in a few years time.

Indeed I would encourage the local industry to work collectively with the R&A, Royal Portrush Golf Club and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) to capitalise on all the opportunities hosting this major event brings to the local area and to Northern Ireland.

## Costs of a Unit of Electricity

**Mr D McIlveen** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide a breakdown the cost of a unit of electricity in each year from 1994 to 2004.

**(AQW 34406/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department does not hold this information in the format requested. However, Power NI has provided the following details of cost (pence) per kilowatt hour for domestic customers:

■ April 1994	7.75
■ April 1995	8.25
■ April 1996	8.45
■ April 1997	9.16
■ April 1998	9.16
■ April 1999	9.00
■ April 2000	8.60
■ April 2001	9.38
■ April 2002	9.38
■ April 2003	9.38
■ April 2004	9.64

## Guest Speakers at the European Business Network Congress

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the amount paid to each of the guest speakers at the European Business Network Congress from 29 to 31 May 2013; and (ii) the amount of funding provided by InvestNI for this event.

**(AQW 34440/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest Northern Ireland received a request to sponsor the European Business Network Annual Congress from the local organisers, Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Centre (NORIBIC) in February 2013. After assessing the proposal Invest NI agreed to provide NORIBIC with £50,000 plus vat to support the Congress. The overall budget for the event was £375,000.

The aim of the 2013 Congress was to promote collaboration and partnership and use the EBN Europe-wide network of some 200+ Business Information Centres (BIC's) to encourage and facilitate better access to the next round of European funding such as Horizon 2020 (budget of €80billion) and other structural funding.

The Congress took place between 29 and 31 May. This was the first time it had been held in Northern Ireland. As the event organisers, NORIBIC were responsible for the overall programme and for securing an array of international speakers including Steve Wozniak, co – founder of Apple Computer Inc. The details of the fees paid are therefore a commercial matter between NORIBIC and their suppliers/speakers.

As one of three principal sponsors for the 2013 Congress, Invest NI had the opportunity to play a leading role in showcasing Northern Ireland as an important centre for innovation and as a source of collaborative partners for European programmes such as Horizon 2020. Invest NI had an exhibition stand and staff at the event who handled enquiries over the three days and a made a presentation in the main auditorium on its available support.

There were 669 attendees representing 34 countries at the event, of which 313 (46.7%) came from outside Northern Ireland. This attendance represented a figure of nearly three times the average attendance at previous annual Congresses.

### **Destination Fermanagh**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much has been spent on Destination Fermanagh since its introduction.

**(AQW 34464/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) has invested substantially within Destination Fermanagh in terms of capital expenditure, destination support, marketing/promotion and events estimated at £3.2million.

Since 2009, Fermanagh has featured strongly in NITB's marketing campaigns, most recently in the Spring 2014 campaign where the Fermanagh Lakelands were used to showcase Northern Ireland's Coasts and Lakes experience. This campaign featured Fermanagh on TV, Radio, Press, Outdoor media and was strongly supported through Digital and Social Media.

Fermanagh hosted the G8 Summit in June 2013 which showcased Fermanagh on a world stage as a destination to visit work and invest. NITB funded an animation, events and infrastructure enhancement programme and a media showcase event as well as a dedicated marketing campaign promoting Fermanagh as a tourism destination.

NITB hosted over hundred international tour operators in Fermanagh in April 2014 to engage in a series of over 4000 business appointments with key Northern Ireland Industry tourism operators as part of their annual Meet the Buyer marketing workshop at the Lough Erne Resort.

### **Five Signature Projects**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what further investment she plans to provide to the five Signature Projects.

**(AQW 34465/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** With the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) Signature Projects near completion, focus is now on enhancing the visitor experience, with NITB encouraging and supporting the tourism industry to collaborate together to produce quality visitor experiences that will appeal to both domestic and international visitors.

Experiential tourism will provide a great opportunity for the tourism industry throughout Northern Ireland. A number of new thematic pillars have been created, Coasts & Lakes, Unique Outdoors, Living Legends, Naturally NI and Culture & Creative Vibe.

## Destination Fermanagh

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what further investment she plans to provide to Destination Fermanagh in terms of increasing tourism to County Fermanagh.

**(AQW 34466/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) continues to support destination development and visitor experience enhancement to all the nine destinations including Fermanagh through its financial assistance schemes such as the Tourism Development Scheme (TDS), Tourism Innovation Fund (TIF) and Events Fund and its wider Industry Development programme.

Through TDS, an allocation of almost £700,000 has been made towards the Heritage Gateway Fermanagh project which aims to develop a world-class visitor centre within the historic grounds of Enniskillen Castle in Fermanagh.

NITB in partnership with Fermanagh District Council, Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism, Tourism Ireland and Waterways Ireland have provided support to the Fermanagh Cruising sector via the establishment of a forum. The initiative has included both development and marketing activities, including a new website and brochure, attendance at overseas exhibitions and a dedicated online marketing campaign in key overseas markets.

Events Funding has secured sponsorship for the 2014 Ulster Rally for £5,400 and an offer has been made to the Enniskillen International Beckett Festival for £405,000 over the next 3 years.

NITB will be supporting and facilitating the future development of visitor experiences through destination led tourism clusters. The clustering and packaging of quality visitor experiences are fundamental to encouraging the visitor to stay longer and spend more thus benefiting the local visitor economy.

## Impact of Radio Station Blast 106

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of (i) the impact that the community radio station Blast 106 has had on promoting the nighttime economy and tourist potential of Belfast; and (ii) the impact of the decision by Ofcom to refuse to grant the station renewed licence.

**(AQW 34482/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department does not conduct research into the impact that radio stations have on the night-time economy. Radio in this context does not fall within my Department's remit – this is an issue for DCAL as it relates to broadcasting and not radio for telecommunications purposes.

## North Antrim Area and Marketing to Cyclists

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how the North Antrim area will be marketed to cyclists following the success of the Giro d'Italia 2014.

**(AQW 34489/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) through a series of seasonal campaigns promotes specific experience pillars towards key segments. Through the experience pillar of the unique outdoors, cycling will be promoted through advertising campaigns as a distinct outdoor recreation and adventure playground.

From January 2013 NITB has hosted international media of 28 overseas cycling press trips with a total of 82 journalists, photographers and camera crew. These media have covered cycling in Northern Ireland, many referring specifically to the North coast in overseas publications.

In building on the success of the Giro d'Italia, NITB will continue to promote Northern Ireland as a destination for cyclists across of a range of social media and digital channels including Facebook, Twitter and You Tube.

NITB produced and promoted a film featuring Irish cycling champion Stephen Roche who spent a day cycling along the Causeway Coastal Route. A second film, featuring a rider performing stunts at various landmarks across Northern Ireland also showcased this area as a key destination for cyclists. These videos attracted over 70,000 views.

A short round-up film of the second day of the Giro d'Italia was also produced and promoted via NITB's digital channels, and showcased the race passing through North Antrim and the surrounding area.

NITB provides funding through an annual Service Level Agreement to Outdoor Recreation NI (ORNI) to help deliver on the development and marketing of outdoor activities, of which cycling is a part. Specifically there is ongoing work to the dedicated Giro D'Italia section of the CycleNI website with the intention of creating a Giro Legacy that will inspire visitor participation.

NITB has also supported ORNI to organise the Causeway Sportive Cycle event which is run on a section of the Giro route.

Tourism Ireland has been building on the success of the Giro d'Italia 'Grande Partenza' by continuing to highlight Northern Ireland, including North Antrim, as a top cycling and outdoor activities destination in its overseas promotional activity through, for example, publicity; travel trade training events; and at events linked to the Giro such as the Gran Fondo.

Tourism Ireland has also developed a dedicated cycling section on its international website, Ireland.com, which highlights our great cycling routes, all the sights to see along the way and special accommodation offers. In 2013, Ireland.com attracted over 13.5 million unique visitors from around the world.

The Giro d'Italia continues to be highlighted as part of Tourism Ireland's digital 'Northern Ireland Roadtrip' campaign in key markets. The aim of this campaign is to highlight Northern Ireland as a touring destination.

## **Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme will be launched.

**(AQW 34499/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive was launched in November 2012 with the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme commencing in May 2012.

DETI is in the process of securing final approvals, processing legislation and putting in place administrative procedures for the domestic RHI which will replace the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme. It remains my aim that the scheme will be in place this year.

In the meantime, the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme will continue to provide support for domestic customers wishing to install renewable heat systems.

## **Study of the Sandwich Sector in Northern Ireland**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 33946/11-15, in delivering this level of investment into the sector, for her assessment of how InvestNI have adhered to their 2012 study of the sandwich sector in Northern Ireland and its key recommendation of the avoidance of displacement of jobs and investment.

**(AQW 34541/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Following the commissioning of the sandwich sector study in 2012, all cases for support from clients within that sector have been subject to Invest NI's normal appraisal and approval process.

Appraisals of projects from companies within the sector are carried out with particular focus on potential displacement issues in line with the recommendations of the study.

Invest NI is content that any offers of support to the sector have been in support of business expansion and/or gaining new contracts not currently serviced by other Northern Ireland based sandwich companies in export markets or non sandwich sectors and have been consistent with the recommendations contained in the study.

### Unconventional Gas Potential of Licence Area PL1/10

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what information has been provided to her Department regarding the unconventional gas potential of licence area PL1/10 in East Antrim. (AQW 34580/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** As part of its assessment of the overall petroleum prospectivity of Licence area PL1/10, Infrastrata plc, the Licence holder, has assessed the potential for unconventional oil and gas resources in the PL1/10 Licence area.

Based on data currently available, the Company has advised my Department that there is unlikely to be any potential for unconventional shale gas or shale oil production within the PL1/10 licence area.

### Danske Bank Branch Closures

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether Danske Bank consulted with her Department prior to recent branch closures. (AQW 34591/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** Banking is a reserved matter and as such, my Department has no statutory oversight of the banking sector.

Given the challenges facing banking I, along with the Finance Minister, regularly meet all the Northern Ireland Banks. During those discussions we have raised the impacts of restructuring and the need to minimise the impact of any potential closures. However, there was no prior consultation in relation to the recent announcements of Danske Bank branch closures.

### Export Comparisons

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how exports to (i) Europe; (ii) the Americas; (iii) Asia Pacific; and (iv) India, the Middle East and Africa compare in 2012/13 to 2010/11. (AQW 34631/11-15)

**Mrs Foster:** The information you requested is outlined in the table below:

#### Manufacturing Exports to Invest NI Territories - Comparison of 2010/11 and 2012/13

Invest NI Trade Territory	2010/11 (£m)	2012/13 (£m)	Variance (£m)	% Change
Asia Pacific	560.410	616.680	56.270	10.04%
Europe and Russia	3,436.317	3,377.364	-58.953	-1.72%
India, Middle East & Africa	531.252	620.290	89.038	16.76%
The Americas	1,104.339	991.665	-112.674	-10.20%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,632.318</b>	<b>5,605.999</b>	<b>-26.319</b>	<b>-0.47%</b>

#### Notes:

- 1 Manufacturing Exports data is extracted from HMRC's Regional Trade Statistics.
- 2 Further information is available from HMRC's dedicated uktradeinfo website: <https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

## Potential Inward Investors

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of potential inward investors who visited (i) Limavady; and (ii) Coleraine in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 34648/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The inward investment visit statistics for 2013/14 are not as yet in the public domain, but in the figures for previous years are as follows:

- i Limavady Borough Council area, 2011/12 none; 2012/13 none.
- ii. Coleraine Borough Council area 2011/12 four visits; 2012/13 three visits

Invest NI promotes Northern Ireland as an attractive and viable location for inward investment opportunities to new investors, along with the parent companies of existing foreign owned investors. Northern Ireland's investment proposition is therefore promoted on the basis of a talented and loyal workforce, advanced telecoms infrastructure, high skilled business clusters, a pro-business environment, competitive operating costs and proximity to major markets.

The requirements will vary depending on the nature of the project, but a company will typically look at existing investors in the same business sector (Invest NI's key target sectors being ICT, business and professional services, financial services and renewables); universities and colleges that offer courses relating to that sector; and suitable, available property.

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

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

## Unanswered Questions

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why (i) AQW 32727/11-15; (ii) AQW 32720/11-15; (iii) AQW 32719/11-15; and (iv) AQW 32718/11-15 have not been answered.

**(AQW 34690/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** These questions have been answered during April 2014.

## Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what work Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation has completed with Higher Education Institutes to attract new businesses.

**(AQW 34691/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** As Invest NI has no financial or operational responsibility for Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation, the organisation is not aware of what work Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation may have completed with Higher Education Institutes to attract new business.

## Department of the Environment

### Planning Application Timeliness

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what is the average length of time taken by each planning division to process a planing application.

**(AQW 34261/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment):** Table 1 below outlines the average processing times in weeks for each planning area, from 2011/12 up to 31 December 2013, which is the latest published information.

**Table 1: Average<sup>1</sup> processing time (in weeks) for decided<sup>2</sup> applications from 2011/12 to the 31 December 2013<sup>3</sup>**

	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14 (up to the 31/12/2013 <sup>3</sup> )	
	Decided applications <sup>2</sup>	Average Processing time (weeks) <sup>1</sup>	Decided applications <sup>2</sup>	Average Processing time (weeks) <sup>1</sup>	Decided applications <sup>2</sup>	Average Processing time (weeks) <sup>1</sup>
Belfast <sup>4</sup>	3,383	22	3,391	20	2,322	18
Northern <sup>5</sup>	2,222	16	2,086	14	1,390	14
South Antrim <sup>6</sup>	1,853	16	1,626	13	1,160	12
Southern <sup>7</sup>	3,743	32	3,254	22	1,974	17
Strategic Planning	272	42	298	65	113	72
Western <sup>8</sup>	3,036	14	2,550	12	1,661	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,509</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13,205</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8,620</b>	<b>15</b>

**Notes:**

- 1 The median is used to determine the average processing time in order to remove the distorting effect of applications with typically short or long processing times.
- 2 Decided applications do not include withdrawn applications
- 3 Our latest published information is currently up to 31 December 2013. Q1 - Q3 information for 2013/14 is provisional
- 4 Belfast includes Belfast, North Down, Castlereagh, Ards and Lisburn Local Government Districts
- 5 Northern includes Derry, Strabane, Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle Local Government Districts
- 6 South Antrim includes Ballymena, Larne, Antrim, Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus districts
- 7 Southern includes Craigavon, Armagh, Banbridge, Newry and Mourne, and Down districts
- 8 Western includes Omagh, Fermanagh, Dungannon, Cookstown and Magherafelt districts

### Taxi Licensing Staff Locations

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment where the taxi licensing staff, who will not relocate to Coleraine, will be located.

**(AQW 34308/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** All departments have already agreed to apply restrictions on the recruitment, promotion and transfer of staff to posts in the relevant grades to allow for the maximum number of redeployment opportunities to be identified for staff affected by the centralisation of vehicle licensing services in Swansea.

These restrictions will also be used as the basis for identifying suitable redeployment opportunities for staff in the Roads Transport Licensing Division (RTLTD) who do not relocate to Coleraine.

My Department has undertaken an assessment exercise for RTLD staff to determine if there are any disability or welfare related reasons why their mobility should be restricted and will work with colleagues across departments to identify suitable posts for the redeployment of staff.

### Relocation of Taxi Licensing Jobs

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what plans exist to relocate taxi licensing jobs from Belfast to Coleraine.

**(AQW 34309/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The taxi driver and operator licensing, together with bus operator licensing, function will be transferred to Coleraine in early autumn 2014. Training for the staff in Coleraine will commence as soon as the winding-up of vehicle licensing has been completed, following the transfer of that function to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea from 21 July 2014.

The exact date for the transfer of taxi and bus licensing will depend on the progress of staff training so as to ensure a smooth transition and no disruption of services for customers.

I will ensure that all customers are kept fully informed as the process develops.

### Relocation of Taxi Licensing Functions

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what impact the relocation of taxi licensing functions from Belfast to Coleraine will have on the taxi industry.

**(AQW 34312/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) will manage the relocation of functions from Belfast to Coleraine in such a way that the current service levels are maintained, and that there will be minimal impact on the taxi industry.

Taxi driver and operator licensing, together with bus operator licensing, will be transferred to Coleraine in early autumn 2014. Training for the staff in Coleraine will commence as soon as the winding-up of vehicle licensing has been completed, following the transfer of that function to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea from 18 July 2014. The DVA will ensure that customers and licence holders are fully informed throughout the process to ensure a smooth transition and a consistency in service delivery.

### Current Planning Enforcement Cases

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of current planning enforcement cases that have been open for (i) between one and two; (ii) between two and three; (iii) between three and four; (iv) between four and five; and (v) more than five years, broken down by divisional office.

**(AQW 34331/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Table 1 below details the number of live planning enforcement cases in each divisional office, broken down by length of time in the system.

**Table 1: Live Planning Enforcement cases by Planning Division and time in system, as at the end of Quarter 4 2013/141**

	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+ yrs	Total
Belfast	274	53	20	22	22	19	410
Downpatrick	188	56	40	38	36	41	399
Northern	168	59	19	17	8	26	334
South Antrim	191	49	27	4	2	12	285

	<=1yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5+ yrs	Total
Southern	391	174	59	43	44	70	781
Strategic Planning	96	83	57	39	29	59	363
Western	196	70	22	8	13	11	283
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>2,855</b>

**Notes:**

1 The number of live cases is as of the 2nd April 2014.

**Programme for Government 2011-15**

**Mr Boylan** asked the Minister of the Environment to what extent his Department has implemented the Programme for Government 2011-15 commitment that all public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction works will include social clauses; and to what level such clauses have been implemented.

**(AQW 34341/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Department has entered into 30 contracts for supplies and services since the Programme for Government commitment took effect. All of the contracts included social clauses in respect of health and safety and equality as performance measures. A number of contracts also included opportunities for graduate trainees and long term unemployed to gain valuable employment experience in the Department. These opportunities have enabled employees to benefit from their experience by finding permanent employment with other organisations.

**Departmental Spend on Heat, Electricity and Water**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment how much his Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34343/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The table below details the cost of heat, electricity and water for the years 2009-10 to 2013-14.

YEAR	2009-10 £	2010-11 £	2011-12 £	2012-13 £	2013-14 £
Heat	378,271.76	406,907.44	418,907.02	519,150.58	522,543.93
Electricity	692,183.62	697,031.42	767,498.42	813,661.44	789,803.94
Water	57,638.00	53,494.96	67,760.21	25,886.56	50,830.84

The lower charges for water in 2012-2013 reflect a refund received that year against an earlier overcharge in 2011-12 for water at the Derry Driver and Vehicle Test Centre.

**Dereliction Funding Applications**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister of the Environment when the next successful dereliction funding applications will be announced for local councils.

**(AQW 34359/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** I made a bid in the June Monitoring Round for £1m for Dereliction Intervention Funding. If that Round provides resources for Dereliction, I will allocate them amongst councils as soon as practicable thereafter.

## Code of Conduct for Councillors

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of the Environment, given that guidelines on the new Code of Conduct for councillors have not yet been issued, why councillors have been asked to make a declaration of interest under this Code; and when guidelines will be issued.

**(AQW 34412/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The new mandatory Code came into force on 28 May following approval by resolution of the Assembly. Councillors must sign up to the new mandatory Code and provide written notification of their personal interests which will be added to a new register of interests which will be maintained by the clerk of each council.

The existing declaration of a councillor on acceptance of office, as contained in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (the 1972 Act) has been amended to take account of the new mandatory Code.

Paragraph 4 of Schedule 9 to the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (the 2014 Act) amended that declaration to provide that those councillors elected to the new 11 councils to sign an amended declaration (which includes reference to the new mandatory Code) before they could act as a councillor, at the onset of their term.

In addition, regulation 5 of the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (the 2014 Regulations) also amended the declaration to take account of the new mandatory Code as it would now apply to existing councillors. This amendment required existing councillors to sign up to the new mandatory Code before they could continue to act in the office of councillor.

The Department issued Local Government Circular 26/14 on 23 May which alerted and provided information to councils on the amended declaration as a result of the new mandatory Code.

Section 62 of the 2014 Act provides for the establishment of a register of interests, which will be maintained by the clerk of each council. Part 5 of the mandatory Code provides the rules relating to registration of interests. Councillors must register any personal interests (both financial and otherwise) which may fall within the categories of interests listed.

The mandatory Code states that councillors must register their interests by written notification to their clerk within 28 days of election or appointment to office (if that is later). This 28 day period also applies to any future change required to any existing interest or the registration of any relevant new interests that may arise.

In addition, Part 6 of the mandatory code provides information on the rules relating to the disclosure and declaration of interests. It refers to the current provisions regarding the disclosure and action to be taken in relation to any relevant pecuniary interests contained in sections 28-31 of the 1972 Act, with which most councillors are already familiar. The rules also outline the procedures for any disclosure and action required relating to private or personal non-pecuniary interests, such as those that should be registered under Part 5 of the mandatory Code. Councillors should seek the opinion of their Chief Executive should they have any doubt regarding the registration of an interest.

These rules have provided sufficient information to enable councils and their councillors to supply the necessary information. A number of councils have already provided training on the mandatory Code for their councillors and further training is planned which will include input from the Commissioner for Complaints, the Equality Commission and the Community Relations Council.

Section 54 of the 2014 Act provides that the Commissioner may issue guidance on matters relating to the conduct of councillors. The Commissioner has indicated that he will also issue information on the procedures that will apply should someone wish to make a complaint. The Commissioner's office has already created a page on their website which provides information regarding any complaints relating to the conduct of councillors. This will be developed further as the ethical standards framework settles in.

## **Councillor: Right of Appeal**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of the Environment what right of appeal a councillor has against a decision made by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Complaints.

**(AQW 34413/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Part 9 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 (2014 Act) established the new ethical standards framework for councillor in Northern Ireland.

In that Act, section 59 (Decision following report) permits a councillor who is censured, suspended or disqualified by the Commissioner to appeal that decision, provided the High Court gives leave to do so.

The grounds for such an appeal are set out in subsection (14) of section 59 of the 2014 Act and are as follows-

- that the Commissioner's decision was based on an error of law;
- that there has been procedural impropriety in the conduct of the investigation;
- that the Commissioner has acted unreasonably in the exercise of the Commissioner's discretion;
- that the Commissioner's decision was not supported by the facts found to be proved by the Commissioner; and
- that the sanction imposed was excessive.

Under section 58 (Interim reports) of the 2014 Act, the Commissioner may, if he considers it necessary in the public interest, produce an interim report on an investigation. Under section 60 (Decisions on interim reports), where the prima facie evidence is such that it appears to the Commissioner:

- that the person who is the subject of an interim report has failed to comply with the code of conduct;
- that the nature of that failure is such as to be likely to lead to disqualification; and
- that it is in the public interest to suspend or partially suspend that person immediately,

the Commissioner may give notice to the clerk of the council concerned that that person is suspended or partially suspended from being a councillor for such period and in such way as may be specified in the notice.

Section 60(9) of the 2014 Act permits a councillor, who is the subject of an interim report, to appeal the decision of the Commissioner, provided the High Court gives leave to do so. Subsection (10) of that section states that an appeal in this case can be made

- against the suspension (or partial suspension);
- against the length of the suspension (or partial suspension).

## **Planning Appeals Commission**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he plans to review the workings of the Planning Appeals Commission, in particular the decision making processes.

**(AQW 34414/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Planning Appeals Commission is an independent appellate body under the sponsorship of OFMDFM and it is not within my remit nor would it be appropriate for me to undertake a review into its workings and decision making processes.

## **Driver and Vehicle Agency Staff**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of the Environment, following his meeting with the Minister for Social Development on 17 June 2014 on civil service redeployment to assist Driver and Vehicle Agency staff

in Coleraine, what further work must be carried out to ensure that the additional temporary positions can be offered promptly.

**(AQW 34428/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** My officials are currently in discussions with DSD to ascertain the arrangements that need to be put in place to facilitate the offer of temporary work for surplus staff in Coleraine.

DSD has already visited the proposed site and arrangements are being made for the necessary telephony support. A training schedule is being devised with the intention that surplus staff, for whom other work has not yet been found, will be made available to DSD from the end of July, as soon as all winding up activities for vehicle licensing have been completed.

The surplus staff will be available until they are redeployed to other posts.

### **New Councils Gaining Borough, District or City Status**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the process by which new councils gain Borough, District or City status.

**(AQW 34434/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** All eleven new councils are currently district councils, under the provisions of section 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (the 1972 Act), as amended by section 3(1) of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The Department is currently preparing Regulations to allow the new councils to take the necessary decisions in relation to their district, borough or (if applicable), city status. The Regulations will offer councils the option of:

- a remaining a district council (which will require no action to be taken);
- b retaining the charter of an existing borough within the new council's district (the roll of honorary freemen attached to any outgoing charters will form part of the continuing charter); or
- c petitioning the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for a new borough charter (this option is already provided for by section 2 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, but the Regulations will allow the roll of honorary freemen of existing charters within the district to form part of any new charter).

These Regulations will also make provision for the continuance of the city status of the current city councils.

The Department will shortly be engaging with councils in relation to the draft Regulations and the proposed processes in relation to borough and city status.

### **Access Arrangements to Crawfordsburn Country Park**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment whether there are any plans to change the access arrangements to Crawfordsburn Country Park for the summer of 2014.

**(AQW 34437/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) manages visitor access to Crawfordsburn Country Park, and I have been advised that there are no plans at present to change the access arrangements for the summer of 2014.

Vehicular access to the Park is provided in line with the opening and closing hours detailed in Table 1. A no return one-way traffic management system allows vehicles to exit the site after closure of the access barriers. Outside of these hours, visitors can access the site via pedestrian access routes.

The opening hours of Crawfordsburn Country Park are managed by the NIEA and reviewed on an annual basis. I have been advised that there are no plans to change the opening and closing times from those detailed in Table 1.

Opening times for the 2014/15 season are consistent with other NIEA Country Park properties. Outside of these hours, visitors can still access the sites via pedestrian pathways. Only vehicular access is restricted outside of these hours to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour occurring.

### **Opening and Closing Times of Crawfordsburn Country Park**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment whether there are any plans to change the opening and closing times of Crawfordsburn Country Park during the summer of 2014.

**(AQW 34438/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) manages visitor access to Crawfordsburn Country Park, and I have been advised that there are no plans at present to change the access arrangements for the summer of 2014.

Vehicular access to the Park is provided in line with the opening and closing hours detailed in Table 1. A no return one-way traffic management system allows vehicles to exit the site after closure of the access barriers. Outside of these hours, visitors can access the site via pedestrian access routes.

The opening hours of Crawfordsburn Country Park are managed by the NIEA and reviewed on an annual basis. I have been advised that there are no plans to change the opening and closing times from those detailed in Table 1.

Opening times for the 2014/15 season are consistent with other NIEA Country Park properties. Outside of these hours, visitors can still access the sites via pedestrian pathways. Only vehicular access is restricted outside of these hours to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour occurring.

### **Listed Buildings in North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment to list the listed buildings in North Down; and to detail the spend on each of these buildings in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34472/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Information on Northern Ireland's listed buildings is held on the Northern Ireland Buildings Database, on a Council and Ward basis.

A large amount of information has been produced to answer this question; therefore it has been placed in the Assembly Library. You should note that this information on 'spend' relates solely to grant-aid provided by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Any expenditure that may have been incurred by the private owners of properties or other agencies or bodies is not recorded by the Department and has not been included.

### **Planning Application L/2011/0079/0**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on when a decision will be made on planning application L/2011/0079/0.

**(AQW 34484/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** This application remains under consideration as further information is required in relation to a number of outstanding issues. This has been requested from the applicant and it has been agreed to defer any decision until the end of August 2014 to allow the agent to submit the necessary reports.

### **Statutory Off Road Notification**

**Mr I McCrea** asked the Minister of the Environment how vehicles that have had a Statutory Off Road Notification for a number of years and subsequently sold, will be (i) taxed; and (ii) registered.

**(AQW 34504/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Indefinite Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) was introduced on 16 December 2013 which removed the requirement for customers to renew a SORN every year. A SORN declaration now

remains in force until the vehicle is taxed, sold, permanently exported or scrapped (via an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF)). This change also removed the need to send out renewal reminders for vehicles with a SORN declaration in force.

Customers who purchase a vehicle that had a previous SORN declaration in force can apply to tax and register the vehicle using a 'V10 (NI) – Vehicle Licence Application' form. This service is currently available at selected Post Office® branches, any Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) local motor tax office, or by post to Coleraine.

You will be well aware that the Department for Transport in London is introducing new arrangements for vehicle registration and licensing services in Northern Ireland. After 17 July, the DVA in Northern Ireland will no longer register or tax vehicles. This will become the responsibility of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Swansea from Monday 21 July 2014. From this date customers will be required to tax or register a previously SORNed vehicle using DVLA's online relicensing facility, via their automated telephone system or at any Post Office® branch that offers vehicle relicensing services.

### **County Hall: Ballymena**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the annual cost of providing services, for which his Department has responsibility, from County Hall in Ballymena; and what contingent liabilities are planned in the financial year 2015/16 for the use of this facility.

**(AQW 34506/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Department has three functions located at Ballymena County Hall. The table below summarises the functions and the costs of providing the services for 2013-14.

<b>Function</b>	<b>Cost £'000</b>
Road Safety and Vehicle Regulation Division – Road Safety Education Office	154
Local Planning Office – South Antrim	2,051
Driver and Vehicle Agency – Local Vehicle Licensing Office	315
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,520</b>

No decision has been made on the use of this facility for the financial year 2015-16.

### **Air Quality Research Study**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of the Environment whether the outcome of the air quality research study for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will be brought before to Assembly before Christmas 2014.

**(AQW 34509/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** It is anticipated that the Study will conclude in September 2014, and that its final report will be presented to the North-South Ministerial Council in November 2014.

As part of my update to the Assembly on proceedings of the North-South Ministerial Council, I will make a statement to the Assembly regarding the key findings of the study. The report will also be published at this time, and presented to the Environment Committee.

### **Investigation of Wildlife Poisoning Offences: Trained Staff**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of the Environment how many specialist trained staff are available for the investigation of wildlife poisoning offences; and within which Government Departments they are employed.

**(AQW 34533/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** There are no specialist trained staff available for the investigation of wildlife poisoning offences in DOE, or in any other Northern Ireland Executive Departments.

My Department has a contract with the police National Wildlife Crime Unit based in Scotland who support DOE NI and the PSNI in tackling serious wildlife crimes of local or national importance.

### **Risk of Illegal Poisoning of Eagles**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of the Environment what steps have been taken to combat the risk of illegal poisoning of the populations of golden eagle, white-tailed eagle and red kite.

**(AQW 34534/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The persecution of birds of prey is illegal under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and is a particularly serious crime.

While incidents and reports of persecution of wildlife are investigated and prosecutions are taken by the PSNI my Departmental officials are available to provide expert advice and guidance. My Department also has a contract with the National Wildlife Crime Unit based in Scotland which investigates serious national and international wildlife crime incidents and provides tactical support to DoE NI and to the PSNI in tackling serious wildlife crime.

Over recent years DOE has grant aided the successful reintroduction of the red kite into Northern Ireland through support to the RSPB and has funded the Raptor Study Group to carry out specialist surveys and monitoring of populations of several species of birds of prey. Grant aid was also provided to the Golden Eagle Trust in Ireland to develop a Raptor Database for Northern Ireland.

The Raptor Study Group was also successful in the Department's 2014 Challenge Fund allocation and delivered two education projects raising awareness of the conservation of birds of prey and highlighting poisoning, shooting and habitat destruction as threats to the species.

### **Death of a White-Tailed Eagle**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the conservation status of the white-tailed eagle, to explain the delay between a white-tailed eagle being found dead in April 2013 and the PSNI announcing that it has been poisoned in May 2014.

**(AQW 34535/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, DOE has no power to investigate or prosecute wildlife offences of this nature. These powers lie with the PSNI. As this is the case, my Department does not hold, or is in position to collect, the information requested.

The details requested in your question are held by the PSNI.

### **Proposed Infastrata Drilling in East Antrim**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment when he will commence the public consultation on the proposals by Infastrata to drill in East Antrim.

**(AQW 34540/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The proposed works by InfraStrata fall under Permitted Development in accordance with Part 16, Class A of the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993. As such the development has planning permission by virtue of the above order and the Department is not required to advertise or seek public comment on the proposal.

Any interested parties can of course obtain details from my officials in Strategic Planning Division.

## **Muckamore Bridge: Pollution Incidents**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of recent pollution incidents at the combined sewer overflow at Muckamore Bridge on the Six Mile Water River.

**(AQW 34566/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Two reports of water pollution at this location have recently been made to the Department. NIEA officers attended both incidents promptly, investigated the potential sources and held discussions with NI Water (NIW) on the required follow up.

In the first incident on 18 April 2014, a sewer blockage was found approximately 500 metres away from a flap valve into the river, causing an overflow from the sewer to the storm water system. Subsequently NIW confirmed that they had also identified a lesser contributory blockage which had also been cleared. Based on the actual impact on the river, this incident was assessed as 'low' severity.

The second incident on 1 May 2014 was again assessed as being of 'low' severity, as upon investigation it was found that the water flowing out of the flap did not appear to be polluted and there was no visible plume in the river.

Departmental officials met representatives from the Six Mile Water anglers on 1 May 2014, when a number of issues including these incidents were discussed in detail. This matter was also discussed at length at the Lower Neagh Bann Stakeholder Meeting (which includes the Six Mile Water catchment) held in Randalstown on 6 May 2014, attended by Departmental Officials and NIW staff.

In conclusion, the pollution incidents at this location comprised two 'low' severity incidents which were promptly responded to by the Department and NIW and were rectified. Departmental officials continue to check this outfall at regular intervals but are not aware of any recurrence of pollution since the incident on 1 May 2014. The Department and NIW remain aware of wider contributory factors, such as sewer misconnections by third parties and are cooperating closely to deal with these issues.

## **Death of Three Red Kites in the Katesbridge Area**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of the Environment what steps his Department has taken to investigate the recent deaths of three Red Kites in the Katesbridge area.

**(AQW 34567/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, DOE has no power to investigate or prosecute wildlife offences of this nature. These powers lie with the PSNI. As this is the case, my Department does not hold, or is in a position to collect, the information requested.

The details requested in your question are held by the PSNI.

## **Marine Bill**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of the Environment what discussions he has had with the Crown Estate regarding the Marine Bill (NIA 5/11-15).

**(AQW 34600/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** I have had no discussions with The Crown Estate regarding the Marine Bill, which came into operation on 18 September 2013, and is now the Marine Act (NI) 2013. However, I would refer the Member to the Answer given to his AQW 8970/11-15, which outlined the consultation my Department has had with The Crown Estate on a number of marine issues, including the Marine Bill.

## **Planning Application E/2013/0093/F**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether planning application E/2013/0093/F includes a full Environmental Impact Statement and a Health Impact Assessment; (ii) if not, why this is

the case; (iii) whether the application includes seeking permission for any hydraulic fracturing; and (iv) whether an Article 31 Inquiry is anticipated.

**(AQW 34606/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** My officials are nearing completion in assessing the need for such a statement to accompany this planning application.

This application does not propose unconventional hydraulic fracturing. However at the testing phase a conventional stimulated fracture is proposed.

This application, consisting of an exploratory borehole, does not meet the criteria for an Article 31 Inquiry.

### **Lough Neagh Sand Extractors**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he or his officials have had any meetings, conversations, or correspondence with the Lough Neagh sand extractors or their representatives in the last twelve months; and what was the outcome of those discussions.

**(AQW 34617/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Department's Minerals, Management and Compliance team (MMC) currently has a live investigation into the unauthorised working of sand from the bed of Lough Neagh.

MMC team has in the last 12 months had a meeting with the Quarry Products Association (QPANI) on 6 February 2014 and a meeting with Shaftesbury Estate's solicitors on 26 February 2014 to obtain further information on the dredging operators, the operations and any permission held by them.

Ongoing discussions have taken place with QPANI to arrange a suitable inspection date for the shore based and Lough based activities and operations.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) held a meeting on 12 June 2014 with QPANI representatives.

There was discussion around the requirements of environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive and the need to bring the activities of the sand and gravel operators into the regulatory framework. The NIEA is to detail information required to fully assess potential impacts of the dredging on the Lough and liaise with Planning and QPANI.

### **Decision on Planning Application**

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister of the Environment when he will make a decision on planning application J/2011/0081.

**(AQW 34668/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** It is my intention to visit this site at the request of local representatives from Strabane District Council and thereafter I will make my final decision.

### **Planning (Control of Major-Accident Hazards) Regulations (NI) 2000**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether explosives required for blasting associated with mining are considered a hazardous substance for the purpose of the Planning (Control of Major-Accident Hazards) Regulations (NI) 2000.

**(AQW 34693/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 amended by The Planning (Control of Major-Accident Hazards) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 include a number of named substances in Schedule 3, Part A and a number of classifications in Part B.

Explosives used at mines can vary in type and quantity and may be included in either Part A or Part B.

Each named substance in Part A and each classification of substance in Part B has an applicable threshold.

Storage of substances above their respective thresholds will require Hazardous Substances Consent from the Department [Article 53 of The Planning (NI) Order 1991], subject to applicable exemptions.

### **Unregulated Mineral Extraction: Lough Neagh**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 33458/11-15, whether he intends to permit unregulated mineral extraction from Lough Neagh Special Protection Area to continue; and if so, how this conforms with the precautionary principle.

**(AQW 34712/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** As indicated in my previous response, my Department's Minerals, Management and Compliance team (MMC) is currently investigating the unauthorised working of sand from the bed of Lough Neagh. Once this investigation is complete, my officials will be in a position to take the appropriate course of action.

### **Planning Application E/2013/0093/F**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment whether planning application E/2013/0093/F will be subject to a full health impact assessment.

**(AQW 34728/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** While all issues concerning public health are routinely assessed in processing any planning application, my officials are concluding an Environmental Impact Assessment determination on this application. Should the outcome of this determination require the submission of an environmental statement, all significant impacts identified including health will require consideration.

### **Planning Application E/2013/0093/F**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment, in the event of planning application E/2013/0093/F gaining approval, whether a baseline study into health, water quality and air quality will be conducted in Ballinlea ahead of any work taking place.

**(AQW 34733/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** My officials are currently assessing potential impacts on health, air and water quality. No decision has been taken in relation to this proposal at this stage.

### **Planning Application E/2013/0093/F**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the proposals relating to the shale reservoir within planning application E/2013/0093/F.

**(AQW 34799/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The application seeks permission for the temporary works of drilling an exploratory borehole to approx 2700m depth to investigate underground strata for hydrocarbon exploration under DETI licence PL3/10 issued to Rathlin Energy Ltd.

Rathlin Energy's primary objective is to test the Carboniferous sandstones but it does intend to assess the underlying Carboniferous shales.

The mini fall-off test will not allow the company to ascertain the viability of unconventional shale gas resources in the area although it will give it information about the character of the shales that would be relevant to an assessment of their unconventional resource potential.

## Planning Application E/2013/0093/F

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment when a decision will be made on planning application E/2013/0093/F.

**(AQW 34801/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The application is currently under consideration. At this time my officials do not have a time frame for issuing any decision.

## Ballinlea 1 Test Well

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether hydraulic fracturing has taken place at the Ballinlea 1 test well; and whether there are any plans for this process to take place.

**(AQW 34831/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** I am not aware of any previous or future testing in relation to hydraulic fracturing at the Ballinlea 1 test well.

## Habitats Regulation Assessment: Lough Neagh

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department has carried out a Habitats Regulation Assessment for the unregulated sand extraction taking place from the Lough Neagh Special Protection Area.

**(AQW 34896/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Habitats Directive requires member states to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment when considering the authorisation of plans or projects. NIEA carries out a Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure that the proposal will not have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites (including SPAs). As the Department has never been consulted on active applications for abstraction within Lough Neagh the Habitats Directive has not been applied.

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on his progress in achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by at least 35 per cent on 1990 levels by 2025, as per the commitment in the Programme for Government 2011-15.

**(AQO 6453/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Northern Ireland Executive has a target to continue to work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by at least 35 per cent on 1990 levels by 2025. The latest inventory published on 10 June 2014, for the 1990-2012 period, shows a reduction of 16 per cent in 2012 in emissions since the base year of 1990.

My department's analysts use a projection tool to estimate reductions in 2025 based on the latest inventory. A projection figure based on the 2012 figures will only be available in December 2014. However the 2011-based projection figure shows a 27.6 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2025.

## Environmental Crime Unit

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of the Environment for an overview of the work programme of the Environmental Crime Unit.

**(AQO 6460/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** As you may be aware, NIEA's Environmental Crime Unit (or ECU) was set up in December 2008 following recommendations made by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate. Its role is to investigate and prosecute serious and persistent, commercial-scale illegal environmental activities, crimes driven by the considerable financial gains that can be made from avoiding legitimate landfill taxes, VAT etc.

ECU's work is intelligence-led, maximising resources towards tackling the worst offenders who continue to flout our environmental regulations and cause considerable damage to our world-renowned landscape, while at the same time depriving our economy millions of pounds that could be put to the collective good through hospitals, infrastructure and schools.

It is critical to view the work programme of the ECU in the context of the direction I have set for waste management in the North. In my response to the Mills Report, I emphasised that our focus must start with reducing the amount of waste created in the first place, supported by doing a better job of regulating residual waste.

This means that DOE has a range of programmes, ranging from supporting business innovation, supporting community waste reduction efforts, partnering with local councils and providing support and guidance to regulated waste operators.

The ECU's work sits at the compliance end of this spectrum, is focused on tackling the worst waste offending and is critical to the whole strategy. To achieve its aims, ECU has business plans in place that include the targets in respect of the number of:

- intelligence reports to be assessed in connection with environmental
- crime or other environmental offences;  
complex investigations underway throughout the year into serious environmental criminality.
- prosecution cases to be submitted to the Public Prosecution Service.
- confiscation investigations to be investigated under POCA.

### **Farm Business: PPS 21 Definition**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of the Environment when his Department will issue an update on the definition of a 'farm business' under Planning Policy PPS21.

**(AQO 6452/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** PPS 21 policy CTY10 'Dwellings on Farms' permits a dwelling on a farm subject to a number of criteria, including that the farm business is currently active and established.

Whilst the policy does not provide a definition of a 'farm business' it does contain a definition of agricultural activity which is 'the production, rearing or growing of agricultural products including harvesting, milking, breeding animals and keeping animals for farming purposes or maintaining the land in good agricultural condition'.

I have no plans to introduce a definition of a 'farm business', however members will be aware of ongoing work to bring forward a new single Strategic Planning Policy Statement. Whilst primarily a consolidation of existing planning policy, the SPPS provides an opportunity to bring improvements to the planning policy framework that will operate under the new two tier planning system that will take effect from next April.

The consultation on the SPPS has now closed and my officials are working to analyse the many responses received, including representations in relation to rural planning. When this work is concluded I will formalise my position with respect to this matter.

### **Strategic Planning Policy Statement**

**Mr Boylan** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the new Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

**(AQO 6455/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** On 4th February 2014, I issued for public consultation the draft Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS). The SPPS sets out the Department's regional planning policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land under a reformed two-tier local planning system. It is a proportionate and appropriate framework for delivery of the reformed planning system

when the primary responsibility for planning functions transfers from the Department to councils on 1 April 2015.

The 12 week public consultation exercise on the draft SPPS was facilitated by means of online digital consultation with stakeholders invited to respond electronically. This is the first time the Department has incorporated digital engagement into the policy-making process. The consultation closed on 29 April 2014.

During the consultation period the Department held and contributed to a wide range of meetings and consultation events in order to both explain the content of the draft SPPS to interest groups and to inform stakeholders considering responding formally to the public consultation. One series of events, which ran from 31 March to 4 April, involved round table discussions which were facilitated by the RTPI who then prepared a report on the key themes that emerged. I am pleased to advise members that the RTPI report of those discussions is now available from the SPPS webpage [www.planningni.gov.uk/spps](http://www.planningni.gov.uk/spps).

Over 700 responses were received from individuals and a wide range of stakeholders, such as Business and Industry interests (including CBI, NIIRTA, IOD, NIFHA); Environmental interests (including NIEL, RSPB); Community / Academic / NGO interests (including Royal Town Planning Institute, Belfast Civic Trust, Historic Monuments Council, various residents groups); and Local Government interests (including NILGA and a number of local councils).

The scale of the response and the diverse composition of respondents is considered to be encouraging as it indicates a healthy public interest in planning matters generally but particularly the future of planning under the new two tier system that will be brought into effect in April 2015.

To date all responses have been acknowledged and transferred to a database which has been put in place to facilitate detailed analysis.

The process is well underway and I expect to be briefed shortly on the emerging findings. Work on the SPPS will continue into the summer and I expect a full report providing a synopsis of responses in the autumn.

Subject to Executive Committee agreement, the Department remains on target for finalising the SPPS by the end of the year.

### **Artefacts: Crannog**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on how much his Department has spent on work at the Crannog in Enniskillen, including the protection of artefacts.

**(AQO 6456/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** This is a significant project which commenced in June 2012 with the excavation of the Crannóg. Phase two of the works now involves a great volume of work to bring the evidence to publication. To date my Department has spent £261,237 on work at the Crannóg and on the protection of artefacts. This covers only the costs incurred by the Department of the Environment and not other government departments.

### **Environmental Crime Unit**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of the Environment for an overview of the work programme of the Environmental Crime Unit.

**(AQO 6460/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** As you may be aware, NIEA's Environmental Crime Unit (or ECU) was set up in December 2008 following recommendations made by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate. Its role is to investigate and prosecute serious and persistent, commercial-scale illegal environmental activities, crimes driven by the considerable financial gains that can be made from avoiding legitimate landfill taxes, VAT etc.

ECU's work is intelligence-led, maximising resources towards tackling the worst offenders who continue to flout our environmental regulations and cause considerable damage to our world-renowned

landscape, while at the same time depriving our economy millions of pounds that could be put to the collective good through hospitals, infrastructure and schools.

It is critical to view the work programme of the ECU in the context of the direction I have set for waste management in the North. In my response to the Mills Report, I emphasised that our focus must start with reducing the amount of waste created in the first place, supported by doing a better job of regulating residual waste.

This means that DOE has a range of programmes, ranging from supporting business innovation, supporting community waste reduction efforts, partnering with local councils and providing support and guidance to regulated waste operators.

The ECU's work sits at the compliance end of this spectrum, is focused on tackling the worst waste offending and is critical to the whole strategy. To achieve its aims, ECU has business plans in place that include the targets in respect of the number of:

- intelligence reports to be assessed in connection with environmental
- crime or other environmental offences;  
complex investigations underway throughout the year into serious environmental criminality.
- prosecution cases to be submitted to the Public Prosecution Service.
- confiscation investigations to be investigated under POCA.

### **DVA: Job Relocation**

**Mr Attwood** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the provision of new employment opportunities at County Hall in Coleraine following the closure of the Driver and Vehicle Agency. **(AQO 6454/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Following the unjustified and unwarranted decision by the Department for Transport to centralise all vehicle registration and licensing services in Swansea, I have been working hard to secure alternative employment for the staff affected.

In conjunction with the Minister for Finance and Personnel, I asked every department to introduce vacancy controls so that suitable vacant posts are offered in the first instance to surplus DVA staff. I also asked each department to identify any functions that could be relocated to Coleraine. Unfortunately, other than in my own department, no such permanent work has been identified as yet.

I have identified 70 jobs for relocation to Coleraine. 50 of these jobs will be available to surplus DVA staff and the other 20, while not suitable for the grade mix of surplus DVA staff, will help to mitigate the economic impact on Coleraine.

Officials are also continuing to discuss the possibility of a small number of jobs being retained in Coleraine to carry out minor, residual functions for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. I have asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to trawl all departments in Britain for back-office work that could be carried out here which may go some way to eliminating well-publicised backlogs in the delivery of services such as the issue of passports.

My Department is continuing to work with other all other departments to identify individual, vacant posts which can be offered to surplus DVA staff in Coleraine and the Minister for Social Development has offered temporary work for up to 100 staff in Coleraine until the end of the year. This temporary work will provide additional time to find permanent posts for the affected staff.

I remain fully committed to securing appropriate alternative posts in the Civil Service for the displaced DVA staff who have served motorists and others so very well in delivering a high quality vehicle licensing service.

## Councils: Planning Functions

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the range of planning functions and powers which will be transferred to the new councils.

**(AQO 6457/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The range of planning functions and powers which will be transferred to the new councils is as follows:

- Local Development Planning;
- Development Management - determining the vast majority of planning applications except for Regionally Significant Applications;
- Enforcement – enforcing against breaches of planning control; and
- Other planning controls – responsibilities with regard to listed buildings, conservation areas, the preservation of trees, the control of advertisements and hazardous substances.

## Councils: Performance Improvement

**Ms Fearon** asked the Minister of the Environment, given that councils will have a duty to report on their performance improvement under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, to outline the proposed reporting mechanisms.

**(AQO 6458/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 requires councils to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. The Act also provides that, before specifying performance indicators or standards, the Department must consult with councils, it also sets out the required reporting requirements. These include the requirement for councils to gather information to assess improvements in their services and to issue a report annually on their performance against indicators which they have either set themselves or that have been agreed with departments.

In recognising that the aim of local government reform is to deliver improved services to the community it is appropriate in the context of the governance of public funds, for a performance improvement structure to be in place to ensure effectiveness and consistency in approach by the councils in delivering services.

The Act sets out the broad parameters for reporting performance improvement and my Department will be working with councils, other Departments and the Local Government auditor to put in place an integrated performance improvement and reporting arrangement that is better co-ordinated and more responsive to local needs and circumstances. An effective regime will create opportunities for councils to serve citizens better, which is vital to secure sustainable improvements in public services. The delivery of community planning will be supported at council level by the performance improvement framework which focuses on the delivery of continuous improvement in service delivery against more strategic aspects.

## Gaelectric

**Mr Wilson** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the pre-application enquiry by Gaelectric to build a power station in the rural area of Inver, near Larne.

**(AQO 6459/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** My officials have held 5 pre-application discussion (PAD) meetings with Gaelectric to date on their "Project CAES (compressed air energy storage) Larne" proposals. A further meeting is scheduled for July. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted to my Department before the end of the summer.

## Planning Service: Craigavon

**Mr Irwin** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the future of Planning Service, currently based in Marlborough House, Craigavon, in preparation for the transfer of planning powers to the new Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon council.

**(AQO 6461/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** In preparation for the smooth transfer of planning functions to the new Councils in April 2015, my officials have been working closely with the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon shadow Council. Work is ongoing on a number of key areas including capacity building for both Councillors and staff, and preparatory work on development plan. Decisions regarding future arrangements for the delivery of the planning function for the new Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council, including location, is a matter for the new Council.

## Councils: Standing Orders

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of the Environment why the consultation on Standing Orders for the shadow councils has been delayed.

**(AQO 6451/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) and the draft Model Standing Orders were finalised and issued for consultation as soon as was practicable following the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 being passed by this House. Prior to the formal issue of the documents my officials had engaged with the chief executives of the new councils on the content of the proposed mandatory standing orders.

In order to ensure that the new councils operated within the new governance framework from the beginning, including the procedures to protect the interests of minority communities, provision is made in the Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary, Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 requiring a new council to incorporate specified provisions in its standing orders.

These provisions include the specification of decisions that must be taken by a qualified majority. These are in addition to the decisions which are specified in the 2014 Act as being required to be taken by a qualified majority. Provision is also made in relation to the procedure that must be adopted by a council for the appointment of councillors to committees, if the council is appointing more than one committee at the same meeting. The other key aspects of the new governance arrangements, including in relation to filling positions of responsibility and the ability for 15 per cent of the members of a council to requisition the reconsideration of a decision are all provided for on the face of the 2014 Act.

The Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, which are subject to the draft affirmative procedure in this House, will be made at the earliest opportunity following the Assembly's summer recess.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### NEETS: North Belfast

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many young people aged 16-25 years in North Belfast are not currently in education, employment or training,

**(AQO 6232/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** A person is defined as NEET if they are aged 16 to 24 and not in employment, education or training (full-time or part-time). All available data refers to this age group therefore the question has been answered on this basis.

Estimates of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) are sourced to the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, these estimates are only available at Northern Ireland level, as the LFS

sample size and design does not support the production of sufficiently reliable estimates for any lower level geography. Table 1 shows the most recent estimate of the overall number and rate of NEETs in Northern Ireland in January – March 2014.

**Table 1 – NI NEETs January – March 2014**

<b>Northern Ireland NEETs (16-24)</b>		
<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>No. of 16-24 year olds</b>	<b>Rate (% of 16-24 year olds)</b>
Jan-Mar 2014	32,000	14.6%

**Source:** Labour Force Survey, January – March 2014

The only other available data source which allows estimation of the number of NEETs at sub-regional level is the 2011 Census. This estimated that there were 2,656 young people aged 16-24 years old who were not in education, employment or training in North Belfast, accounting for 20.9% of the 16-24 population, on the 27th March 2011.

At this time, the Census also estimated that there were a total of 33,516 young people falling into the NEET categories in Northern Ireland, representing 14.7% of the 16-24 population.

### **Air Passenger Duty**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 33543/11-15, why this information is not available, given that variable levels of taxation apply to flights in different bands.  
**(AQW 33863/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** HMRC has indicated that this is commercial-in-confidence taxpayer information that cannot be disclosed.

### **Institute for Professional Legal Studies Admission**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the current arrangements whereby some students can gain admission to the Institute for Professional Legal Studies without having obtained a primary degree or sat the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS) examination, due to their employment in a solicitor's office, whereas other applicants have to demonstrate academic achievement and pass the IPLS examination.  
**(AQW 34010/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Department does not have a direct role in relation to admission to the Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS).

### **Current Assessment of Tourism Jobs**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of the current assessment of tourism jobs, broken down by constituency.  
**(AQW 34128/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The table overleaf details the number of jobs in tourism characteristic industries, broken down by parliamentary constituency. The figures refer to the number of employee jobs in September 2011. Figures for 2013 will be available by September 2014.

**Table 1: Northern Ireland Employee Jobs in Tourism Characteristic Industries by Parliamentary Constituency Area**

<b>Parliamentary Constituency Area</b>	<b>Employee Jobs in Tourism Characteristic Industries</b>
Belfast East	2,615
Belfast North	3,393
Belfast South	9,023
Belfast West	2,116
East Antrim	2,163
East Londonderry	3,236
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	2,787
Foyle	3,375
Lagan Valley	2,833
Mid Ulster	2,224
Newry and Armagh	2,798
North Antrim	2,650
North Down	2,834
South Antrim	3,707
South Down	2,955
Strangford	2,851
Upper Bann	2,788
West Tyrone	1,844
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,192</b>

**Source:** NI Census of Employment, September 2011

- \* The Tourism Characteristic Industries (TCI) used are based on international guidelines that include employees in business sectors with a significant reliance on tourist activity, but do not include the self-employed. The TCI industries are defined as "Accommodation for Visitors", "Food and Beverage Serving Activities", "Passenger Transport", "Sporting and Recreational Activities" and "Other" (including for example, travel agencies, museums, conference and exhibition centres etc.).

### **Costs of Hospitality**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what was the total cost of hospitality provided by (i) his Department; and (ii) its arm's-length bodies in 2013/14.

**(AQW 34139/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The total cost of hospitality provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel in 2013/14 was £50k.

The total cost of hospitality provided by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) in 2013/14 was £0.5k.

## Spending: Financial Allocation

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what checks are in place to ensure that Ministers are spending only on matters agreed in their financial allocation, as agreed by the Executive. (AQW 34177/11-15)

**Mr Hamilton:** Each department must provide DFP with detailed monthly expenditure data, which is monitored to assess the risk of overspend, or underspend, against departmental budgets.

Whilst the majority of funding is at a Minister's discretion, should departments receive an Executive budget allocation for a specific ring-fenced service and are unable to incur full expenditure, then they must surrender that funding to the Executive for reallocation under the In-Year Monitoring rules.

Departments are also required to ensure that their expenditure represents Value for Money and has the appropriate legislative authority. This is monitored by DFP through expenditure approvals above delegated limits.

More widely, Executive Ministers have a collective responsibility to ensure that the Northern Ireland Budget is managed and controlled properly. This includes a clear imperative to adhere to the budget allocations agreed by the Executive.

## Departmental Budget Used as a Contingency Fund

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what rules apply to Ministers who withhold part of their departmental budget to use as a contingency fund. (AQW 34178/11-15)

**Mr Hamilton:** It is for each individual Minister to manage his or her budget within the context of the Executive's In-Year Monitoring Guidelines. This guidance clearly states that any Reduced Requirements must be surrendered at the earliest opportunity.

If the operation of a departmental contingency fund reflects surplus resources in that department, then this would be inconsistent with the requirements of the In-Year Monitoring Guidelines. In that scenario a contingency fund would be seen as an attempt to circumvent the Executive's authority in the redistribution of surplus funding.

## Departmental Contingency Fund

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether any Minister has established a contingency fund within their Department that has not been agreed by the Executive; and if so, to detail if he has corresponded with the relevant Minister on this matter and the content of the correspondence. (AQW 34179/11-15)

**Mr Hamilton:** The management of departmental budgets is generally a matter for each individual Minister within the context of the In-Year Monitoring Guidelines. The key issue in relation to any contingency fund is that Reduced Requirements are surrendered at an early stage for reallocation in line with the Executive's priorities.

It is not good practice for any department to withhold surplus funding and I would view this as an attempt to circumvent the Executive's role in redistributing Reduced Requirements.

I have not corresponded with any Minister on the issue of contingency funds.

## Departmental Treasury Rules

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether any Treasury rules apply to the use of money allocated to a Department; and if so, to detail the rules and whether there has been a breach by a Minister. (AQW 34180/11-15)

**Mr Hamilton:** HM Treasury Budget Controls apply to the entire Northern Ireland Block rather than individual departments.

Northern Ireland Executive departments are also expected to manage their budgets in line with relevant sections of HM Treasury's Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, which is the technical budgeting guidance that applies across the UK. DFP plays an important role in working with the departments to ensure compliance with this guidance. HM Treasury has not expressed any concern in relation to compliance in Northern Ireland with the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance.

### Departmental Spend on Heat, Electricity and Water

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34216/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** My Department is responsible for managing the Northern Ireland Civil Service Office Estate and pays the utility bills associated with DFP occupied buildings and buildings where DFP holds the budget.

The table below details the figures you requested.

Financial Year	Heat (million)	Electricity (million)	Water (million)
2009/10	£0.6	£2.3	£0.5
2010/11	£1.0	£2.9	£0.3
2011/12	£0.9	£2.6	£0.3
2012/13	£1.0	£3.0	£0.3
2013/14	£1.1	£2.8	£0.3

### Hardship Relief Scheme

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many applications, since 2011, were received from commercial properties for rates relief under the (i) Hardship Relief Scheme; (ii) how many were granted; and what was the total relief given in each year.

**(AQW 34265/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Thirty six applications for Hardship Relief have been received since 1st April 2011. During that period, two applications were granted rate relief under the scheme; with the total value of relief awarded equalling £4,052.71. One award of £3,262.08 was granted during 2012/13 (backdated to 2009/10) and another for £790.63, for a period during 2011/12.

### Commercial Properties in Ballymena with no Rateable Value

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of commercial properties in Ballymena with no rateable value; and to outline the reasons why this is the case.

**(AQW 34266/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Land & Property Services has currently 37 new non domestic properties listed as yet to be valued in the Ballymena Borough Council area. These properties will be inspected in due course to ascertain if they are ready to be entered in the Valuation List. The number outstanding is considered to be well within a normal quota of work in progress.

## Encouraging Investment within Ballymena

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether a 'rates holiday' was offered in the last ten years to any incoming businesses as a means of encouraging investment within Ballymena; and if so, to detail the properties to which this applied.

**(AQW 34268/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** There is no legislative provision within the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 for granting a 'rates holiday'.

## Rates Rebate or Exemption

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether any domestic properties will benefit from a rates rebate or exemption because of the presence of a place of worship within the property.

**(AQW 34317/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Under rating legislation any church, chapel or similar building occupied by a religious body and used for purposes of public religious worship is exempt from rates.

Any occupation of this nature is considered on a case by case basis; in particular the question of the paramount occupation, the actual use of the premises, and the public nature of the worship will be considered.

The District Valuer in Land & Property Services in determining any entitlement to exemption will consider the facts of each case within the statutory framework and guided by case law.

## Speakers at the European Business Network Congress

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) amount paid to each of the guest speakers at the European Business Network Congress from 29-31 May 2013; and (ii) funding provided by SEUPB's INTERREG IVA Programme for this event.

**(AQW 34430/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The funding provided by the INTERREG IVA programme for this event was £17,652.59.

As the programme assistance did not relate to the fees paid to each of the guest speakers, it is not possible to provide you with such detail.

## Cycling Infrastructure: Stormont Estate

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what consideration he has given to improving cycling infrastructure in the Stormont Estate.

**(AQW 34491/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Stormont Estate Workplace Travel Consortium, comprised of representatives from all the departments based on the Stormont Estate and the Northern Ireland Assembly, will shortly be issuing a questionnaire to all staff based on the Estate seeking information on their travel to work arrangements.

The results of this questionnaire will help formulate plans for developing a strategy more focused on sustainable transport (including cyclists) for all those who work on the Stormont Estate.

In the meantime we await the findings of this survey.

## Rates Liability

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) why tenants assume rates liability if the capital value of the property is greater than £150,000; and (ii) what evidence base is used to set the financial amounts which determine liability.

**(AQW 34500/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Although the domestic rating system has developed and is long established as a tax on the occupier, the owner or landlord is normally liable for rates in respect of rental properties with a capital value of £150,000 or less. A valuation limit is applied because the evidence shows that collection difficulties tend to occur in lower value rented properties because as a rule they are occupied by a more transient population. The general principle that the occupant is liable remains for higher value properties.

When the new capital value system came into effect in 2007, the threshold was reset at £150,000 assessed capital value. It replaced the old Net Annual Value (NAV) limit, which had been in place for many years. This was not a new policy initiative but something that had to be done because of the general revaluation in 2007.

The £150,000 threshold was decided following statistical analysis comparing frequency distributions between the old NAV and new capital valuation lists but set a little higher to allow for higher than average capital values in areas such as those around Queens University. The setting of the new threshold was also informed by a consultation undertaken by DFP in 2006, which was based on a study undertaken by the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation in 2005. Evidence for the continuing transient nature of private rented housing in Northern Ireland was obtained from Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency's Continuous Household Survey.

## Rates Arrears

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he is aware of the concern amongst some private rental tenants who are being pursued by Land and Property Services for rates arrears despite having paid their rates to the landlord of the property; and what steps he is taking to address these concerns.

**(AQW 34501/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** I am aware of a small number of cases where the landlord has taken payment from the tenant in respect of rates as part of the tenancy agreement, but not passed on to the Department. Such instances are unfortunate (and AQW 34500/11-15 refers); however for domestic properties with a Capital Value over £150,000, liability rests with the tenant or occupier. Land & Property Services is sympathetic to these cases and works closely with the tenant to agree a suitable repayment plan. In parallel, LPS and Housing Rights Service have met over recent months to discuss an approach for genuine cases of tenant hardship and where the tenant may be pursuing action against the landlord.

My Department has also taken steps through recent legislation to simplify the rules around landlord liability and from next April there will be no need for landlords or tenants to produce tenancy agreements. This change has the support of landlords, as represented by the Landlord Association and tenants, as represented by the Housing Rights Service.

## Civil Service Employment Advertisements

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of employment positions advertised externally by the NI Civil Service in 2013; and (ii) the total number of applicants for these positions.

**(AQW 34543/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The NI Civil Service reports figures annually on all external recruitment activity, including number of applicants. These figures are available in the NICS Annual Report on Recruitment for 2013. This report is in the public domain and is available on the NICS recruitment web-site at:

<https://irecruit-ext.hrconnect.nigov.net/resources/documents/r/e/c/recruitment-to-the-nics-annual-report-2013.pdf>

## Danske Bank Branch Closure

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what discussions he has had with Danske Bank following their decision to close their branch in Holywood, Co. Down.

**(AQW 34558/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** I have had no specific discussions with Danske Bank regarding this particular branch closure.

## Roe Valley Country Park: Visitor Numbers

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the estimated number of visitors to the Roe Valley Country Park in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34611/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Visitor numbers to Roe Valley Country Park are collected by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Visitor Attraction Survey. This is a voluntary Survey and the results are based solely on the visitor numbers provided by respondents. The estimated number of visitors to Roe Valley Country Park for each of the last five years is shown in the table attached.

### Visitor Numbers to Roe Valley Country Park (2009-2013)

Year	Estimated number of Visitors
2009	300,000
2010	300,000
2011	280,000
2012	250,000
2013	300,000

## Welfare Reform: Financial Penalties

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the total sum of financial penalties due to Welfare Reform issues, deducted from the Block Grant, from the date of the first deduction until May 2015.

**(AQW 34833/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has confirmed the Welfare Reform penalties of £13 million in 2013-14, £87 million in this year and £114 million next year. The 2015-16 deduction equates to £9.5 million per month.

As a consequence, if Welfare Reform has not been agreed by the end of May 2015, the Executive will have lost a total of £119 million. The financial penalties will continue to escalate significantly over time as reforms to the welfare system are rolled out in Great Britain.

## Protection of Tenants from Rates Liability

**Ms Lo** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action can be taken to protect tenants from rates liability where the landlord has given a verbal assurance that they will assume responsibility for rates payment.

**(AQW 34892/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** I am aware of a small number of cases where the landlord has given a verbal assurance that they will assume responsibility for rate payments but failed to do so. Such instances are unfortunate; however, in relation to domestic properties with a Capital Value over £150,000, liability rests with the tenant or occupier. Land & Property Services is sympathetic to such cases and works

closely with the tenant to agree a suitable repayment plan. In parallel, LPS and Housing Rights Service have met over recent months to discuss an approach for genuine cases of tenant hardship and where the tenant may be pursuing action against the landlord.

My Department has also taken steps through recent legislation to simplify the rules around landlord liability and from next April there will be no need for landlords or tenants to produce tenancy agreements for rating matters. This change has the support of landlords, as represented by the Landlord Association and tenants, as represented by the Housing Rights Service.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Cost of Hospitality

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what was the total cost of hospitality provided by (i) his Department; and (ii) its arm's-length bodies in 2013/14.

**(AQW 34140/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** The total cost of hospitality provided by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and each of the Department's Arms Length Bodies, in 2013/14, is set out in the table below.

	<b>2013/14 £000</b>
DHSSPS	62.8
Health and Social Care Board	53.7
Belfast HSC Trust	25.8
Northern HSC Trust	22.8
Southern HSC Trust	32.3
South Eastern HSC Trust	51.0
Western HSC Trust	13.1
NI Ambulance Service	2.8
Business Services Organisation	18.8
Public Health Agency	53.6
Patient Client Council	12.3
NI Fire & Rescue Service	16.7
NI Social Care Council	7.8
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	3.9
NI Medical & Dental Training Agency	5.9
NI Blood Transfusion Service	1.0
NI Practice & Education Council	-
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>392.2</b>

All organisations across the HSC have comprehensive policies and procedures in respect of hospitality which outline the eligibility and entitlement to hospitality.

Due to the wide ranging operational nature of the Department's ALBs, hospitality may also include expenditure other than that associated with the provision of refreshments, for example room and/or equipment hire.

The annual total cost has decreased steadily in recent years to less than half of the 2008-2009 sum.

### **Skin Camouflage Services**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much has been spent on skin camouflage services by the Health and Social Care Board in each of the last three years; and how much is projected to be spent in the next two years.

**(AQW 34152/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Health and Social Care Board has not issued funding directly to any organisation for skin camouflage services during the last three years.

In terms of projected spending, I understand that the Health and Social Care Board will be meeting with the Changing Faces charity in the near future to discuss this issue.

### **Servicing and Minor Repairs of Staff Vehicles**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the procurement procedures used for servicing and minor repairs of staff vehicles, in terms of the delays caused and keeping vehicles off the road.

**(AQW 34298/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I understand that this question relates to NIFRS vehicles. In that context, I would advise that procurement procedures are in place to ensure NIFRS follows national best practice and achieves value for money in terms of vehicle maintenance and repair.

Procurement is only one logistical aspect in turning around vehicles in a timely manner. The procurement for servicing and minor repairs of NIFRS vehicles includes a number of contracts, for example oil, filters, batteries and vehicle parts. These are collectively aimed at enabling repairs to be made in the most effective and efficient manner. In addition, NIFRS has analysed all aspects of the repair route and seeks to constantly improve start-to-finish times in a workshop, positioning of workshops and the way vehicles are serviced (One-Stop-Shop concept).

### **Strategic Service Reform**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will publish the reports made by Ernst & Young, on behalf of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, on phase 1 of the Strategic Service Reform; and to outline the cost of the work carried out to date by Ernst & Young.

**(AQW 34299/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I propose to answer these three questions together.

The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), following a procurement exercise, commissioned two consultancy firms, KPMG and Ernst & Young, to provide External Implementation Support to those taking forward the implementation of Transforming Your Care (TYC).

Each of the firms was allocated a group of Trusts, the associated Local Commissioning Group (LCG) and related Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) to work with. Ernst & Young were contracted to provide support for:

- Western Trust (WHSCT)
- Northern Trust (NHSCT)
- Southern Trust (SHSCT)
- Western LCG

- Southern LCG
- Northern LCG
- 2 x ICPs in Western area
- 3 x ICPs in Southern area
- 4 x ICPs in Northern area

Phase 1 of the exercise set out to examine each organisation's readiness for change; the robustness of their service reform and financial plans to support that change; consideration of 'difficult choices' options, projects and reforms to deliver TYC and 'shift left' whilst maintaining quality and safety of service. This phase of work is due to be completed by the end of June 2014.

The cost of EY's work for Phase 1 is a fixed fee of £537,574 (excluding VAT). The fixed price fee was negotiated for provision of support to 3 Trusts, 3 Local Commissioning Groups (LCG) and Integrated Care Partnerships within the 3 LCG areas. The HSCB advise that it would not be possible extract costs specifically for work with the NHSCT.

The focus of this work has been on supporting the HSCB and Trusts to deliver significant and major whole system reform. Once I have had the opportunity to read reports from Phase 1 of this work I will consider placing a copy in the Assembly Library.

Any proposals for service changes arising from this work will be subject to the normal consultation and public engagement processes.

## Transforming Your Care

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the Northern Health and Social Care Trust will publish the advice or reports produced by Ernst & Young to assist the Trust in the implementation of Transforming Your Care.

**(AQW 34303/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I propose to answer these three questions together.

The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), following a procurement exercise, commissioned two consultancy firms, KPMG and Ernst & Young, to provide External Implementation Support to those taking forward the implementation of Transforming Your Care (TYC).

Each of the firms was allocated a group of Trusts, the associated Local Commissioning Group (LCG) and related Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs) to work with. Ernst & Young were contracted to provide support for:

- Western Trust (WHSCT)
- Southern Trust (SHSCT)
- Northern Trust (NHSCT)
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- Southern LCG
- Northern LCG
- 2 x ICPs in Western area
- 3 x ICPs in Southern area
- 4 x ICPs in Northern area

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Any proposals for service changes arising from this work will be subject to the normal consultation and public engagement processes.

### **Implementation of the Programme for Government**

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to what extent his Department has implemented the Programme for Government 2011-15 commitment that all public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction works will include social clauses; and to what level such clauses have been implemented.

**(AQW 34332/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Social clauses for capital and construction related contracts are at a more advanced stage of development than those for goods and services contracts. Indeed, relevant clauses for capital contracts are well developed and understood by the construction industry, which means that they are routinely included within the tender documentation as a core specification. In that context, all construction works contracts awarded in the Health and Social Care and Public Safety sector since March 2010 have included social clauses.

In contrast however, the nature of goods and services contracts means that specific and tailored clauses must be developed. This issue is not specific to my Department and has been acknowledged as an issue across the wider public sector. All goods and services contracts awarded in the HSC sector are required to include standard social clauses in respect of Equality and Health and Safety. In addition, steps have been taken, where appropriate, to include clauses to support apprenticeships, employee development and employment opportunities. Further work is currently underway to expand the inclusion of these latter requirements and others across a wider number of contracts as renewals fall due. To support this, a HSC-wide group has been established to develop wider use of social clauses within goods and services HSC contracts.

### **Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services**

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the recommendations into the future of paediatric congenital cardiac services.

**(AQW 34333/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The International Expert Team, led by Dr John Mayer, commissioned by Dr James Reilly TD, Minister of Health in the Republic of Ireland, and me to carry out an independent assessment of current and future needs for cardiology and cardiac surgery for congenital heart disease in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have been aiming to submit its report to Minister Reilly and me by 1 July 2014. I understand this timetable has slipped slightly. The team will describe the existing hospital services in both jurisdictions, outline options for service configuration and governance arrangements and report to both Ministers, jointly, recommending the most appropriate model that meets the population health needs and other requirements of both jurisdictions.

### **Backlog of Invoices**

**Mr McKinney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail, for each Health and Social Care Trust, the reduced (i) volume; and (ii) value of unprocessed and unpaid invoices making up the backlog reported to Business Services Organisation's Board meeting of 30 April 2014; and whether the agreed plan to address the backlog included the provision of an explanation to those suppliers whose invoices remain unpaid.

**(AQW 34334/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Because of the similarities in these questions, a combined response has been provided.

The number and value of unprocessed/unpaid invoices making up the backlog reported to Business Services Organisation's (BSO) Board meeting of 30 April 2014 are shown in the table below.

	Invoice Backlog as of 30 April 2014	
	Volume of Invoices	Value (£)
Belfast Trust	14,767	24,458,069
Northern Trust	4,490	4,476,807
Western Trust	5,649	11,190,020
Ambulance Service	864	3,158,917
Total for Trusts	25,770	43,283,813

As part of the plan to clear the backlog, the Backlog Team are in regular contact with suppliers to inform them of progress and considerable progress has been made in this regard – as at 30 June, the backlog had reduced to 8,404 invoices with a value of £10.7m.

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**(AQW 34335/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Because of the similarities in these questions, a combined response has been provided.

The number and value of unprocessed/unpaid invoices making up the backlog reported to Business Services Organisation's (BSO) Board meeting of 30 April 2014 are shown in the table below.

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### Shared Services

**Mr McKinney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how Shared Services intend compensating suppliers who have been denied timely payment of their invoices; and why it appears that, when it comes to late payment, suppliers are apparently being treated less favourably than Health and Social Care staff.

**(AQW 34336/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The issue of prompt payment for suppliers remains a key priority for my Department. Guidance contained in Managing Public Money NI requires departments, agencies and NDPBs to pay invoices accurately and on time to avoid late payment. The Late Payment of Commercial Debts

Regulations 2013 ensures that businesses do not suffer financially from late payment by permitting businesses to charge statutory interest on overdue payments.

My Department's governance and accountability processes in this area requires all Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) to ensure that any issues relating to the timely payment of supplier invoices are addressed with the relevant supplier and resolved as a matter of urgency in line with the prevailing legislation and guidance.

### **Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme**

**Mr McKinney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how money apportioned through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme in the last three years has been spent.

**(AQW 34337/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The annual proceeds from the UK wide Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme apportioned to NI have been used, together with other efficiency measures, to address the ever increasing financial challenges faced by the HSC over recent years.

### **Time Limit or Target for the Resolution of Complaints**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is a time limit or target for the resolution of complaints within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; and how many people registered a complaint with the Trust before 1 January 2014 and have yet to receive a final response.

**(AQW 34339/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust operates a complaints policy in line with the HSC Complaints Policy – Standards and Guidelines for Resolution and Learning. A copy can be found at [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc\\_complaints\\_-\\_revised\\_standards\\_and\\_guidelines\\_for\\_resolution\\_and\\_learning\\_\\_amdts\\_.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hsc_complaints_-_revised_standards_and_guidelines_for_resolution_and_learning__amdts_.pdf)

The Trusts deals with over 2000 complaints per year. A complaint should be acknowledged in writing within 2 working days of receipt. However, a full response should be provided within 20 working days and service users should be notified of any delays. Some complaints will take longer than others to resolve because of differences in complexity, seriousness and the scale of the investigative work required.

The Trust is currently working to provide a full response to 58 complaints which were received before 1st January 2014.

### **Departmental Spend on Heat, Electricity and Water**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34345/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department of Finance and Personnel Properties Division is responsible for paying utility bills associated with multiple occupancy buildings. My Department is housed in Castle Buildings, Stormont which is a multi-occupancy building.

I therefore refer you the Department of Finance and Personnel's response to your Assembly Question reference - AQW 34216/11-15 which details the costs of multi occupancy buildings.

### **Cross Border Nursing Home Places**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 33922/11-15 and in instances where better value for money for the state and the client can be demonstrated and where clients can be closer to their families, whether he will approach the Minister for Health Dr James Reilly TD in order to come to a reciprocal arrangement whereby clients on both

sides of the border could be placed in nursing homes that are registered with, and regulated, by either the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority or the Health Information and Quality Authority.

**(AQW 34374/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** As detailed in my answer to AQW 33922/11-15, both jurisdictions are in a similar legislative position. The Republic of Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) permits the HSE to only place clients in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and registered with the ROI regulator and here in Northern Ireland, the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts can only place clients in care homes in Northern Ireland that are registered with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) under Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003. Therefore, significant legislative changes would be required to allow for the placement of NI residents in care homes based in the ROI.

You should be aware that clients can move from one jurisdiction to another when the care package in the new care home is privately funded – as this requires no assistance from either HSC Trusts or the HSE.

### **New Use of The Cottage in Ballymena**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that the Northern Health and Social Care Trust headquarters have been relocated, what use will be made of The Cottage in Ballymena.

**(AQW 34432/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Cottage in Ballymena currently houses the following Northern Health and Social Care Trust (Trust) health and care teams, including 3 meeting rooms:

- Complaints
- ICT
- Corporate Communications
- Adoption

In addition, the Business Services Organisation (BSO) Procurement and Logistics Team are also located within the facility.

A proposal for the Autism and Brokerage services to move to The Cottage is currently being considered by the Trust as part of an overall accommodation review. This will take place over the next three months.

### **The Cottage Site in Ballymena**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that the Northern Health and Social Care Trust headquarters have been relocated, whether there are any plans for the disposal of The Cottage site in Ballymena for development purposes.

**(AQW 34433/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There are no plans for the disposal of The Cottage site in Ballymena. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust are continuing to utilise the site as per AQW 34432/11-15.

### **Organ Transplants for Children**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of operations for organ transplants to children that have taken place in each of the last three years, broken down by organ type.

**(AQW 34436/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested has been supplied by NHS Blood and Transplant, which is the organ donation organisation for the UK and is responsible for matching and allocating donated organs.

The information is shown in the following table –

Transplants - by financial year as at June 2014

<b>Organ</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Kidney (deceased)	<5*	<5	<5	-	<5
Kidney (live)	8	5	<5	<5	-
Lung(s)	-	-	<5	-	-
Liver (deceased)	<5	7	<5	<5	<5
<b>Ocular tissue</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>
Cornea	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Sclera	6	<5	<5	<5	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>

\* Patient numbers of less than 5 in the attached document could become identifiable data and are therefore listed as <5

### **Gastric Band Operations**

**Mr McQuillan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many gastric band operations have been carried out by the Health Service, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34460/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Over the last 3 years there have been fewer than five gastric band operations carried out by the Health Service in Northern Ireland. It is not possible to break this down per year due to the very small numbers involved and the right of those individuals to privacy and our obligations under Data Protection Act.

### **Drugs for the Treatment of Cancer**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any drugs for the treatment of cancer are generally available in Great Britain but not in Northern Ireland; and if so, to detail the drugs and the measures he has in place to address any disparity.

**(AQW 34462/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Access to effective treatments for the population of Northern Ireland, including access to cancer drugs and other specialist medicines, is an important priority for me and for my Department.

In Northern Ireland the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) is responsible for commissioning drugs and treatments. Both the HSCB and the NHS in England are guided by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) in determining which cancer drugs should be routinely available. All NICE approved cancer drugs that are available in England are either recurrently funded or available via a cost per case mechanism in Northern Ireland.

The HSCB has a clear process by which unapproved drugs (including drugs and therapies not limited to cancer) can be made available to patients in Northern Ireland. Around 98% of the applications for unapproved drugs for cancer are approved. I have recently instructed my Department to evaluate this process, and to take account of measures that other devolved administrations are considering in their approach towards access to specialist drugs.

## Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the financial return from the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme; and whether this funding is targeted towards the accessibility of cancer drugs.

**(AQW 34477/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The attached table details how much money Northern Ireland was apportioned through the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) (2009) in each of the last three years.

Financial Year	£m
2011/2012	3.426
2012/2013	3.003
2013/2014	2.853

The proceeds apportioned to Northern Ireland from the PPRS are used, together with other efficiency measures, to address the ever increasing financial challenges faced by the HSC. It is not specifically targeted towards the accessibility of cancer drugs.

## Eye Tests for Children

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children had at least one eye test in 2012/13; and of these, to detail the number of children under sixteen, shown as a percentage of the total population of children.

**(AQW 34513/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information requested is provided in the tables below, figures relate to Health Service sight tests only and excludes private sight tests.

Data relates to the date the sight test was processed and paid on the system rather than the date the test took place. Claims must be submitted for payment within six months of the date of the test.

Age is calculated using the date of birth on the sight test form and the date the test took place. Registered health population figures are taken from October 2012, the mid-point of the 2012/13 financial year.

Children who received Health Service sight tests in 2012/13

Age	Number of Health Service sight tests	Number of children registered for Health Service treatments at October 2012	% of children who received a sight test
0-15	104,986	384,097	27.33%
0-17	122,296	433,595	28.21%

**Source:** Family Practitioner Services, Information and Registration Unit, BSO.

## Health and Social Care Trusts: Adherence to Guidelines

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 33960/11-15, what processes are in place within Health and Social Care Trusts to ensure adherence to the guidelines; and what mechanism can be instigated if the guidelines are not followed.

**(AQW 34545/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Trust governance arrangements support processes of staff appraisal and, in the case of doctors, revalidation. Whilst medical revalidation is aimed at ensuring doctors adhere to the guidance

of the GMC, the process does not rely on monitoring against every individual element of guidance. However, it does require that all doctors collect and reflect on complaints raised against them and the services they provide with a view to continually improving their practice. This will be documented at their annual appraisal.

If a person is dissatisfied with their care, including the handling of consultant to consultant referral, the Trust complaints process is the appropriate mechanism for them to raise their concerns.

Details on the process and support available can be found at [Make a complaint against the health service | nidirect](#)

### **Individual Funding Request Process: Cancer Drug Treatments**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he will announce the terms of reference for the evaluation his Department will carry out on the Individual Funding Request process for access to cancer drug treatments.

**(AQW 34547/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The terms of reference for the evaluation of whether the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process is meeting its objectives are currently being finalised by my Department and I expect to make an announcement in the near future.

### **European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights**

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he will ensure that Article 2 of the European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights is upheld.

**(AQW 34549/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I attended the World Cancer Day event in February this year when the European Cancer Patients Bill of Rights was launched. Article 2 of the charter states every European citizen should have the right to "optimal and timely access to appropriate specialised care, underpinned by research and innovation".

The health service in Northern Ireland is working hard to ensure optimal timely access to appropriate, evidence based, specialised care. Specific action includes:

- the Cancer Service Framework which provides standards to improve how services prevent, diagnose and treat cancer, as well as standards to support both cancer survivors and those with end of life needs;
- the endorsement of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technical appraisals and clinical guidelines, and the provision of NICE approved drugs;
- continued ongoing collaboration between cancer research and clinicians, for example through the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Centre and Network, and the Queens University Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, for which my Department provides funding, helps promote innovation in cancer diagnostics and treatment; and,
- partnerships with organisations like Macmillan Cancer Support has led to innovation and improvement in follow up services for patients with cancer.

### **Health Service Provision for Dyslexia**

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that dyslexia is recognised as a disability under equality legislation, why there is no Health Service provision for dyslexia, including at a diagnostic level.

**(AQW 34554/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Dyslexia is identified mainly within educational settings by educational psychologists, when teachers or parents have identified problems with reading and writing.

The additional and specialised teaching and adaptive strategies required to address the difficulty associated with dyslexia are delivered in schools and other educational settings.

While there are no specific health problems associated with dyslexia, any co-morbid or additional problems which require Health and Social Care input can be accessed by the normal referral routes.

If a referral is made to Health and Social Care, professionals including Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists support educational staff by assessing the child's or young person's phonological awareness and visual perceptual needs. They then provide appropriate intervention strategies and advice whilst liaising with educational colleagues and parents to meet the holistic needs of the child and enhance their literacy development.

### **Car Parking at the Causeway and Antrim Area Hospitals**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration he has given to the provision of additional staff car parking space at the Causeway and Antrim Area Hospitals. **(AQW 34557/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department's policy on car parking provision and management in the Health and Social Care (HSC) sector for Northern Ireland sets the direction for car park management including charging and makes clear that decisions relating to specific HSC site car parking rest with each Health and Social Care Trust.

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that there are currently no plans to increase the provision of additional staff car parking space at the Causeway Hospital site. With regard to the Antrim Area hospital, car park provision for staff was increased in 2013 by 133 spaces. Further spaces may be considered subject to demand and availability of capital funding. .

### **Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Non-Executive Directors**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the appointment of non-executive directors to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. **(AQW 34564/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The competition process to appoint two non-executive directors of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust is underway. Interviews were held in May 2014 and it is hoped that the appointment process will be completed within the coming weeks.

### **Out of Hours Service: Kilkeel Health Centre**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there are any plans to reduce the Out of Hours service provided at Kilkeel Health Centre. **(AQW 34568/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Health and Social Care Board commissions the provision of GP Out of Hours service from the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

The Board currently has no plans to reduce the Out of Hours service provided at Kilkeel Primary Care Centre.

### **Location of the Mental Health Unit Currently Situated in Omagh**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether a decision has been made on the future location of the mental health unit currently situated in Omagh. **(AQW 34583/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** No decision has been taken. At my request, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) undertook an appraisal of the two suggested locations for the second Mental Health Inpatient Unit in

the Western Trust area. The HSCB findings will inform the required business case for this project which will also need to take account of a financial and value for money analysis.

Only when a business case has been finalised and submitted to my Department for consideration can a final decision be taken. The business case will also need to be approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

Timing of the project will be subject to budgetary availability and this project will need to be considered alongside all other demands on the capital budget as we move to the next budgetary period commencing in 2015/16.

### **Building of the Local Enhanced Hospital in Omagh**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the new local enhanced hospital in Omagh will be built; and to list the facilities that will be available.

**(AQW 34589/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Work on the new Omagh Local Hospital is expected to commence this month and will be completed over a two year period. The Operational Commissioning is expected to take a further three to four months with the Hospital being operational late 2016.

The two storey building will provide accommodation for a range of services including GP practices, urgent care and treatment, cardiac assessment, renal dialysis, out-patients, dedicated children's department, X-ray and imaging, in-patient rehabilitation, recovery and palliative care services, day case theatres, community dental, allied health professional's therapy centre, the community mental health team and a dedicated centre for woman's health.

### **Maintenance Costs for the South West Acute Hospital**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the maintenance costs for the South West Acute Hospital in the 2013/14 financial year.

**(AQW 34590/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The maintenance costs for the South West Acute Hospital are included in the Unitary Charge payable to PFI Partner, Northern Ireland Health Group. The Unitary Charge payment is made up of a number of components which include costs relating to the building construction, contractor supplied equipment, capital replacement and lifecycle and interest charges (et al), in addition to estates, energy and grounds maintenance services.

The annual Unitary Charge was the subject of detailed scrutiny during the three-year procurement as part of the competitive tendering process and set within the PFI contract at Financial Close (May 2009).

The detailed breakdown of Unitary Charge payments is considered as commercially sensitive information and the Trust is therefore not permitted to disclose this information in accordance with the PFI contract and the Freedom of Information Act.

### **Prescriptions Issued**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many prescriptions have been issued in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34608/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The number of prescription items for which a prescription was written, dispensed by a community pharmacist, dispensing doctor or appliance supplier, and presented for payment in 2011, 2012 and 2013 is shown below.

Not all prescriptions issued are subsequently dispensed and presented for payment, so the number of prescriptions issued is not known centrally.

The figures shown are presented by the calendar year in which the prescription was paid to the pharmacist; it should be noted that there may be a time lag where prescriptions have been dispensed by the community pharmacist in a particular year but paid the following year. The data provided only covers drugs dispensed in primary care, as drugs prescribed and dispensed in hospital cannot be captured centrally due to the use of different hospital IT systems.

#### Number of prescription items dispensed in each of the last three years

Calendar Year	Number of prescription items
2011	36,322,851
2012	37,841,141
2013	38,661,481

**Source:** Family Practitioner Services, Information and Registration Unit, BSO.

#### Tattoo Removal

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether tattoo removal can be carried out on the Health Service.

**(AQW 34622/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Plastic surgery procedures carried out through the Health and Social Care Service in Northern Ireland are consistent with the principles set out in the policy document "A Policy to Make Best Use of Resources in Plastic Surgery and Related Specialties". This states that clear clinical criteria will be used to determine whether a patient should have surgery. In the case of tattoo removal, the policy states that tattoo removal will only be available if the following criteria are met;

- the tattoo is visible in a person's normal daily life, and either
- the tattoo may put the patient's life, health, or livelihood at risk, or
- the tattoo was inflicted without the patient's valid consent.

A copy of the policy document is available on the DHSSPS website at [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/microsoft\\_word\\_-\\_a\\_policy\\_to\\_make\\_best\\_use\\_of\\_resources\\_in\\_plastic\\_surgery\\_and\\_related\\_specialties\\_\\_205\\_kb\\_.pdf](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/microsoft_word_-_a_policy_to_make_best_use_of_resources_in_plastic_surgery_and_related_specialties__205_kb_.pdf)

#### Wheelchair Accessible Scales

**Mr Beggs** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when wheelchair accessible scales will be available at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children.

**(AQW 34626/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I can confirm that wheelchair accessible scales were installed in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children on Tues 24th June 2014.

#### New Code of Conduct for Social Workers

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will consider the introduction of a new code of conduct as part of the development of a new social work strategy.

**(AQW 34630/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is important that the standards of conduct, performance and ethics set by the NISCC in Codes take into account the different level of training, roles, responsibilities and job requirements of both social workers and social care workers to guide individuals and ensure they can be held to account for actions or omissions in their conduct or practice commensurate with expected levels of behaviour and performance.

I am fully supportive of the work being progressed by the NISCC to revise and update the Code of Practice for Social Care Workers (including social workers) which was developed over 12 years ago.

There will be two new Codes, one for social workers and one for social care workers, that will set out core standards of conduct that apply to both alongside specific standards that reflect specific differences in performance expectations.

This is in line with the Department's policy and the aims of the Social Work Strategy and officials are working with the NISCC to this end.

### **Emergency Departments: Legal Highs**

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have reported to Emergency Units because of the effects of legal high psychoactive substances, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34640/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on attendances at emergency care departments because of the effect of legal high psychoactive substances is not available, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

### **Issue of Legal Highs**

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions he has had with the Minister of Justice on the issue of legal highs.

**(AQW 34641/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department leads on the cross-departmental strategy developed to tackle alcohol and drug misuse in Northern Ireland, the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs (NSD Phase 2). The NSD Phase 2 contains outcomes to reduce the availability and supply of all illegal/illicit drugs, including New Psychoactive Substances. With regard to illegal drugs, enforcement of the key UK-wide legislation (the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) is the responsibility of the PSNI, and therefore this Department has, and continues, to work closely with the Department of Justice and the Criminal Justice sector on this issue.

Examples of cross-departmental working include the Law and Criminal Justice Advisory Group, chaired by the Department of Justice, which is one of four advisory groups set up to provide advice and policy guidance on specific priorities contained within NSD Phase 2. In addition, key links have been made between NSD Phase 2, the DOJ Community Safety Strategy, the Organised Crime Task Force, and the Strategic Framework for Reducing Offending. At a local level, my Department continues to promote joined up working between the Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams, the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and local councils.

My Department is also represented on the Organised Crime Task Force Drugs Expert Group – chaired by the PSNI with representation from the UK Border Agency, the Department of Justice, and other key partners – which meets on an ongoing basis to share information and intelligence, and to monitor and oversee joint action to help restrict supply and reduce the availability of all illicit drugs, including New Psychoactive Substances.

The issue of these substances was also discussed by all Ministers at the Executive meeting on 05 June 2014.

### **Discussions with Counterparts in Other Jurisdictions**

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions he has had with his counterparts in other jurisdictions in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland on the issue of legal highs.

**(AQW 34642/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The British-Irish Council Ministerial Sectoral Group on Substance Misuse is chaired by the Republic of Ireland and includes representatives from the UK Government, Scotland, Northern

Ireland, Wales, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. This group meets on an ongoing basis to share information and intelligence, and to monitor and oversee joint action to help restrict supply and reduce the availability of all illicit drugs, including New Psychoactive Substances.

In addition, as the key UK-wide legislation (the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) is reserved to the Westminster Government, I have engaged with the Home Secretary Theresa May MP and other Home Office Ministers on the need for strengthening the relevant legislation on this issue. Following this, the Home Office is currently overseeing an “expert review” of the issue and is due to make recommendations in the near future.

### **Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Vehicles**

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of white cars operated by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service; (ii) the mileage covered in the last twelve months; and (iii) the procedures in place to differentiate private use.

**(AQW 34677/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- (i) The number of white cars operated by the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service is 115.
- (ii) The total mileage for the last 12 months is 1,326,738 giving an average of 11,537 per vehicle.
- (iii) In accordance with NIFRS policy private usage of these vehicles by flexi duty Officers is not permitted.

### **Adult Safeguarding Policy Update**

**Mrs Cameron** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Adult Safeguarding Policy.

**(AQW 34678/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Work on the development of an Adult Safeguarding Policy is being taken forward by my department in partnership with the Department of Justice. The draft policy is currently being finalised. We intend undertake a final round of engagement with key stakeholders over the summer months and commence public consultation on the draft policy in Autumn 2014. It is our intention to publish the final policy in the early part of 2015.

### **Medical Beds within Local Hospitals**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of medical beds within each local hospital.

**(AQW 34681/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information in relation to the number of available beds in HSC Hospitals in Northern Ireland is regularly collected by the Department.

The following table details the average number of available beds under medical specialties by HSC Hospital in 2012/13.

<b>HSC Trust</b>	<b>Hospital</b>	<b>2012/13 Average Available Medical Beds</b>
Belfast	Belfast City	368.1
	Musgrave Park	151.4
	Cancer Centre	69.1
	Royal Victoria	267.2

HSC Trust	Hospital	2012/13 Average Available Medical Beds
	Royal Maternity	76.8
	RBHSC	16.8
	Mater Infirmorum	160.5
South Eastern	Ards	20.0
	Ulster	378.6
	Bangor	20.0
	Lagan Valley	92.1
	Thompson House	35.0
	Downe	49.4
Northern	Robinson Memorial	25.0
	Dalriada	32.0
	Causeway	152.6
	Moyle	18.0
	Whiteabbey	44.2
	Mid Ulster	28.9
	Antrim	355.4
Southern	South Tyrone	45.0
	Lurgan	51.0
	Craigavon Area	280.7
	Daisy Hill	147.7
Western	Altnagelvin Area	283.2
	Waterside	47.6
	Tyrone County	44.3
	South West Acute	154.8
Northern Ireland		3,415.5

Source: KH03a return

### MRI Scanner at the Royal Hospital

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the purchase and the installation of the MRI scanner at the Royal Hospital, Belfast.

**(AQW 34686/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Work on the site is due to commence in August 2014, with completion of the MRI suite expected by the end of March 2015. The Trust plans to make the MRI scanner operational immediately after handover.

## Capital Works Planned for the Bangor Hospital

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any future capital works planned for the Bangor Hospital.

**(AQW 34701/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The South Eastern HSC Trust has no current plans for future capital works at Bangor Hospital, however, a project to convert the old kitchen block has recently been completed and staff will be transferring from leased accommodation to Bangor Hospital after the summer .

## Men Diagnosed with Testicular Cancer

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many men were diagnosed with testicular cancer in (i) 2003; and (ii) 2013.

**(AQW 34713/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The latest information provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (NICR) indicates that 56 men were diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2003. Figures for 2013 are not currently available however 67 men were diagnosed in 2012.

Information on cancer incidence and survival rates in NI are available on the NICR website at <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/nicr/CancerData/>. Cancer incidence figures for 2013 will be available in March 2015.

## Eating Disorders

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety too outline the service provision for people below the age of 14 years diagnosed with eating disorders.

**(AQW 34749/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Eating Disorder Services for young people are provided by specialist community-based teams in each Health & Social Care Trust area. The Belfast Trust provides these services for the South Eastern Trust.

Inpatient care for children and adolescents with eating disorders is usually provided at Beechcroft, the Regional Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit. The Unit provides inpatient care for children and young people up to the age of 18.

However, if a patient's condition is primarily physical, clinicians may decide that the best place for treatment is an acute hospital setting. If this is case, acute paediatric medical and CAMHS eating disorders services work in partnership.

If a patient requires intense specialist treatment for an eating disorder, Trusts can access beds in England, Scotland and Ireland through the Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) process. Developments in local Eating Disorder Services in recent years have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of children and young people having to be referred outside Northern Ireland for treatment.

## Eating Disorders

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many young people are diagnosed with an eating disorder.

**(AQW 34750/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** It is not possible to identify the number of young people diagnosed with an eating disorder.

The number of admissions of young people to acute hospitals as a result of eating disorders in each Health and Social Care Trust is given in the table below. The figures do not include admissions to any community or mental health facilities.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Admissions</b>
2010/11	15
2011/12	11
2012/13	16

**Source:** Hospital Inpatient System

**Notes:**

- 1) Young people have been defined as those aged under sixteen years.
- 2) Eating disorders were searched for in the primary diagnostic position only.

### **Mental Capacity Legislation**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps his Department is taking to ensure that new legislation on mental capacity complies with requirements outlined in Article 12 of United Nations Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**(AQW 34752/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department has taken account of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and will continue to assess the compatibility of the draft Mental Capacity Bill with the Convention, in light of recent developments such as the publication of the General Comment on Article 12. This assessment will also be informed by views expressed during the current consultation exercise on the draft Bill during which the Department intends to focus on raising awareness of the guiding principles of the draft Bill. These relate to maximising capacity and supporting people where possible to make decisions for themselves. The draft Bill's alignment with the themes of equal treatment, inclusion and accessibility enshrined in the Convention will also be highlighted.

### **Mental Capacity Legislation**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety will consult with people with learning disabilities regarding the draft mental capacity legislation, to raise awareness and facilitate their involvement in monitoring its introduction and implementation.

**(AQW 34753/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The draft Mental Capacity Bill is a wide-ranging piece of legislation which has the potential to affect many people across various programmes of care. It was published for consultation on 27th May this year, following a detailed policy development phase during which key stakeholders were extensively engaged.

Five public consultation events are being held across Northern Ireland and, in addition, my Department, along with the Department of Justice, has offered to meet with any group during the consultation period to raise awareness of the draft Bill and gather feedback. To date, a number of events and workshops have already been arranged involving with people with a learning disability. Officials from both Departments also recently presented to the All Party Group on Learning Disability. Easy read material is also available.

The Departments are also planning a collaborative approach with a wide range of stakeholders, including people with a learning disability and their representative organisations, to plan for the implementation of the legislation, for example, on the development of the associated Regulations, Code of Practice and training for those with a role under the legislation.

### **Decision Making: Care, Treatment and Personal Welfare**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department will recognise the key role played by families and their involvement as a source of support to their loved one with a learning disability when making decisions about their own life.

**(AQW 34754/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department, along with the Department of Justice, recently published the draft Mental Capacity Bill for consultation. The draft legislation sets out a new framework for decision making in relation to a person's care, treatment or personal welfare. It also covers decisions about property and affairs.

The Bill details the importance placed on the right of an individual to make their own decisions, but recognises that there will be many circumstances in which families and carers will play a role in helping and supporting a person to make their own decisions where they have capacity to do so.

For people who lack capacity, the Bill puts in place new and improved safeguards that go beyond what is required under the current law and which also ensure that families and carers are actively involved in any decisions made, through determining what would be in a person's best interests to acting as a Nominated Person under the Bill.

### **Tombstoning: Injuries**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been injured as a result of tombstoning, in the last twelve months.

**(AQW 34762/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on the number of people injured as a result of tombstoning is not available.

### **Dental Hygiene Training**

**Mr Brady** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his plans to sustain the future viability of dental hygiene training.

**(AQW 34797/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I am aware that no new students have been enrolled into the two year diploma course at the Belfast School of Dental Hygiene since September 2011. Officials from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Queen's University Belfast and the Department have been considering options on the way forward and I expect to receive their advice in due course.

### **Downe Hospital Emergency Unit**

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant of AQW 33198/11-15 and given that the Downe Hospital Emergency Unit has had restricted opening times for six months, what progress has been made on the proposals to address the shortfall in the number of middle grade doctors by (i) converting middle grade doctor posts to consultant posts; (ii) developing middle grade staff by working intensely with locum staff; and (iii) employing and training GP trainees.

**(AQW 34805/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:**

- i) The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust converted 4 middle grade doctor posts to consultant posts in 2011 as it had been consistently difficult to fill the middle grade vacancies. Other Trusts are considering this as an option.
- ii) Trusts continue to seek to work with locums to help them develop to work at middle grade level but this has been met with limited success at present due to the small number of locums taking up this development opportunity, and there are currently no locums who fall into this category.
- iii) The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust had one GP in training for A&E but this GP has now moved to a different speciality outside A&E in a different Trust. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust currently employ a number of qualified GPs with special interests in A&E who provide sessional work.

## Epilepsy

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have a diagnosis of epilepsy.

**(AQW 34837/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Under the Quality & Outcomes Framework (QOF), GPs maintain a register of the number of patients aged 18 and over who are currently on drug treatment for epilepsy.

As at 31 March 2014, there were 15,378 patients on the epilepsy registers of GPs located in Northern Ireland.

## Emergency Healthcare: NIHRC Inquiry

**Mr F McCann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department will support and engage with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission's Inquiry into Emergency Health Care.

**(AQO 6478/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department is committed to providing all necessary assistance and support to the Commission in carrying out its investigation.

I met with senior representatives of the Commission last month to discuss the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. My Department and the Commission have agreed to work constructively together as the Inquiry moves forward.

## Speak Up and Save a Life

**Mr Girvan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the Public Health Agency's Speak up and save a life campaign.

**(AQO 6483/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** 'The Speak up and save a life campaign' is the first public information campaign of its kind in Northern Ireland. The campaign message focuses on lives saved by organ donation and takes a testimonial approach which shows the impact of organ donation from the recipient and the donor family perspectives, highlighting the importance of sharing our organ donation wishes with loved ones.

Unfortunately, the number of transplants needed is rising due to an aging population and increases in illnesses such as diabetes, kidney, heart and liver disease, so it is crucial that people speak up if lives are to be saved.

The Public Health Agency has already completed phase one of the campaign and has recently launched phase two which runs until 31 October 2014.

During the first phase, in February and March this year, the website received 11,260 visits and the registration page 3,629 visits. Social media also performed well, with Facebook ads and YouTube videos receiving significant levels of likes and clicks. A full evaluation of the campaign will be produced following the end of the campaign

I take this opportunity to once again urge everyone to consider signing the organ donor register and having made such a decision, to discuss their wishes with their families and loved ones.

## Care Homes

**Mr Attwood** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assurances he can give, following the Health and Social Care Board's review into residential care, that Health and Social Care Trusts will not unilaterally remove open admission policies or close care homes in the next twelve months.

**(AQO 6484/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Mr Speaker, with your permission I will answer questions 9 and 15 together. As you will be aware, the board of the HSC Board considered and approved the post consultation report on Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People' on Thursday 12 June.

The report provides a thorough analysis of views shared during the consultation process and sets out final criteria against which statutory residential homes for older people will be evaluated. Where that evaluation indicates a clear case for a home to continue to provide residential care, the relevant Trust will be asked to review any non-admission policy in respect of that home. Any proposals for change will be subject to full consultation on a home by home basis.

### **10,000 Voices: Improving the Patient Experience**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the recent findings of the 10,000 Voices: Improving the patient experience report.

**(AQO 6485/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** excess leave entitlement. A Regional Outcomes Report on the 10,000 Voices Project is in final draft and due to be presented to the Public Health Agency Board in August 2014 and the Health and Social Care Board September 2014 and will be published thereafter.

A briefing report on the progress of the 10,000 Voices Project was provided to my Department in May 2014 detailing the progress based on almost 4000 stories obtained from a range of different health care settings to date.

My assessment is that the interim report indicates that through this initiative, significant local improvements have already been achieved, and that there are also action plans in place for further improvements.

Trusts have implemented Quality Improvement measures across the areas where the stories were gathered. Most of these improvements have been practical and easily implemented solutions to issues raised by patients on their experience.

This initiative has also provided an opportunity for a partnership approach to shape the way in which we deliver and commission services based on patient experience.

By using information obtained from peoples stories of their experience of health care provision, to inform the commissioning of future services, we can be assured that quality improvements will be based on information which we know really matters to patients.

### **Suicide Prevention Projects**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the procurement process for suicide prevention projects.

**(AQO 6486/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Public Health Agency will take forward the procurement of suicide prevention services, along with services linked to wider mental health promotion, in 3 phases over the next 12 months. Phase 1 will be initiated after the summer, with the aim that newly procured services will commence from April 2015. These services will include awareness programmes to support the mental and emotional health needs of specified groups - LGBT individuals and their families, travellers, and minority ethnic communities. They will also include community based psychological intervention services for people who self harm and family support services

It is anticipated that Phase 2 and 3 tenders will be awarded by June 2015 covering services such as counselling, complementary therapy, training, community support and bereavement support.

The Public Health Agency will keep the timescales under review and will provide periodic updates of any changes via their website.

## Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much money has been returned to his departmental budget as a result of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.

**(AQO 6487/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme is a UK wide scheme negotiated between the Pharmaceutical Industry and the Department of Health (London) on behalf of all parts of the UK.

Through the scheme, for each of the last three financial years, Northern Ireland has been apportioned the following:

- For the 2011/2012 year                   £3.43 million
- For the 2012/2013 year                   £3 million
- For the 2013/2014 year                   £2.85 million

## Children: Named Contact

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has he given to a designated named contact for every child, similar to the provision included in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

**(AQO 6488/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** In drafting the Adoption and Children Bill, consideration has been given to new policy and legislative provisions in other jurisdictions. These have been highlighted in the consultation document on the draft Bill and include reference to the “named person service” recently introduced in Scotland. This service requires certain providers to make available an individual, to carry out specific functions in order to promote, support or safeguard the wellbeing of every child or young person from birth until they reach 18 years of age. Consultation responses on the Bill will inform a decision on whether a similar provision should be introduced in Northern Ireland.

## Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Services

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the review of paediatric congenital cardiac services.

**(AQO 6489/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The International Expert Team, led by Dr John Mayer, commissioned by Dr James Reilly TD, Minister of Health in the Republic of Ireland, and me to carry out an independent assessment of current and future needs for cardiology and cardiac surgery for congenital heart disease in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is aiming to submit its report to us shortly.

The team will describe the existing hospital services in both jurisdictions, outline options for service configuration and governance arrangements and recommend the most appropriate model that meets the population health needs and other requirements of both jurisdictions.

Minister Reilly and I will need to carefully consider the report and I will aim to make public the implications for the future delivery of this service for Northern Ireland as soon as I am in a position to do so.

## Care Homes

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the recommendation in the Health and Social Care Board’s Statutory Residential Care Homes post consultation report that Health and Social Care Trusts should review their individual positions regarding permanent admissions.

**(AQO 6490/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Mr Speaker, with your permission I will answer questions 9 and 15 together. As you will be aware, the board of the HSC Board considered and approved the post consultation report on 'Making Choices: Meeting the Current and Future Needs of Older People' on Thursday 12 June.

The report provides a thorough analysis of views shared during the consultation process and sets out final criteria against which statutory residential homes for older people will be evaluated. Where that evaluation indicates a clear case for a home to continue to provide residential care, the relevant Trust will be asked to review any non-admission policy in respect of that home. Any proposals for change will be subject to full consultation on a home by home basis.

## Department of Justice

### Serious Case Review

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Serious Case Review into David Paige, why his "stable" assessment of August 2012 was not revisited after being downgraded from "acute" status; and for his assessment of whether this would have assisted in alerting authorities to any potential reoffending.

**(AQW 34321/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice):** The Stable Assessment is an accredited risk assessment tool completed at 12 month intervals in accordance with guidance in the PPANI Manual of Practice. The Local Area Public Protection Panel (LAPPP) met and agreed it was appropriate to recategorise David Page's risk status from Category 2 to Category 1 approximately four weeks before a further annual stable assessment would have been due to be undertaken.

In this case the LAPPP considered a series of favourable assessments, using Acute Assessment tools, which had been had been completed in the months preceding the reduction in Mr Page's risk category. In addition they considered a number of other positive contributory factors including current compliance with Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) and bail conditions and the absence of any emerging concerns about potential victim access opportunities. On the basis of these indicators it was not considered necessary at that time to revisit the Stable Assessment.

The Serious Case Review recommended that where the LAPPP meeting is considering recategorising the risk category and the current Stable assessment is more than 6 months old, that consideration should be given to the need for the Stable assessment to be revisited. This has now been incorporated into practice.

The Serious Case Review concluded that in view of the thoroughness of the supervision provided by both PBNI and PSNI in the period leading up to the offence, it is unlikely that any different assessment of the risk posed by Mr Page, including a revisited Stable assessment, would have assisted in alerting authorities to any potential reoffending.

### Serious Case Review

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Serious Case Review into David Paige, why he was not considered to be high risk given his continued refusal to acknowledge his offending behaviour which would have automatically meant he rejected the suggestion that any further actions would be wrong.

**(AQW 34322/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** A range of factors are taken into consideration when assessing the appropriate risk category including: current behaviour; absence of any emerging behavioural concerns (as evidenced in this case through visits carried out by PSNI's Public Protection Unit); the outcome of accredited assessments; the offender's attitudes towards his offence; and compliance with external controls put in place (including Sexual Offences Prevention Order and bail conditions). Mr Page's continued refusal to

acknowledge his offending behaviour would not, in itself, have provided a sufficient basis alone to maintain Mr Page at a higher risk category.

### **Custodial Sentence**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, to confirm that David Paige will not be released from prison, even when his custodial sentence has been served, until he no longer poses a threat or danger, acknowledges his offending behaviour and completes all required sexual offender behaviour programmes. **(AQW 34323/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The court imposed a determinate custodial sentence on Mr Page and there is a statutory requirement that he must therefore be released on licence once he has served the custodial part of his sentence set by the sentencing judge.

It is only where the court has imposed an indeterminate custodial sentence that release is at the direction of the Parole Commissioners for Northern Ireland who must be satisfied before directing release that it is no longer necessary, for the protection of the public from serious harm, for the offender to continue to be confined in custody.

### **Serious Case Review**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Serious Case Review into David Paige, why he was downgraded from a Category 2 sex offender to a Category 1 in August 2012, whilst he was awaiting sentencing for breaches of Sexual Offences Prevention Orders proving he was not compliant with court orders. **(AQW 34324/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** At the time that Mr Page was recategorised from a Category 2 to a Category 1 risk, he was awaiting sentence in relation to a breach of a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) which had occurred 22 months previously on 1 November 2010. The decision to recategorise was based on assessments which took account of more recent factors including: compliance with SOPO conditions over that 22 month period; adherence to bail conditions; no evidence of any emerging concerns, including potential victim access opportunities; and compliance with home visits by PSNI's Public Protection Unit.

### **Serious Case Review**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Serious Case Review into David Paige which states "The independent reviewer found that the agencies discharged their responsibilities fully and conscientiously in the management of the offender in the community", and "Accommodation was carefully assessed prior to approval being granted", to detail (i) how his Lurgan residence could have been deemed appropriate and as carefully assessed, given the number of children residing in the area, particularly on the same street and the close proximity to several schools; and (ii) whether the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland intend to review this section of their report. **(AQW 34383/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Two potential addresses provided by Mr Page were assessed by police officers. One was rejected on the grounds of location and the second address was approved following assessment. The approved premises were located within approximately five minutes walk of two local educational establishments; a situation that is likely to apply to many urban residential properties across Northern Ireland. However the premises were not on the same street or road as those establishments nor did it overlook the entrance to either.

The independent reviewer, who conducted the Serious Case Review, concluded that the agencies had acted conscientiously regarding the management of Mr Page and the recommendation contained in the report has been implemented by the agencies. There is no mechanism for further review.

## Probation Board for Northern Ireland

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33561/11-15, whether this funding is open to all local authorities that are prepared to facilitate a service for the Probation Board for Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 34384/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Community Grants Scheme operated by Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) invites application from organisations and groups in an annual advertisement. The scheme is open to local authorities who wish to apply and further details can be found on the PBNI website; [www.pbni.org.uk](http://www.pbni.org.uk).

## Probation Board for Northern Ireland: Grants

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33561/11-15, in relation to the £50,000 received in grants from the Probation Board for Northern Ireland over a number of years, what specific services Banbridge District Council provide to facilitate community service.

**(AQW 34386/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Banbridge District Council established an employability project known as the Restore project in 2009. The Restore project applied to Probation Board for Northern Ireland's Community Grants Scheme to help facilitate the delivery of Community Service placements in the council area. The project provides PBNI with 20 placements per annum for those on Community Service Orders.

## Lisnevin Prison Service Site in Millisle

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the future of the Lisnevin Prison Service site in Millisle.

**(AQW 34392/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The site will continue in its present role as the Prison Service College until the Northern Ireland Community Safety College is completed at Desertcreat.

Consideration is being given to extending the training facility for use by other Justice Organisations.

## National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of times he has met with Members and representatives of the SDLP, in the last six months, to discuss the full extension and implementation of the National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 34424/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Over the past six months I, or my officials, have met with the SDLP twice and Sinn Fein once.

I, or officials, have met the Secretary of State or her officials or discussed the issue with them on numerous occasions. We have also had contact with other interested bodies.

## National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of times he has met with Members and representatives of Sinn Féin, in the last six months, to discuss the full extension and implementation of the National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 34425/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Over the past six months I, or my officials, have met with the SDLP twice and Sinn Fein once.

I, or officials, have met the Secretary of State or her officials or discussed the issue with them on numerous occasions. We have also had contact with other interested bodies.

## National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of times he has met the Secretary of State or Northern Ireland Office officials, in the last six months, to discuss the full extension and implementation of the National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 34426/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Over the past six months I, or my officials, have met with the SDLP twice and Sinn Fein once.

I, or officials, have met the Secretary of State or her officials or discussed the issue with them on numerous occasions. We have also had contact with other interested bodies.

## SPAR Proceedings

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice whether the prisoner was subject to Supporting Prisoner at Risk (SPAR) proceedings on the most recent occasions prior to and after the episodes of self-harm; and if so, how many times SPAR proceedings closed and reopened during his time in custody.

**(AQW 34439/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** This information has been withheld as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

NIPS has asked the Prisoner Ombudsman to conduct an independent investigation into this case. I hope the Member will be reassured that it is being treated both seriously and with transparency.

## Committal Proceedings

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice how many committal proceedings in the last twelve months proceeded by way of (i) preliminary investigations; and (ii) preliminary inquiries.

**(AQW 34446/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** During the last 12 months, provisional data indicates there were 35 committal proceedings by way of a preliminary investigation, 1,579 by way of a preliminary inquiry and 22 by way of a mixed committal.

Of this number, a total of three preliminary investigations, 40 preliminary inquiries and three mixed committals were not returned to the Crown Court. The outcome of each of these committal proceedings is outlined below.

### Number of Committal Proceedings that were not returned to the Crown Court, by outcome: June 2013 to May 2014P

Outcome of committal proceedings	Type of proceeding		
	Preliminary Investigation	Preliminary Inquiry	Mixed Committal
Withdrawn by the Public Prosecution Service	3	24	1
Adjourned generally	0	13	0
Discharged	0	2	0
No jurisdiction	0	1	0
Key witness did not attend investigation	0	0	1
Proceedings stayed	0	0	1
<b>Total number not returned to the Crown Court</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>

**Source:** Integrated Court Operations System.

**P** Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change.

To identify the number of individual charges dismissed during committal proceedings in the last 12 months would require a manual review of court records and would incur a disproportionate cost.

## Committal Proceedings

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of dismissed charges during committal proceedings in the last twelve months, indicating the number of dismissals in (i) preliminary investigations; and (ii) preliminary inquiries.

**(AQW 34447/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** During the last 12 months, provisional data indicates there were 35 committal proceedings by way of a preliminary investigation, 1,579 by way of a preliminary inquiry and 22 by way of a mixed committal.

Of this number, a total of three preliminary investigations, 40 preliminary inquiries and three mixed committals were not returned to the Crown Court. The outcome of each of these committal proceedings is outlined below.

### Number of Committal Proceedings that were not returned to the Crown Court, by outcome: June 2013 to May 2014P

Outcome of committal proceedings	Type of proceeding		
	Preliminary Investigation	Preliminary Inquiry	Mixed Committal
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Adjourned generally	0	13	0
Discharged	0	2	0
No jurisdiction	0	1	0
Key witness did not attend investigation	0	0	1
Proceedings stayed	0	0	1
Total number not returned to the Crown Court	3	40	3

**Source:** Integrated Court Operations System.

P Data are currently provisional and may be subject to change.

To identify the number of individual charges dismissed during committal proceedings in the last 12 months would require a manual review of court records and would incur a disproportionate cost.

## Publication of Report

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33915/11-15, why this investigation and subsequent report was not made public at the time or on conclusion.

**(AQW 34456/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Details of the investigation and subsequent report were not made public as internal reports are not routinely published by the Department of Justice. Any requests for access to information are considered on a case by case basis under the Freedom of Information Act.

No material breach of contract was identified by the investigation. Disciplinary actions are a matter for the contractor. The Police Service of Northern Ireland was consulted and advised that no criminal investigation was required.

## Breach of Contract

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 33915/11-15, whether any breach of contract was identified, or recommendations made for disciplinary actions or criminal proceedings. **(AQW 34457/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Details of the investigation and subsequent report were not made public as internal reports are not routinely published by the Department of Justice. Any requests for access to information are considered on a case by case basis under the Freedom of Information Act.

No material breach of contract was identified by the investigation. Disciplinary actions are a matter for the contractor. The Police Service of Northern Ireland was consulted and advised that no criminal investigation was required.

## Preliminary Enquiries

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the total percentage of preliminary enquiries assigned to counsel for hearing; and (ii) the percentage of enquiries broken down per court division, in each of the last three calendar years.

**(AQW 34469/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** There were 1,467 preliminary enquiries during 2011 with counsel instructed for 14% of defendants, 1,616 preliminary enquiries during 2012 with counsel instructed for 17% of defendants and 1,669 preliminary enquiries in 2013, with counsel instructed for 17% of defendants.

The percentage of preliminary enquires in each court division is outlined below.

### Preliminary Enquiries at the Magistrates' Court, by court division: 2011 to 2013

Court Division	Year					
	2011		2012		2013	
	No. of Preliminary Enquiries	% in each court division	No. of Preliminary Enquiries	% in each court division	No. of Preliminary Enquiries	% in each court division
Belfast	523	36	586	36	573	34
Londonderry	131	9	185	11	179	11
Antrim	120	8	188	12	212	13
Fermanagh and Tyrone	200	14	186	12	211	13
Armagh and South Down	142	9	147	9	176	10
Ards	188	13	147	9	150	9
Craigavon	163	11	177	11	168	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Integrated Court Operations System

## Legal Aid payments by the Legal Services Commission

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the process of making Legal Aid payments by the Legal Services Commission; and for a breakdown of the timescale in which payments were made in each month of the last three years.

**(AQW 34502/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Commission processes claims in chronological order. I am satisfied that this is an equitable basis on which to process payments.

There are two parts to the payment process. The first is a system to validate and authorise the claim on the Commission's case management system. The second is a procedure for paying authorised claims.

The Commission has performance targets in place for each of part of the process, which are measured on a quarterly basis. To extract the information on a monthly basis would involve disproportionate cost.

Table 1 below provides details of the Commission's performance in respect of the time taken from receipt of a claim until it is authorised for payment. From 2012/13 the Commission has measured performance separately in respect of standard and non-standard fees, as standard fees are more straightforward and take less time to assess and process for payment.

**Table 1 – Time taken from receipt of claim to authorisation of claims**

Year	Payments	Target Performance	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2011/12	Authorisation of Standard fees for payment from date of receipt	75% within 6 weeks					86%*
	Authorisation of Non-Standard fees for payment from date of receipt	75% within 6 weeks					77%*
2012/13	Authorisation of Standard fees for payment from date of receipt	75% within 4 weeks	74%	73%	62%	53%	64%
	Authorisation of Non-Standard fees for payment from date of receipt	75% within 12 weeks	92%	83%	85%	60%	79%
2013/14	Authorisation of Standard fees for payment from date of receipt	75% within 4 weeks	51%	65%	50%	9%	47%
	Authorisation of Non-Standard fees for payment from date of receipt	75% within 12 weeks	78%	46%	22%	9%	41%

\* The split between standard and non-standard was not reported on a quarterly basis during 2011/12. Therefore only year-end figures are available.

**Table 2: Time taken from authorisation of claim to payment**

Year	Payments	Target Performance	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2011/12	Payments (Legal Fund) from date of authorisation.	85% in one week	86%	91%	87%	92%	89%
2012/13	Payments (Legal Fund) from date of authorisation.	95% in 7 working days	98%	97%	99%	9%	79%
2013/14	Payments (Legal Fund) from date of authorisation.	95% in 7 working days	81%	99%	73%	94%	91%

Please note that the statistics provided in these tables are also published within the Commission's Annual Report and Accounts and Business Plan. These documents are available on the DOJ website at <http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/legalservices.htm>

### National Crime Agency

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has held any discussions with the National Crime Agency (NCA) since January 2014 in connection with the consequences of organised crime in Northern Ireland not being effectively countered as a result of the NCA currently not being fully operational. **(AQW 34511/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My Department is in constant contact with the National Crime Agency in relation to this issue and the ongoing attempts to ensure that it is resolved.

We are currently engaging with the Northern Ireland Office, the Home Office and law enforcement agencies on a further proposed model which we would intend to put to all parties and relevant bodies as soon as practicable.

### Zero Hour Contracts

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 34185/11-15, whether this applied to contracted companies providing services to his Department following a tender process; and if not (i) how many service providers use zero hour contracts; (ii) the name of the providers using zero hour contracts; and (iii) why a disparity is permitted when using Departmental funding. **(AQW 34514/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My answer to AQW/34185/11-15 did not apply to contracted companies providing services to my Department following a tender process.

- (i) My Department currently has two contracts which use zero hours.
- (ii) G4S Secure Solutions (UK) Ltd is the service provider for both of these.
- (iii) As per my previous reply, within the Northern Ireland Civil Service HR Handbook there is no provision for a Department to provide zero hours working for permanent civil servants. In one of the two contracts, it was the employees of G4S Secure Solutions (UK) who specifically requested zero hours and declined offers of full-time, or part-time, employment.

### Legal Highs

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the current legislation that can be used by PSNI officers to cease or arrest people selling legal highs. **(AQW 34522/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Current Home Office guidance outlines the relevant legislative provisions and the main types of offence that can be used against those selling what are known as “legal highs”. The sale of “legal highs” is not in itself a specific offence though alternative powers can be available.

The offences available include selling controlled drugs, selling drugs paraphernalia, and breaching the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985. General Product Safety Regulations has also been utilised in terms of breaching consumer protection regulations.

Twelve month Temporary Class Drug Orders can also be made by the Home Secretary under the Misuse of Drugs Act - a reserved matter - to ban emerging substances that have not yet been assessed by the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs.

Across jurisdictions it is acknowledged that more needs to be done in terms of the law around “legal highs”. The Home Secretary has therefore commissioned a Review of the effectiveness of the current legislation.

Whilst the Review is ongoing, I continue to support the efforts of all related agencies and local Councils as they work to remove these dangerous substances from our communities.

## Legal Highs

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has met with his counterparts in other jurisdictions to learn about other efforts combating the sale and distribution of legal highs.

**(AQW 34523/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have met with counterparts in other jurisdictions to discuss a wide range of Criminal Justice matters and whilst not the specific focus of discussions, it is evident that responding to the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances across the world has been a challenge given the range and diversity of these illicit substances. This has resulted in a range of innovative responses including the utilisation of existing legislative provisions aimed at controlling the open sale of these harmful substances.

However, it is also clear that more needs to be done and as this remains a reserved matter, I welcome the Home Office led Review that will consider the effectiveness of the current legislation and operational response to date.

I understand that the review will consider the opportunities and risks of any new ideas identified, informed by international and other evidence and make a clear recommendation for an effective and sustainable UK-wide legislative response.

## Legal Highs

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Justice to detail all programmes his Department has funded to educate young people about the dangers of legal highs, broken down by constituency, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34524/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** While the provision of education programmes is not the primary locus of the Department of Justice, my Department’s Community Safety Strategy does refer to the need to increase awareness about substance misuse amongst young people. Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are addressing this where it has been identified as an issue of local concern.

Whilst I am not able to provide the information in the format you have requested I have attached information on the wide range of programmes and events that have been delivered across Northern Ireland that have either been designed specifically, or contained elements within them, to educate young people about the dangers associated with taking New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). You may wish to seek further detail from local PCSPs.

Substance misuse issues, including NPS, are also addressed through the delivery of appropriately tailored programmes to young people under supervision by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland or the Youth Justice Agency. I am also aware that the PSNI have undertaken a number of awareness

raising events in local schools to highlight the dangers of these substances. You may wish to approach these organisations for specific details on their programmes.

It is evident that a wide range of stakeholders are engaged in responding to this issue and my Department remains committed to working and supporting all efforts to highlight the risks and consequences involved in taking illicit substances, including new psychoactive substances.

## **PCSP PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS**

### **Antrim PCSP**

- Drug and alcohol counselling service operated over the last three years.
- Drug and alcohol awareness session at Bee Safe operated over the last three years.
- Solvent abuse awareness campaign .
- Drug and alcohol parents awareness sessions - 2-4 a year.
- Drugs and alcohol awareness sessions with pupils or young persons' groups (around 4-6 per year).
- Drug and alcohol awareness for young people in BEAT programme operated over the last three years.
- Y-app smart phone app includes info on solvent abuse, legal highs etc and support services.

### **Ards PCSP**

- PCSP has circulated legal highs leaflets to all community centres in the Borough through the Street By Street pilot project.
- Public forum around drugs and alcohol (April 2013) .
- Joint stands with PSNI at community events on two occasions in the last 6 months.
- Legal high awareness training in North Down community assistance with residents and youths in October / November 2013.
- Supported the Streetsafe bus, a youth diversion programme.
- PCSP took part in the regional campaign run by Belfast PCSP in relation to drugs awareness .

### **Banbridge**

- Delivery of the "Be Smart Don't Start" training programme which provided training to increase awareness of the impact of drug use (including new psychoactive substances) amongst those who are working with young people.
- Delivery of "Be Smart Don't Start" education and awareness raising workshops to year 9 pupils in six local secondary schools.
- Delivery of "Be Smart Don't Start" drugs awareness roadshow, attended by approx. 650 pupils and teachers, which comprised of a drama "Popping Candy" as well PSNI, talk by NIAS.
- Hosted public and Inter-agency Community meetings with the public to respond and provide support in areas where substance misuse is causing concern.
- Work with the Assisting People and Communities Programme (APAC) which supports mentoring approaches to both individuals and communities where offending behaviour and related issues, such as drugs are creating a concern.

**Belfast**

- Provision of educational resources to identified families and the general distribution of educational material across the city to raise awareness of the dangers of these substances.
- Northern Ireland Wide Drugs Campaign in partnership with other district PCSPs and our partners within Crimestoppers, the PSNI and the Public Health Agency.
- Localised district public meetings were held across Belfast as part of the campaign in order to raise awareness at a local level and to educate all our communities on the dangers of these products.

**Coleraine**

- Supported the production of a “Legal Highs: Know the Risks” DVD launched in June 2014 which is available for roll-out to schools and groups within the Borough.

**Craigavon**

- Awareness sessions held in post-primary schools over last three years.
- Youth Engagement Partnership operating over last three years includes awareness raising of substance misuse.
- Supported 2013/14 regional drugs campaign.
- Production of drugs awareness leaflets in 2013/14.
- ‘If you’re not in control’ promotional campaign in 2012/13.
- ‘Where is your Child Tonight’ promotional campaign in 2011/12.

**Dungannon & South Tyrone**

- MY Club – Youth diversionary Project reaching out to young people on a range of issues including substance misuse.
- Resource funding for use in Breakthru Drugs and Alcohol Outreach Centre to encourage youth participation in drugs/alcohol awareness and interventions programmes.

**Fermanagh**

- Working in partnership with Omagh, Strabane, Limavady and Londonderry/Derry PCSPs on a joint project to raise awareness of Legal Highs (planned launch in September 2014).

**Limavady**

- Funded delivery of “Legal Highs Training -New Drugs in our Community” (March 2014) to local community groups from across the Limavady Borough Council area.

**Newtownabbey**

- Funded delivery of an alcohol and drugs education/awareness programme which includes sessions on new psychoactive substances in, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

**Omagh**

- Part funded the delivery of “Popping Candy” a drama which highlights pressures on young people, consequences of drug taking, legal highs etc . This project has been delivered each year for the past 3 years and the drama is provided to all secondary schools in the area with particular emphasis on year 12- 14 students. Advice leaflets have also been provided for parents and young people.

### Strabane

- Strabane PCSP hosted a themed public meeting on drugs, specifically legal highs in March 2014.
- Delivery of education/training programme entitled “Addictions” in primary and post-primary schools and to community leaders throughout the district in 2013/14 and to continue in 2014/15.
- Support the delivery of Strabane Civic Drugs and Alcohol Forum.

### Legal Highs

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been prosecuted for selling legal high products to children, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34525/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As the sale of New Psychoactive Substances to any member of the public is not a specific offence there cannot have been any subsequent prosecutions.

Whilst this is the case I commend the specific action that has been taken by Local Councils under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, against those who sell these products, in order to remove these harmful substances from sale to the general public.

### Dangers of Legal Highs

**Mr Ross** asked the Minister of Justice whether he has had discussions with the Minister of Education on how young people in school can be warned about the dangers of legal highs.

**(AQW 34526/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Whilst I have not met with the Minister for Education on this specific issue, we are both contributors to the Executive’s New Strategic Direction on Alcohol and Drugs (NSD) which recognises the importance of raising awareness around the risks and the potentially fatal consequences, of all substance misuse, particularly with young people.

Whilst the Criminal Justice system has a role to play in reaching out to young people either through Statutory Agencies or through a range of programmes delivered by Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, you may also wish to approach the Minister for Education regarding details of the drug education programmes included in the Curriculum.

### Prosecutions: Poisoning, Shooting or Trapping of Birds

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prosecutions for the (i) poisoning; (ii) shooting; and (iii) trapping of (a) red kite; (b) golden eagle; (c) white-tailed eagle; (d) peregrine; (e) hen harrier; and (f) buzzard, in each of the last ten years.

**(AQW 34532/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** No prosecutions have been made in the courts on charges relating to either the poisoning, shooting or trapping of a red kite, golden eagle, white-tailed eagle, peregrine, hen harrier or buzzard during the period 2007 to 2013. To provide information for years prior to 2007 would require a manual review of court records at a disproportionate cost.

### Closed Police Pension Scheme

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the regulations under which the closed police pension scheme operates.

**(AQW 34579/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The regulations under which the closed police pension schemes operate are as follows:

- The Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions Order 1949
- The Royal Ulster Constabulary Regulations 1973

- The Royal Ulster Constabulary Regulations 1988
- The Royal Ulster Constabulary Pensions (Supplementary Provisions) Regulations 1988

### **New Prison Project at Magilligan: Cost**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total spent on the preparation and planning of the new prison project at Magilligan, from 2007 to date.

**(AQW 34584/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The total spend to date on the preparation and development of the new Prison at Magilligan is £3,799,905.

### **Voluntary Early Retirement**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice whether all Prison Service staff who left the Service under Voluntary Early Retirement will receive the same excess leave pay as those who remained in the Service.

**(AQW 34595/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Staff who have left the Northern Ireland Prison Service, have been paid in line with the terms of the Annual Leave Chapter of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) HR Handbook relating to cash compensation and have received payment in hours or calendar days, in line with their contract, in the month of leaving.

Staff who have remained in post received payment in May 2014 in hours or working days.

### **Associated Sexual Charges in which Trafficking was Included**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 34042 11-15, in relation to the recently concluded case of R–v–Weir following public remarks made by Robert Weir in the Sunday Life on 22 June 2014 in which he claims he only pleaded guilty to controlling prostitution because of “the threat” of being charged with human trafficking, and as this charge was notably dropped, whether he will conduct a review into the handling of this matter, specifically, but not exclusively, focusing on how this charge was permitted to be withdrawn under the circumstances; and to detail whether a plea deal was arranged; and if so, if this was at the suggestion of the prosecution or defence.

**(AQW 34605/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Prosecution decisions are a matter for the independent Public Prosecution Service (PPS), having regard to the public interest and in accordance with the Test for Prosecution. It is therefore not appropriate for me as Justice Minister to become involved in such matters or to review the decisions made in individual cases.

### **Independent Domestic Violence Advisers**

**Mrs Cameron** asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the tendering process for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences.

**(AQW 34633/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The appointment of an Independent Advice and Support Service for high risk victims of domestic violence remains a key priority for my Department. My Officials have been working, on an ongoing basis, with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Police Service of Northern Ireland to define and develop the role of the Service and this specification is in the final stage of being drafted.

One final issue regarding management of the sensitive information which this Service will encounter remains to be resolved by all funding partners to enable the completion of the specification. We anticipate that we will be in a position to commence the procurement process in Autumn this year.

## Adult Safeguarding Policy

**Mrs Cameron** asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the Adult Safeguarding Policy.  
(AQW 34634/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** My Department has been working in partnership with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on a new adult safeguarding policy. It is intended to consult on the policy in the autumn, including the legislative change that is needed to underpin it. The final policy will be published following consideration of the consultation responses.

The development of an adult safeguarding policy will complement the measures already in place to protect older people from abuse and my Department's plans to enhance further the support available to all victims of crime.

## Regional Funding for Criminal Justice Workers

**Mrs Cameron** asked the Minister of Justice whether he plans to provide regional funding for Criminal Justice Workers currently funded through the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Health and Social Care Trusts and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.  
(AQW 34636/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** Criminal Justice Workers are based within particular PSNI Public Protection Units to work alongside Domestic Abuse Officers. My Department currently part funds these workers through the local Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. I have currently no plans to provide further funding at this stage.

## Dungannon Court House: Parking

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to parking issues in the area of Dungannon Court House on sitting days, what discussions he, or departmental officials, held with (i) the PSNI in Dungannon; (ii) the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service; and (iii) Dungannon Court House staff on this matter.  
(AQW 34652/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** I have had no discussions with the Police Service of Northern Ireland on this issue. My officials in the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service have liaised with the PSNI following the issues raised about parking near Dungannon Courthouse. PSNI advised that they have not had any safety issues raised with them and they do not have any particular safety concerns regarding excessive street parking in the Killyman Road area.

## National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the talks that have taken place, or will take place, between his Department and Her Majesty's Government with regard to securing the full operation of the National Crime Agency in Northern Ireland.  
(AQW 34705/11-15)

**Mr Ford:** My officials and I have had regular contact with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and her officials. I have also discussed the issue with the Home Secretary, and her officials and mine continue to have exchanges.

We are currently engaging with the Northern Ireland Office, the Home Office and law enforcement bodies on a further proposed model which we would intend to put to all parties and relevant bodies as soon as practicable.

## **Northern Ireland Prison Service Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Policy 2011**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what amendments have been made to the Northern Ireland Prison Service Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Policy since 2011.

**(AQW 34717/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In 2013 the Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention Policy was updated to reflect changes to prison grades.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service is committed to completing a formal review of its Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Policy, which will be taken forward in consultation with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and informed by the recommendations from the Prison Review Team report and external scrutiny bodies.

## **Legislation on Mental Capacity**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure that new legislation on mental capacity complies with requirements outlined in Article 12 of United Nations Charter on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**(AQW 34743/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I am aware that a similar question has been asked of the Health Minister (AQW/34752/11-15).

In developing the new mental capacity legislation both my Department and the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety have taken account of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The current consultation exercise on the draft Bill provides an important opportunity for both Departments to continue to assess the compatibility of the draft Mental Capacity Bill with the Convention.

## **Mental Capacity Legislation**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice how his Department will consult with people with learning disabilities regarding the draft mental capacity legislation, to raise awareness and facilitate their involvement in monitoring its introduction and implementation.

**(AQW 34744/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I am aware that a similar question has been asked of the Health Minister (AQW/34753/11-15).

Over the past few years, Learning Disability groups have been closely involved in the development of the draft Mental Capacity legislation currently out for public consultation. The Member will also be aware that Justice and Health officials have already had a very productive session with the Assembly All-Party Group on Learning Disability.

Moving forward, the consultation on the mental capacity proposals over the coming months includes five public events across Northern Ireland along with a number of sessions for particular interest groups. A number of events and workshops are already in place including some for people with learning disability and/or their representative organisations. It is my intention that my Department will be represented at those events.

Along with Health colleagues we have also produced easy read versions of the consultation material for those who might find it helpful.

## **Supporting Prisoner at Risk Process**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice what amendments have been made to the Supporting Prisoner at Risk process since its commencement; and to outline the analysis that has been carried out to monitor their effectiveness in the detection and prevention of incidents of self-harm and attempted suicide, per amendment introduction.

**(AQW 34791/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** No substantive amendments have been made to the Supporting Prisoners at Risk (SPAR) process since its commencement.

Since the introduction of the Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Policy in February 2011, each prison regularly monitors and reviews samples of SPAR documentation and enhanced auditing was introduced in March 2013.

Consistent with my previous responses the Northern Ireland Prison Service is committed to completing a formal review of its Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Policy in due course.

### **Police Ombudsman's Report into the Murder of Sergeant Joe Campbell**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice to outline what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland regarding the grave findings of the Police Ombudsman's Report into the murder of Sergeant Joe Campbell and the necessity for full cooperation with the Office of the Police Ombudsman.

**(AQW 34929/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have not had any such discussions with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

### **Stakeholder Group on Magilligan Prison**

**Mr Ó hÓisín** asked the Minister of Justice how many times the stakeholder group on Magilligan Prison have met with the local community.

**(AQW 35034/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** My Ministerial Statement of 19 March 2013 on the development of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) Estate Strategy noted how the positive engagement between NIPS officials and a range of stakeholders helped shape my thinking that there was a case for the retention of Magilligan prison. In addition to the strategy's public consultation responses, that engagement centred on:

- NIPS officials presenting and discussing 'partnership working' at meetings of Limavady Borough Council and Coleraine Borough Council, and of Derry City Council's Staff Committee;
- establishment of a Magilligan Prison Elected Members' Liaison Group, which has met twice, supported by:
  - a working group of council Chief Executives, officers and NIPS officials (Ballymoney Borough Council represented in addition to those mentioned above);
- discussion with local businesses and employer groups; and
- operational planning between council officials and Magilligan staff.

This has delivered improved rehabilitation opportunities for those in custody at Magilligan and NIPS officials are committed to continuing with and building on this engagement as the redevelopment of the prison progresses.

### **Prisoners: Self-harm Incident**

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Justice to outline the circumstances surrounding a recent incident that led to a prisoner from the Foyle constituency being able to seriously self-harm in Maghaberry prison.  
**(AQO 6500/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I fully understand the concern of the Member and the family of this prisoner. I have utmost sympathy for everyone affected by this incident of serious self-harm.

In the interests of independence NIPS has asked the Prisoner Ombudsman, Tom McGonigle, to conduct an investigation.

I do not wish to pre-empt the outcome of that investigation, but I hope Members and the individual's family will be reassured that this incident is being treated both seriously and with transparency.

## Forensic Science: All-Ireland Service

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Justice to outline any recent discussions with the Minister for Justice and Equality on a collaborative approach to forensic science services on an all-Ireland basis.

**(AQO 6501/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I meet regularly with the Minister for Justice and Equality under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation on Criminal Justice Matters to discuss North/South cooperation on a range of justice issues. My most recent meeting was last week when I met with Frances Fitzgerald and we discussed ongoing cooperation between the forensic science laboratories in the two jurisdictions, amongst other issues.

I fully support collaborative working between the two forensic laboratories to underpin the delivery of high quality and efficient forensic services. Recent cooperation between the two laboratories, for example, has included joint training courses and exploring the scope for dealing with excess demand. A Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2011, also ensures that both laboratories can rely on each other's facilities in the event of sudden loss or damage to either laboratory.

## Interface Barriers

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the recent comments by the Chair of the Community Relations Council on the prospects of removing all interface barriers by 2023.

**(AQO 6502/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I agree with Peter Osborne's recent comments and indeed those of Dr Adrian Johnston, IFI Chairman, that working towards the removal of 'peace walls' is complex, difficult and challenging work, and they are correct in highlighting that a lack of resources is a risk to progress.

It is clear to me that there are three main issues that need to be addressed to make progress. The lack of a dedicated programme budget is one. The need for a cross Executive commitment to address economic and social renewal is another. The need for continued and intensive good relations work is the third. These issues remain key to achieving the target of removal of barriers and must be addressed.

I know for local engagement there is a real need to tackle physical, economic, social and community renewal within interface areas. The Department of Justice cannot deliver this magnitude of change alone. It requires a properly funded programme which brings together the community, statutory bodies and voluntary groups. I believe that the Executive needs to address the issue comprehensively so that we see meaningful change in interface communities. I hope we can move forward soon.

## Firearms: Age Restrictions

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Justice what lessons he has taken from other regions in the United Kingdom with differing age restrictions on the use of controlled firearms in relation to his own proposal to reduce the age limit in specified circumstances.

**(AQO 6503/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I have proposed a reduction in the age of shooters in Northern Ireland to 12 years old from 16 for shotgun for sporting clay use and air rifles for sporting purposes with appropriate supervision. My proposals follow public consultation, engagement with the shooting lobby and taking account of the situation in GB and the Republic of Ireland.

In England and Wales the age position has evolved over time and they have different ages for different types of firearms for supervised and unsupervised use. I note that in the Republic of Ireland the age is 14.

A strong argument has been made for young people to be able to participate competitively in shooting sports. My proposed way forward on this matter, put to the Justice Committee for a meeting on 18 June, suggests 12 with a proposal for review in 2-3 years' time in light of experience. In addition, it was proposed that a regulation making power to be put in primary legislation to make any further reduction subject to secondary legislation.

## Prisoners: Abscondence

**Mr Clarke** asked the Minister of Justice what action his Department is taking to prevent prisoners failing to return from leave.

**(AQO 6504/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Northern Ireland Prison Service takes appropriate and robust action to prevent prisoners failing to return from home leave. Prisoners who apply for home leave undergo a thorough risk assessment to ascertain whether they are suitable for temporary unaccompanied release. Part of this assessment looks at factors which help governors come to a view on whether applicants are likely to adhere to the terms of their temporary release.

These factors include the likelihood of re-offending; the nature of the offence or offences; an assessment of behaviour in custody; the length of time a prisoner has still to serve; the record of behaviour during any previous periods of home leave; and whether they are likely to return to prison by the appointed time. Only those who are determined as presenting a low risk across these various factors will be granted home leave.

Prisoners who breach home leave conditions are subject to adjudication under Prison Rules and, if found guilty, that will impact upon any future application.

If a prisoner fails to return from a period of home leave the police are notified and take action to return individuals to prison custody.

## Department for Regional Development

### Receiving of Gifts or Hospitality

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to civil servants in his Department receiving gifts or hospitality in 2013/14, whether there have been any requests for approval or declarations of matters that fall outside the boundaries of what is normally allowable; and if so, to detail such requests or declarations.

**(AQW 34311/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** My Department operates declaration, approval and monitoring procedures in strict accordance with the NICS policy governing the acceptance by civil servants of gifts and hospitality from third parties. These include the maintenance of registers which detail all offers received and which indicate, in each case, whether the offer was accepted (with management approval) or declined.

The entries in the registers show that, during the 2013/14 financial year, there were no requests for approval or declarations of matters which fall outside the boundaries of what is normally allowable in this area. Similarly, no such requests or declarations were made within DRD's arm's length bodies, Northern Ireland Water and Translink.

### Resurfacing of the Causeway Road

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the continuation of the resurfacing of the Causeway Road.

**(AQW 34314/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department carried out an extensive carriageway resurfacing scheme in November 2013 which has significantly improved the road surface from Whitepark Road to just beyond the entrance to the Giant's Causeway Visitor's Centre.

Whilst it is also my Department's intention to carry out further resurfacing work up to and including The Aird, the scheme is not currently included in this year's resurfacing programme. I would, however, hope to be able to include it in next year's programme for the Moyle area, subject to the availability of

funding. A scheme such as this, adjacent to the Giant's Causeway, will need to be carefully planned and programmed in order to minimise disruption for both local residents and tourists visiting one of Northern Ireland's premier attractions.

### **Walkway and Cycle Path from Bushmills to the Aird**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the walkway and cycle path from Bushmills to the Aird.

**(AQW 34316/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Member will be aware this is a very extensive scheme proposal that will provide a footpath/cycle path extending for approximately 3.5km from Bushmills to The Aird. However, given the potentially high costs involved, any scheme delivery will need to be carried out in stages.

My officials are currently developing the stage proposal from The Aird to The Causeway, which is significant stretching for approximately 1.5km. The scheme will require the acquisition of a large tract of land. My officials have already met with one of the principal landowners, The National Trust, and will be arranging to meet with other landowners over the coming months.

Subject to the availability of funding and successful acquisition of the necessary land, I am hopeful this scheme will be able to be considered for inclusion in a works programme in the near future.

### **Central Car Park in Limavady: Disabled Parking**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will consider the provision of additional parking spaces for people with disabilities in Central Car Park, Limavady.

**(AQW 34329/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** There are 155 parking spaces in Central car park, Limavady, eight of which are currently marked out for disabled parking.

I have asked my officials to contact you with a view to identifying the need for, and potential location of, additional disabled parking spaces in Central Car Park.

### **Church Road Upper Reservoir in Holywood**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the reasons for the draining of the Church Road Upper Reservoir in Holywood.

**(AQW 34354/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water manages the reservoirs under its control in line with standards set out in the Reservoirs Act 1975 (England and Wales).

The lowering of the water level in Church Road Upper Reservoir is required to facilitate essential health and safety work to refurbish valves and other maintenance work required to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir. Due to the nature of the construction of the valve tower and the need to access the scour valve for refurbishment, NI Water is unable to complete this work without draining the reservoir. The scour valve is an essential element for releasing water from the impounding reservoir to ensure the protection of properties from flooding downstream in the event of a large rainfall event.

### **Church Road Upper Reservoir in Holywood**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the reason for the lack of consultation following the draining of the Church Road Upper Reservoir in Holywood.

**(AQW 34355/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water consulted with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding lowering the level of the reservoir and continues to take advice from it on the environmental approach

to this work. Consultation was also carried out with the private club who currently lease the reservoir for angling.

Church Road Upper Reservoir was also confirmed in the programme of planned works at a recent NI Water presentation on Portavoe Reservoir to North Down and Ards Borough Councils on 25 April 2014.

### **Christmas Shopping: Reduced Charging Incentives for Town Centre Car Parks**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he is considering implementing any additional reduced charging incentives for town centre car parks for the 2014 Christmas shopping season. **(AQW 34362/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** A range of measures in respect of town centre car parking charges for the Christmas 2014 shopping season will be considered and announced in due course.

### **Transport Infrastructure in County Fermanagh**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the metres of (i) dual carriageway; (ii) motorway; and (iii) railway in County Fermanagh; and how he intends to improve transport infrastructure in these areas.

**(AQW 34382/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** There are no lengths of dual carriageway, motorway or railway within County Fermanagh.

No stretches of the Fermanagh road network carry sufficiently high traffic volumes to justify motorway provision, while only a few rural stretches have dual traffic volumes approaching that which would justify provision of dual carriageway (for example, the A4 near Killyhevlin – carries approximately 15,700 vehicles per day).

However, there are sections of four lane carriageway, such as those within the limits of Enniskillen town, which improve traffic flow capacity (for example, Wellington Road across Enniskillen Island – approximately 17,700 vehicles per day).

In recent years there have been a number of improvements to the roads serving the Fermanagh region including improvements to the A32 at Cherrymount, Shannaragh and Drumskinny, which had a combined cost of approximately £26million. In addition, a number of 2+1 overtaking sections were also provided on the A4 between Enniskillen and Ballygawley.

The Strategic Road Improvement Programme includes the key schemes for improvements to the trunk road network across Northern Ireland. Schemes within Fermanagh included within this Programme are: the A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass; A4 Fivemiletown Bypass; and further upgrades to the A32 between Enniskillen and Omagh.

It is anticipated an announcement on the Preferred Route for the A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass will be made later this year and, in relation to the A32 improvements, design work is progressing on a scheme at Cornamuck with publication of the draft statutory orders likely to take place later this year, and also on a scheme at Kilgortnaleague, where the preferred route corridor is to be identified.

I am keen that we should be ready to develop our rail network where there is the greatest potential for further passenger growth. Progress will, however, be dependent upon the amount that can be made available from the Executive's budget and, where possible, from European grant programmes.

### **Cost of Resurfacing Abbey Road, Millisle**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of resurfacing Abbey Road, Millisle.

**(AQW 34391/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has in recent years carried out two carriageway resurfacing schemes on Abbey Road, Millisle at a total cost of £317,000.

## Resurfacing of Warren Road in Donaghadee

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to resurface Warren Road in Donaghadee.

**(AQW 34393/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 34288/11-15.

## Resurfacing of the Footpaths on the Warren Road in Donaghadee

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to resurface the footpaths on the Warren Road in Donaghadee.

**(AQW 34394/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 34288/11-15.

## Discussions on the A75

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Regional Development how often the A75 has been discussed within the British-Irish Council transport sector format and with what effect, given its strategic and economic importance to Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 34397/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department's Transport NI Division has no knowledge of any formal discussions having taken place at the British-Irish Council Transport Sector regarding the A75.

My Department's European Programmes and Gateways Unit has not had any input to discussions within the British-Irish Council Transport Sector in relation to the A75. There has been ongoing contact between the Unit's officials and their counterparts in London and Scotland which helped to ensure the inclusion of the A75 on the comprehensive Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). The Unit continues to remain in regular contact with Transport Scotland regarding European funding opportunities to improve cross-border and inter-regional routes, including the A75.

## Ballymena Railway Station and Bus Depot Upgrades

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on when Ballymena Railway Station and Bus Depot will be upgraded to a standard similar to that of Antrim or Coleraine stations.

**(AQW 34407/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink has advised that a scoping and feasibility review of the project to refurbish Ballymena Bus and Rail Integrated Station has commenced. The project is included in Translink's Corporate Plan and work is expected to be completed during the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years, subject to the successful conclusion of the approval process and the securing of the necessary funding.

## Timescale for the Development of a Cycling Strategy

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the timescale for the development of a cycling strategy.

**(AQW 34408/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** An Issues Paper setting out the direction and key themes for a Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland was drawn up by the Cycling Unit in May 2014. The Paper was distributed to key stakeholders and the Committee for Regional Development for comment and five regional workshops were held in May. Feedback received is being used to inform finalisation of the draft Bicycle Strategy which will be issued for public consultation late summer.

## Cycle Parking Facilities in North Antrim

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to provide cycle parking facilities in North Antrim, particularly in close proximity to the route of the Giro d'Italia 2014.

**(AQW 34410/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** You are aware of my commitment to improve cycling provision and my Cycling Unit is currently developing a draft Bicycle Strategy for NI which will be published for consultation in the autumn.

This strategy will outline all aspects required to create a better environment for cyclists and communities overall. An integral part of this will be the development of cycling infrastructure including cycle parking.

Good end to end cycling needs to include good cycle parking, where cyclists want to leave their bikes and are confident to do so. My officials will continue to consider providing cycle parking at specific locations and, as part of our 25 year strategy, consideration will be given to the best locations for additional cycle parking – including locations along the route of the Giro d'Italia.

## Train Passengers with Bicycles

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development how he plans to increase the availability of space on the train network for passengers with bicycles.

**(AQW 34411/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink has advised that NI Railways have now had their full fleet of 20 new Class 4000 trains in service for almost one year. The commissioning of this fleet represented a circa 30% increase in passenger capacity; however, passenger numbers continue to grow at a very high rate which limits available space on trains in peak times.

NI Railways have embarked on a comprehensive review of network utilisation to ensure they are making best use of existing rolling stock and infrastructure and this issue will be considered as part of an overall assessment of passenger needs. Translink expect to see the first outputs from this process incorporated into their 2015-2018 Corporate Plan document.

Currently the Class 3000 trains have capacity for 4 cycles, and the newer Class 4000 trains have double this capacity and can accommodate 8 Cycles. Modification of existing trains would reduce passenger capacity.

Translink provides specific cycle parking amenities at numerous bus, rail and integrated public transport facilities across Northern Ireland including 146 cycle parking spaces at rail stations, 88 at integrated bus and rail stations and a further 198 at bus stations. Translink's intention is to expand cycle storage capacity over the next year. Translink is also progressing with a wider bicycle facility programme and hope to bring forward an economic appraisal in 2014/15.

## Increase in the Number of Cyclists

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there has been an increase in the number of cyclists over the last twelve months.

**(AQW 34419/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) is the only source of data that records how and why people travel in Northern Ireland. A range of cycling specific information is recorded, including the average distance travelled per person per year by bicycle, the average number of cycling journeys taken per person per year and the average journey length for bicycle journeys.

Information on those who have cycled in the last 12 months by age and sex can be found in Table 5.4 of the In-depth report published in December every year. Between 2009-2011 and 2010-2012, there

was no change in the proportion of respondents who had cycled in the last 12 months according to the TSNI.

The Travel Survey for Northern Ireland Headline Report 2011-2013 will be published on the 10th July 2014. All TSNI reports and details of methodology can be found at:

[http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/statistics/stats-categories/northern\\_ireland\\_travel\\_survey.htm](http://www.drndi.gov.uk/index/statistics/stats-categories/northern_ireland_travel_survey.htm)

For the future, my Cycling Unit is considering further research on cycling participation information that will compliment the TSNI.

### **Parking in Cycle Boxes at Traffic Lights**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has considered introducing penalty point fines for people who park in cycle boxes at traffic lights.

**(AQW 34421/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I can confirm that existing legislation provides for enforcement against vehicles found parked or waiting in areas reserved for cyclists.

Where a waiting restriction is indicated by a traffic sign, Traffic Attendants may issue a penalty charge notice to any vehicle parked or waiting in areas reserved for cyclists. Most of these reserved areas will be within 15 metres of a junction where a waiting restriction will automatically apply. In urban areas these restrictions will be marked with double yellow lines.

The PSNI may issue a fixed penalty notice if a parked or waiting vehicle is deemed to be causing an obstruction. Where a vehicle is waiting in an area reserved for cyclists, with the intention of moving on at the next traffic signal change, the police may issue a fixed penalty notice for breach of a stop line.

### **Cycling Infrastructure in Dublin**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department has assessed the impact of recent changes to cycling infrastructure in Dublin; and if any initiatives could be applied locally.

**(AQW 34423/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As part of the process to develop a Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland the Cycling Unit has undertaken a review of best practice in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Europe and further afield. One element of this research has been to develop relations, and encourage dialogue with our counterparts in Dublin. This has included meeting with officials from the National Transport Authority.

Given that 'recent changes to cycling infrastructure in Dublin' are outside my jurisdiction, my Department will not have a role in assessing the impact of changes. The Cycling Unit will, however, continue to monitor best practice emerging from Dublin (including any assessment the authorities there make of the impacts of recent changes to cycling infrastructure) and elsewhere, and where appropriate consider changes to infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

### **Utility Costs**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34443/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The amount spent on heat, electricity, and water by my Department in each of the last five years is detailed below.

Year	(i) Heat £'000	(ii) Electricity £'000			(iii) Water £'000
		Electricity - General	Electricity - Street lighting, traffic signals & traffic signs	Total	
2009/10	121	718	9,179	9,897	104
2010/11	154	748	10,584	11,332	92
2011/12	160	666	11,318	11,984	85
2012/13	169	610	11,454	12,064	91
2013/14	166	571	11,772	12,343	93

### Removal of Flags from Departmental Property

**Mr Maskey** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to take action, even in the absence of further political agreement, to remove flags from his Department's property where the flags may cause a breach of the peace.

**(AQW 34455/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** In April 2005 my Department signed up to the Joint Protocol on the Display of Flags in Public Areas. Under the protocol, the agency in the most effective position to consult, negotiate, or resolve the situation will take the lead. My Department is generally not perceived to be the lead agency under the current Protocol. The PSNI, where best placed, will take the lead and also does so where the display of flags is causing community tension, or is affecting the quality of life for a community.

Under the protocol Transport NI, when called upon by the lead Agency, will provide the access equipment and resources to remove unwanted flags, once there is community agreement and practical assistance is required to facilitate such action.

Experience has shown that removing flags in the absence of widespread support can simply worsen the situation, with even more flags being displayed. My Department must also take account of the risks to workers in removing flags where agreement has not been reached.

My Department has contributed to the review of "The Joint Protocol in Relation to the Display of Flags in Public Areas", which OFMDFM initiated in April 2008 and continues to take the lead on.

### Drainage Operation at Portavoe Reservoir

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Regional Development, with regards to the recent experience at Portavoe Reservoir in relation to the environmental impact of the drainage operation, whether any new measures will be implemented to minimise the environmental impact of any similar draining operations on the other reservoirs.

**(AQW 34478/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water is currently carrying out maintenance work on a number of reservoirs across Northern Ireland with Portavoe being the sixth to be drawn down during this maintenance programme. NI Water has advised me that there have been lessons learnt at each of the sites, both in terms of the technical approach to the refurbishment and controlling the environmental impact. As with all other reservoir sites, the environmental mitigation works at Portavoe were designed and agreed following a period of extensive consultation with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and other stakeholders.

While there are some unavoidable consequences of drawing down a reservoir, the environmental mitigation works have been a success, with approximately 16,000 fish relocated, a swan mussel population collected and temporarily relocated, and well over 100 water birds continuing to remain at the site.

The most significant lesson learnt from the Portavoe works has been the approach to public consultation. NI Water has learnt to recognise the wider public stakeholder groups with an active interest in Portavoe and ensuring early and regular communication with these groups and members of the local council to achieve greater buy in to the scheme. NI Water has already written to other local councils to advise them of future works at other reservoir sites and has offered to meet with councillors to discuss each of these proposed schemes.

### **Buses in Close Proximity to Cyclists**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development how he is ensuring that bus drivers are aware of how to drive when in close proximity to cyclists.

**(AQW 34485/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Translink has advised me that as part of their Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) annual training syllabus all of its drivers undertake a training course on safety awareness when sharing road space with cyclists. To date, 2120 drivers have completed this training.

My Department and Translink have also recently developed a programme of training along with an advice leaflet for both bus drivers and cyclists entitled 'Travelling in Harmony'. This provides cycle skills and safety training as well as guidance for bus drivers and cyclists to ensure that each understands the needs of the other, particularly in shared space.

### **Millennium Way in Lurgan**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the completion of Millennium Way in Lurgan.

**(AQW 34487/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department is continuing to develop the extension to Millennium Way scheme and work is ongoing to finalise the detailed design for the proposal.

The acquisition of land for the scheme requires a Vesting Order and it is hoped to publish the Notice of Intention to Make the Vesting Order in the near future. The scheme development team is continuing to meet with affected landowners and tenants with a view to minimising the risk of objections to the Vesting Order. It is possible, however, that a Public Inquiry may be required to determine if the level of land take identified is appropriate.

As previously indicated, it is estimated the scheme should take 4-6 months to construct, however, progression of the proposal onto my Department's Construction Programme and a date for the start of construction remain subject to the proposal continuing to have a satisfactory economic appraisal, clearing the statutory procedures and funding being made available in future budget settlements.

### **Departmental Costs of Providing Services**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the annual cost of providing services, for which his Department has responsibility, from County Hall in Ballymena; and what contingent liabilities are planned in the financial year 2015/16 for the use of these facilities.

**(AQW 34507/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** County Hall in Ballymena is a Crown Estate building and therefore the responsibility of the Department for Finance and Personnel (DFP).

My Department is the principal occupant of the Northern Ireland Civil Service within County Hall in Ballymena, and as such bears responsibility for costs associated with Security, Cleaning and Waste Disposal. The cost for these services in 2013-2014 was £296,496.

There are currently six other occupants of County Hall in Ballymena; the North Eastern Education & Library Board; the Northern Health & Social Care Trust; Planning, Road Safety and Motor Tax officials from the Department of the Environment (DOE); and Urban Regeneration officials from the Department for Social Development (DSD).

My Department recharges the other occupants on the basis of square footage occupied. In 2013-2014, £222,347 was recharged leaving resultant costs to my Department of £74,149.

### **Park and Ride Scheme: Drumgormal in Dungannon**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether consideration has been given to the provision of a Park and Ride Scheme at Drumgormal in Dungannon on land owned by the Roads Service.

**(AQW 34542/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** It is accepted that the land owned by my Department at Drumgormal has the potential to provide Park and Ride / Share facilities. However, a site at this location would be less desirable than the currently proposed site in the vicinity of the Stangmore roundabout, which is located at a major interchange (A29/A4/M1), and is close to an existing bus stop. A Stangmore location would also cater for an existing demand, as evidenced by the current numbers of parked vehicles along the A29.

However, the land in question will be retained by my Department, should a future need be identified after construction of the Tamnamore and Stangmore Park and Ride/Share sites.

### **Craigantlet Roundabout Improvement Scheme**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the Craigantlet Roundabout Improvement Scheme.

**(AQW 34550/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department commissioned a detailed study of a number of alternative layouts in relation to this scheme, many of which had been put forward by local residents. The report concluded that, of the options considered, three were worthy of further consideration.

These options were subsequently put forward for public consultation, which took place between 21 January and 7 February 2014. In total, 265 responses were received through the public consultation events. Officials are currently analysing the feedback and preparing a report on the consultation, for my consideration.

I hope to be in a position to announce details of the preferred scheme later in the summer.

### **Open Drain Cleaning and Maintenance: A2**

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the progress of the cleaning and maintenance of the open drain on the edge of A2 Belfast to Bangor Dual Carriageway adjacent to the boundary of Holywood Rugby Club and the North Down Borough Council 3G pitch development.

**(AQW 34551/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My officials have investigated this issue and acknowledged that further maintenance work on the drain would be beneficial prior to the winter period. It is anticipated the work will be carried out within the next 2 – 3 months.

## Roads Service in the Ballymena Area

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of (i) road sweepers; and (ii) vacuum tankers available to Roads Service in the Ballymena area.

**(AQW 34553/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has one road sweeper and one vacuum tanker (gully emptier) available for use in the Ballymena area.

## Cleaning of Road Gullies

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the frequency of which road gullies are cleaned and emptied.

**(AQW 34555/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department is responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of over 550,000 gullies across Northern Ireland. Transport NI aims to inspect and clean, where necessary, all gullies in urban areas twice each year and gullies in rural areas once each year. This is in line with the Road Maintenance Standards for Safety which apply equally across Northern Ireland.

This policy ensures that a reasonable level of maintenance is carried out to drainage systems, taking account of the Department's finite funding and staff resource levels.

In addition, Transport NI undertakes additional inspection and cleaning of gullies at locations where fallen leaves create ongoing problems at certain times of the year, or where there has been a history of gullies becoming blocked for other reasons.

## Sewer Overflow at Muckamore Bridge

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on Northern Ireland Water's response to the ongoing pollution incidents at the combined sewer overflow at Muckamore Bridge on the Six Mile Water River.

**(AQW 34561/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** In the past two months NI Water has undertaken extensive dye investigations in the sewerage network and properties in the vicinity of Muckamore Bridge area to ascertain the root cause of pollution incidents in the area. Some 253 properties have been tested to date with the initial focus on targeting areas identified as likely locations for misconnections.

Whilst more time will be required to explore the issues identified to date in full, the high level findings include:

- Misconnections were found at five properties
- NIW was unable to gain access to eight properties which had neighbouring properties possessing misconnections
- A foul sewer was found to be blocked and overflowing into the storm sewer. The blockages were cleared and the manholes and storm lines cleaned

Once the full extent of the issue is established, NI Water will liaise with NIEA to establish a prioritisation rank for this area, in relation to other identified areas of misconnections across Northern Ireland. NIEA has developed a scoring matrix for prioritisation of misconnections, which includes consideration of visual impact, aesthetics at outfall, accessibility/downstream users, water body designation/classification and Directive impact.

Following the completion of the investigation NI Water will work with NIEA to determine the prioritisation ranking for this using NIEA scoring matrix for misconnections. Subject to this location being given an adequate ranking in the prioritisation matrix and allocation of funding within PC15 to address misconnections, a programme of work may then be developed and taken forward to address this issue.

## **Ballyclare Waste Treatment Works**

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister for Regional Development what design changes are being considered by Northern Ireland Water for the Ballyclare Waste Treatment works to provide capacity so that it does not pollute the Six Mile Water when severe flooding conditions occur.

**(AQW 34563/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Ballyclare Wastewater Treatment Works was constructed in 2005 to improve the quality of final effluent being discharged to the Six Mile Water. It operates under a Water Order Consent (WOC) issued by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and has been compliant since construction. The Works continues to treat effluent to well within its consented limits and NIW has no plans to increase its treatment capacity. Base maintenance programmes will be delivered in accordance with maintenance schedules to sustain the required level of treatment at the Works.

Recent discharges into the Six Mile Water River have been investigated by NI Water and identified as being caused by sewer blockages and misconnections. Further details of NI Water's response to these incidents are included in AQW34561/11-15.

## **Reservoirs in North Down**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the reservoirs in North Down that are surplus to requirements.

**(AQW 34572/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water currently has seven reservoirs in the North Down area which are considered surplus to requirements. The reservoirs are Ballysallagh Upper and Lower, Conlig Upper and Lower, Creightons Green, Church Road and Portavoe.

## **Footpath Resurfacing Schemes: Holywood**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the footpath resurfacing schemes that are under consideration for the Holywood area.

**(AQW 34574/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 34288/11-15.

## **Road Resurfacing Schemes: Holywood**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the road resurfacing schemes that are under consideration for the Holywood area.

**(AQW 34575/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 34288/11-15.

## **Traffic Calming Measures: Holywood**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the traffic calming measures that are under consideration for the Holywood area.

**(AQW 34576/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 34288/11-15.

## **Dropped Kerbs: Holywood**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail where new dropped kerbs are under consideration for the Holywood area.

**(AQW 34578/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 34288/11-15.

## Promoting Cycling

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development how he promotes cycling to his departmental staff.

**(AQW 34588/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I promote cycling to all my staff as a realistic and sustainable travel option through my Department's Travelwise initiative and provide a particular focus on everyday cycling such as commuting and short journeys. When I am in my office in the city centre I promote cycling by example through cycling to meetings within Belfast.

My Department provides cycle parking along with showers and changing facilities at its Clarence Court Headquarters building and other Departmental offices. An extension to the cycle parking facilities was recently completed. The Department also provides pool bikes for staff use and has recently bought two folding bikes to encourage multi modal journeys.

In addition, I spearheaded the introduction of the Cycle to Work scheme in June 2012 to staff across the NICS including staff in my Department.

I also lead my Departmental annual cycling events programme during Bike Week and participate with DRD staff in activities such as Bike To Work Day as well as supporting the 10 Minute Cycle Challenge, both of which are designed to support staff participation in cycling.

## Rural Transport Fund

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister for Regional Development, given the benefits of the transport solutions provided as a result of the Rural Transport Fund, particularly the flexibility and value offered through volunteer drivers, whether his Department will protect such opportunities for volunteering and continue effective partnership working with the community transport sector in future considerations.

**(AQW 34644/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department continues to provide support to Rural Community Transport Partnerships from the Rural Transport Fund. One of the main objectives of the Fund is to encourage volunteering activity and I have no plans to change this.

## Bus Routes in the Ards Peninsula

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans are in place to extend the number of bus routes in the Ards Peninsula to improve the service to Carrowdore.

**(AQW 34660/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Officials from my Department, Translink and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have been working together to introduce a small number of additional rural bus services. It is hoped to commence these services as soon as possible, subject to securing funding. However, it has not yet been possible to confirm financial support which would mean the additional bus services could be introduced. Officials are continuing to work together to find a solution and hope to have clarified the position by September.

One of these proposals would include Carrowdore as part of a service operating from Ballywalter up the Ards Peninsula to Bangor.

## South Antrim Community Transport: Funding

**Mrs Cameron** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the funding his Department provided to South Antrim Community Transport in each of the last four financial years.

**(AQW 34663/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The table below indicates the level of support provided by the Department from the Rural Transport Fund (RTF) and the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme in conjunction with the Department of

Agriculture and Rural Development to South Antrim Community Transport in each of the last four years. All figures are taken from the Company's annual audited accounts.

Financial Year	Level of RTF Grant	Assisted Rural Travel Scheme	Total Support
2010-11	£138,389.00	£18,853.00	£157,242.00
2011-12*	£150,150.00	£28,037.00	£178,187.00
2012-13*	£158,938.00	£27,369.00	£186,307.00
2013-14	£212,666.00	£31,858.00	£244,524.00

\* Please note that in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years, South Antrim Community Transport was working in a collaborative partnership with Lagan Valley Rural Transport (Lisburn), while the two organisations considered the possibility of merging. After a two-year period, the two organisations took the decision not to take the merger forward.

### **Flooding: Mourneview Estate Newcastle**

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the findings of his Department's recent report into perennial flooding in the Mourneview Estate in Newcastle, Co. Down; and (ii) the actions that will be implemented to tackle the ongoing issue.

**(AQW 34741/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water has now received the feasibility study from its consultants on the drainage situation within the Mourneview Estate and the investigation has outlined a complex drainage arrangement which has interdependencies between infrastructure owned by NI Water, Transport NI and some soakaway systems where ownership is unclear.

The report identifies two elements of work, one on the NI Water combined system and one associated with a soakaway which receives road drainage. Flood alleviation proposals include the upsizing of the combined sewer and provision of a new surface water sewer and discharge. The outline cost estimate for the flood alleviation proposals is £440k.

NI Water intends to progress and implement the recommendations in the report and commence detailed design work with a view to delivering a construction project to provide the solution to the flooding problem. Transport NI will also participate in this scheme and will work with NI Water to develop and agree the detail of this joint project.

The project will be progressed as quickly as possible, and it is estimated that construction could be completed mid-2015 subject to the availability of funding, lands and statutory approvals.

### **Removal of Illegal Waste**

Mr Agnew asked Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 33866/11-15, given a valid enforcement notice exists that requires the offender to remove the illegal waste which lies directly in the line of the proposed A6 road, to detail (i) the implications of vesting land subject to such a legal charge; and (ii) whether his Department will be liable for the cost of removal, decontamination and repatriation of the waste.

**(AQW 34880/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** In responding to your previous questions about the discovery of the illegal landfill at Mobuoy Road, I advised that should I decide to proceed with this scheme:

- (i) I would confirm the Direction Order immediately to protect the footprint of the scheme from future development;

- (ii) the Vesting Orders would remain in draft awaiting Executive approval of funding to construct the scheme; and
- (iii) if the illegal landfill is still present when the road is being constructed, I am content that the installation of appropriately engineered measures to contain the illegal waste would ensure that the necessary compensatory floodplain could be constructed as planned.

## **Big Capital Project**

**Mr McGimpsey** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the start date of the infrastructural drainage changes that have been promised as part of the Big Capital Project.

**(AQW 34961/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Northern Ireland's drainage infrastructure will require significant capital investment to support future economic growth. It is also important to ensure that our drainage infrastructure protects the environment to the standards set out in the relevant EU Directives and properly addresses flood risks.

My Department, with the support of the Department of the Environment and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, has identified the potential benefits of a strategic approach to drainage infrastructure planning across Northern Ireland. This cross-cutting, strategic approach would require additional investment above and beyond the sewerage infrastructure improvements that Northern Ireland Water will continue to deliver through the water industry's Price Control 13 and Price Control 15 Business Plans.

I have circulated a draft paper to Executive colleagues which sets out a proposed way forward. I believe that an interdepartmental working group should be established to develop a strategic drainage infrastructure plan for Northern Ireland. This could develop Northern Ireland's drainage infrastructure in a joined up way to support future economic growth, protect the environment and address flood risk in a strategic manner.

## **Department for Social Development**

### **Housing Patterns for Migrants**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development what information exists about the housing patterns for migrants living in public and social housing, including their prevalence in areas classified or regarded as unionist and nationalist.

**(AQW 34025/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** The Housing Executive has developed a number of monitoring systems to analyse the performance of their housing services across a number of equality areas including race and migration. Information about the ethnic origin of applicants for housing services has been collected for 10 years and more recently the Housing Executive has collected information about the nationality of customers.

However, as these systems do not give a complete picture, the Housing Executive conducts an annual Black and Minority Ethnic and Migrant Worker mapping survey to supplement its knowledge of the range and prevalence of foreign nationals using their services. This study in conjunction with the monitoring data and the Housing Executive's community based work allows them to make broad estimates of the patterns of race and migration and the uptake of housing services.

However, at this stage the Housing Executive's statistical information is only effective at District (housing area) level due to the small numbers and the Housing Executive does not define areas as unionist or nationalist. There are also data coverage and data quality issues.

I would also refer the Member to my answer to AQW 34024/11-15.

## Housing Executive's Report on Cavity Wall Insulation

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the reasons for the delay in the publication of the Housing Executive's report on cavity wall insulation.

**(AQW 34147/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that they had been waiting on further survey data results which were received on 13 June 2014. A paper is currently being prepared to inform the Housing Executive's Business Committee of the research findings along with any recommendations. It is anticipated that this will be presented to the Business Committee on 7 July 2014.

## Housing Associations: Redecoration Grants

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development how much is still outstanding in redecoration grants as a result of the installation of double glazed windows in Housing Association properties.

**(AQW 34230/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Of the current 24 registered Housing Associations, none have any monies outstanding in redecoration grants as a result of the installation of double glazed windows in Housing Association properties.

## Social Housing Provision

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister for Social Development how he plans to increase social housing provision in (i) Banbridge; (ii) Portadown; and (iii) Lurgan; and for his assessment of the current capacity and it's suitability in relation to demand.

**(AQW 34236/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive's Social Housing Need Assessment 2013-2018 identified a need for 72 additional social housing units in Banbridge and 191 additional units in Craigavon Borough, which includes both Lurgan/Brownlow and Portadown Districts. The majority of social housing need is for Banbridge Town and North Lurgan local housing areas as detailed below:

### Social Housing Need Assessment 2013-2018

Settlement	5 Year Projected Social Housing Need
<b>Banbridge District</b>	
Banbridge Town	65
Dromore	6
Gilford	1
<b>Banbridge District total</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Craigavon District</b>	
North Lurgan	150
South Lurgan	10
Portadown 1	10
Portadown 2	2
Aghagallon	4
Derrymacash / Derrytrasna / Kinnego	15
<b>Craigavon District total</b>	<b>191</b>

The table below shows the schemes planned for delivery in the upper Bann Parliamentary Constituency in the 2014/15 to 2016/17 Social Housing Development Programme

Year	Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Work Cat	Need Group
2014/15	Clanmil	Grattan Park, Lurgan	28	New Build	General Needs
	Habinteg	Woodlands, Gilford (T)	1	New Build	General Needs
	NIHE	118 Clonmeen (T)	1	New Build	General Needs
	NIHE	Corcrair Walk Portadown (T)	3	New Build	General Needs
2015/16	Habinteg	Headington Drive Ph 1, Lurgan	20	New Build	General Needs
2016/17	Habinteg	Headington Drive Ph 2, Lurgan	38	New Build	General Needs
	TBC	Brownlow Terrace, Lurgan (T)	4	New Build	General Needs
		<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>		

The Unmet Need Prospectus, available on the Housing Executive's website, ([http://www.nihe.gov.uk/unmet\\_social\\_housing\\_need\\_propectus.pdf](http://www.nihe.gov.uk/unmet_social_housing_need_propectus.pdf)) highlights areas where housing need remains unmet and directs housing associations to the number and type of housing required in particular housing areas. The Housing Executive continues to work with housing associations as they endeavour to secure sites for social housing in the above districts. With regard to Banbridge the Housing Executive has been encouraging Housing Associations to study the Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 which lists the sites zoned with a Key Site Requirement for Social Housing within the district.

North Lurgan has the highest projection of housing need of all of the above settlements. To assist Housing Associations in sourcing suitable sites a North Lurgan Site Identification Study has been initiated by the Housing Executive. The study has identified a North Lurgan Boundary and determined all unconstrained sites within it.

This has resulted in the identification of 28 sites which have all been ranked on the basis of location and whether they have planning approval. Land and Property will be contacting all sites owners in a systematic manner to determine if any would be willing to sell their land for social housing development.

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This has resulted in the identification of 28 sites which have all been ranked on the basis of location and whether they have planning approval. Land and Property will be contacting all sites owners in a systematic manner to determine if any would be willing to sell their land for social housing development.

### **Departmental Spend on Heat, Electricity and Water**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department has spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34248/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** This Department has spent the following amounts on the in each of the last 5 years:

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Heat	£386,092	£487,471	£511,028	£607,522	£604,627
Electricity	£1,202,646	£1,218,952	£1,665,200	£1,658,662	£1,600,460
Water	£109,394	£134,157	£123,507	£138,014	£144,957

### Social Housing Completion Figures in West Belfast

**Mr F McCann** asked the Minister for Social Development how many units of social housing have been completed in West Belfast in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34259/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Details of the number of social housing units that have been completed in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years are as follows:-

- 2011/12 118 units
- 2012/13 176 units
- 2013/14 343 units

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.

### 3G Football Pitch Proposals for Kilcooley, Bangor

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding has been allocated for the 3G football pitch proposals for Kilcooley, Bangor.

**(AQW 34282/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Kilcooley 3G pitch project is part of a capital cluster project entitled “Community Operated Sports Facilities” which has been submitted to the Office of the First and deputy First Minister for funding through the Social Investment Fund within the South Eastern Zone’s area plan. The cluster project is currently within the funding allocation of the Zone but has not yet been approved by the economic appraisal process. It should be noted that this project is not guaranteed funding.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Board has included in its Action Plan a commitment of £250,000 as a part contribution towards the overall costs of the proposal. My Department has indicated that it would be minded to support the commitment, through the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund, subject to the completion of a positive economic appraisal and the availability of finance. However it is likely that given the timeframe involved, responsibility for deciding whether to support this project will fall to the new North Down and Ards Council as part of the Reform of Local Government.

### Reform of Alcohol Licensing

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 33197/11-15, to outline the timescale for reporting on the reform of alcohol licensing.

**(AQW 34295/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** On 26 June, my officials provided a briefing to the Social Development Committee on the changes I propose to make to alcohol licensing law. I now intend seeking Executive agreement to the final policy content of a Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill. Following this I will make an announcement on the way forward.

## Queen's Parade Redevelopment Project in Bangor

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Queen's Parade redevelopment project in Bangor.

**(AQW 34358/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department is taking the lead to progress proposals for the comprehensive development of the Queen's Parade. Over recent months good progress has been made and the Department has agreed the purchase a number of properties required to complete the proposed site boundary and negotiations to acquire the remaining property are ongoing with owners. In March DSD appointed Turley Associates to work with officials to develop a planning application and attain planning permission for the Queen's Parade scheme by March 2015.

A series of engagement events to seek the views of the public, local businesses and Council on what they would like to see developed on this prominent site have been undertaken. It is these views that have informed a number of proposed options for the site which are being presented to the public for their consideration from 16 June 2014 to 30 June 2014.

## Urban Development Grant Scheme

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the criteria used to judge applications to the Urban Development Grant scheme.

**(AQW 34378/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The criteria used to assess applications for Urban Development Grants are specified in the 'Application Pack', these are; location, strategic context, scale, value for money, practicability, additionality, environmental benefits and design. All applications are subject to an economic appraisal.

## Employment Support Allowance

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in North Down have had their Employment Support Allowance withdrawn after a work capability assessment, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34435/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The following table details the number of people in North Down who failed to meet the threshold at a Work Capability Assessment in each financial year from June 2011 to February 2014. The figures provided are those Employment and Support Allowance claimants who have undergone a Work Capability Assessment as part of the re-referral process which is provided for under the legislation.

Year	Fail WCA
June 2011 - March 2012	90
April 2012 - March 2013	120
April 2013 - February 2014	90

The information provided is an Official Statistic. The Production and dissemination of all such Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

## Programme for Government 2011/15: Public Procurement Contracts

**Mr Maskey** asked the Minister for Social Development to what extent his Department has implemented the Programme for Government 2011-15 commitment that all public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction works will include social clauses; and to what level such clauses have been implemented.

**(AQW 34449/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** In accordance with the Programme for Government commitment and Central Procurement Directorate's guidance, my department considers the inclusion of social clauses in all public procurement for supplies, services and construction.

The Procurement Board, in June 2013, revised the definition of social clauses to include wider community benefits. This is considered on a project by project basis, to determine which social considerations are relevant to the needs and the obligations to be met by the procurement. Any relevant social considerations are/will be clearly stated in tender documentation. Social Clauses linked to training and employment opportunities have been included in Government construction works contracts since 31 December 2008, developed by Central Procurement Directorate in conjunction with the construction industry.

My department promotes that public procurement should be undertaken and managed via a Centre of Procurement Expertise namely Central Procurement Directorate within the Department of Finance and Personnel. Subsequently this helps to ensure that social clauses are implemented where appropriate.

### **Bangor Public Realms Scheme**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding will be going into the Bangor public realms scheme.

**(AQW 34454/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department is investing £3 million and Council is investing £5 million in the Bangor public realm scheme. On-site construction works recently commenced and the works will address all aspects of street design including paving, kerbstones, street furniture, lighting and planting.

### **Work Capability Assessment Form**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development how many amendments have been made to the Work Capability Assessment form or the relevant criteria since its introduction; and to list the dates of each change.

**(AQW 34458/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Five amendments have been made to the ESA50 Limited Capability for Work questionnaire. The amendments were made in March 2011, June 2011, January 2013, April 2013 and April 2014.

### **Common Landlord Areas: North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the common landlord areas in each housing need assessment area in North Down.

**(AQW 34471/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below details the Common Landlord areas in each Housing Need Assessment area in North Down.

<b>Housing Need Assessment Area</b>	<b>Common Landlord Area</b>
Bangor Central	Bangor Central
	Clandeboye Road
	Clanmorris
	Greenmount Ave.
	Skipperstone/Tughan Court
	Whitehill

Housing Need Assessment Area	Common Landlord Area
Bangor East	Churchill
	Donaghadee Road
Bloomfield/Bangor	Bloomfield Road/Balloo
Conlig	Conlig/Breezemount
Kilcooley	Bangor/Kilcooley
Holywood Central	Spencer Street
	Strand
	Woodlands
Holywood Outer	Holywood/Redburn
	Loughview/White City
Groomsport	Groomsport
Crawfordsburn	Crawfordsburn
Helen's Bay	Helen's Bay

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.

### **New Social Housing Dwellings in Taughmonagh**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development what steps have been taken to secure occupation of the new social housing dwellings in Taughmonagh.

**(AQW 34530/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The allocation of new properties at Taughmonagh is the responsibility of Fold Housing Association.

Fold Housing Association has confirmed that they met with the tenants of the new properties on 27 June and are pleased to report that the issues that had previously delayed the tenants from taking up occupancy are now resolved. The tenants have now received their keys and their new tenancies commenced on 30 June 2014.

### **Organised Poker Legislation**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department will introduce legislation to allow the playing of organised poker with limited stakes.

**(AQW 34594/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I would refer the member to the answer previously supplied to AQW 24512/11-15.

### **Domestic and Non-Domestic Land Banks in East Antrim**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the (i) domestic; and (ii) non-domestic land banks in East Antrim that will be transferred to the Mid and East Antrim council.

**(AQW 34614/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below details the land that is currently proposed will transfer to the control of Mid and East Antrim council under the Reform of Local Government. All areas of land are classed as non-domestic.

<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>
Rodgers Quay, Carrickfergus
Upper North St, Carrickfergus

Please note that by the transfer date the above list may be subject to change.

### **Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties: East Antrim**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in East Antrim will have double glazing installed by the end of the 2014/15 financial year.

**(AQW 34615/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that a total of 1,568 properties in the East Antrim parliamentary constituency will have double glazing installed by the end of the 2014/15 financial year. This includes those schemes that have been started in earlier years and those schemes that are due on site in the current financial year in order to achieve the Programme for Government commitment

### **Backlog of Maintenance Repairs: Strabane District**

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister for Social Development what action he is taking to address the backlog of maintenance repairs on Housing Executive properties in the Strabane district; and whether he will consider making additional resources and finance available to resolve this issue.

**(AQW 34746/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that due to a number of performance related issues associated with this contract they have had no option but to serve a three month termination notice on the contractor, which is due to end on 15th September 2014. The Housing Executive has further advised that back up arrangements are being put in place during the termination period to address the backlog and uncompleted work situation. The Housing Executive is also actively seeking a replacement contractor using the mini-competition under the Framework Contract.

### **House Repossessions: North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many house repossessions took place in North Down in (i) 2007; (ii) 2010; (iii) 2013; and (iv) the first quarter of 2014.

**(AQW 34763/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department does not hold information on the number of houses possessed each year in Northern Ireland. However, the Department of Justice provides statistics on the number of writs and originating summonses issued, cases disposed and orders made in respect of mortgages in the Chancery Division of the Northern Ireland High Court. This information is publically available on the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service and Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service websites. While these statistics are not a complete representation of possessions in Northern Ireland, they are informative as a proxy of people at risk of possession.

The figures for North Down show that:

- (i) In 2007 there were 91 mortgage cases received and 54 cases were disposed. A total of 54 final orders were made, of which 24 were Possession Orders.
- (ii) In 2010 there were 135 cases received and 121 cases disposed. A total of 121 final orders were made, of which 70 were Possession Orders.

A sub-regional breakdown of the statistics is not yet available for 2013 or the first quarter of 2014. The provisional overall figures for Northern Ireland show that:

- (iii) In 2013 3,694 mortgage cases were received and 2,741 cases were disposed. A total of 2,812 final orders were made in 2013, of which 1,811 were Possession Orders.

- (iv) In the first quarter of 2014 there were 886 cases received and 669 cases disposed. A total of 703 final orders were made between January and March, of which 432 were Possession Orders. Statistics for the second quarter of 2014 are not yet available.

It should be noted that not all writs and summonses lead to the eviction of the householder. Furthermore, lenders granted possession orders by the courts have up to 12 years in which to enforce the order. Therefore, the number of possession orders granted in any given year may not translate into the same number of enforcements or evictions.

If constituents in North Down are struggling to pay their mortgage or are worried about the future, I strongly encourage them to access advice and speak to their lender as soon as possible. The Mortgage Debt Advice Service, which is operated by Housing Rights Service and funded by my Department, can be contacted on 0300 323 0310. The earlier borrowers receive advice and engage with their lender, the more likely they are to arrive at an affordable and sustainable solution; however, it is never too late to begin this process.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

### **Housing Executive Properties: Glengormley**

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the no-fines single-skin Housing Executive properties in the Glengormley area.

**(AQW 34766/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that they do not have any “No Fines” properties in Glengormley.

### **Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties: North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in North Down will have received double glazing between 2011 and the end of the scheme in 2015.

**(AQW 34865/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that from April 2011 until March 2014 they had installed double glazing in 649 dwellings in the North Down constituency. A further 501 dwellings are due to have double glazing installed during 2014/15 financial year in line with the Programme for Government commitment.

### **Charity Commission for Northern Ireland Investigations**

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 34197/11-15, when he will review the costs incurred by charities in responding to Charity Commission for Northern Ireland investigations.

**(AQW 34917/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The costs incurred by charities in responding to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland remain a matter for the organisations concerned and my Department does not have access to such information. In these circumstances I am not in a position to review costs.

Charity Commission investigations are not entered into lightly and can be necessary to protect the charity and / or its assets, for example where there is evidence of misconduct and mismanagement by trustees.

### **Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties: West Tyrone**

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive homes in West Tyrone are set to benefit from the new double glazing contract.

**(AQW 34936/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that there is only one double glazing scheme remaining in the West Tyrone constituency for 59 properties, which is due on site in February 2015.

### Administration of the Superannuation Scheme

Mr Allister asked Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 33845/11-15, whether there is an imperative on Northern Ireland Housing Executive staff to attend these courses.

**(AQW 34987/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that attendance at such NILGOSC run courses is not mandatory.

## Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

### Educational Visits to Parliament Buildings

**Mr Campbell** asked the Assembly Commission how many (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools from (a) controlled; (b) maintained; and (c) integrated sectors have paid educational visits to Parliament Buildings in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 34363/11-15)**

**Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Education Service provides an education programme for schools visiting Parliament Buildings. All schools are contacted at the start of each academic year to invite them to participate in the programme.

The tables below outline how many primary and post-primary schools from the controlled, maintained and integrated sectors took part in the Northern Ireland Assembly education programme in the last three years from September to June.

<b>01/07/11 – 30/06/12</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>No. of groups</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
Primary controlled	86	2414
Primary maintained	104	2966
Primary integrated	4	85
Post-primary controlled	71	2007
Post-primary maintained	69	2171
Post-primary integrated	19	578

<b>01/07/12 – 30/06/13</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>No. of groups</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
Primary controlled	68	2143
Primary maintained	40	1233
Primary integrated	1	46
Post-primary controlled	79	2693
Post-primary maintained	70	2572
Post-primary integrated	13	363

<b>01/07/13 – 30/06/14</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>No. of groups</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>
Primary controlled	62	1809
Primary maintained	49	1583
Primary integrated	5	172
Post-primary controlled	66	2019
Post-primary maintained	57	2053
Post-primary integrated	12	332

## Utility Costs

**Mr Agnew** asked the Assembly Commission how much has been spent on (i) heat; (ii) electricity; and (iii) water in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 34445/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** Gas fired boilers provide the majority of heating in Parliament Buildings with a small number of rooms supplied by electric heaters. There is also a range of mechanical extract ventilation or air conditioning systems which are also powered by electricity. At present it is not possible to break down the electricity costs by heat, light, power etc.

The total costs incurred by the Assembly for heat (gas) and electricity in each of the last five years can be found in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Gas Costs (£)</b>	<b>Total Electricity Costs (£)</b>
2013-2014	156,145.09	272,878.73
2012-2013	153,159.24	268,285.86
2011-2012	128,372.14	251,205.37
2010-2011	98,518.00	200,206.00
2009-2010	82,838.00	195,639.00

The Sustainable Development Office publishes these figures on the Northern Ireland Assembly website ensuring that they are available in the public domain.

The water distribution network in the Stormont Estate is owned and maintained by the Department of Finance and Personnel (Properties Division). The Assembly has incurred no costs relating to water charges over the last five years.

## Cycle to Work Scheme

**Mr McKay** asked the Assembly Commission to detail the uptake of the cycle to work scheme since its introduction.

**(AQW 34493/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** A Cycle to Work Scheme for the Northern Ireland Assembly was first introduced in February 2013. The scheme runs annually with new applications accepted during February and March to coincide with the financial year.

Initially the scheme was only available to Assembly Secretariat Staff with 15 individuals availing of the scheme in the first year. This year the scheme was opened to MLAs as well as staff and a total of

19 people applied. It is hoped that there will be an increase in the number of people availing of the scheme in subsequent years.

If you require any additional information please feel free to contact the Sustainable Development Office on 02890521265.

### **Promotion of Cycling**

**Mr McKay** asked the Assembly Commission how they plan to promote cycling to staff over the next twelve months.

**(AQW 34495/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** A Cycle to Work Scheme for Assembly Secretariat staff was introduced in February 2013 and continued again this year. The scheme will continue to be promoted annually with new applications accepted during February and March to coincide with the financial year.

The annual '10 Minute Cycle Challenge' and 'Active Belfast Workplace Cycle Challenge' which promote cycling are advertised to all building users each year.

In addition to this Sustainable Development Branch promote 'Bike Week' with a food voucher of £3.50 available to all staff who cycle to work on the day. This year 3 members of staff availed of the offer.

Information on cycling is available to all staff via the Sustainable Development Office Cycle to Work Scheme page on the Assembly intranet, AssISt.

If you require any further information please feel free to contact the Sustainable Development Office on 02890521265.



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Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

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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

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ISBN 978-0-339-70347-6

