

Written Answers to Questions

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Friday 17 January 2014

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

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Attwood, Alex (West Belfast)
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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 17 January 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

UK Commission on Child Poverty and Social Mobility

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will appoint representatives to the UK Commission on Child Poverty and Social Mobility.

(AQW 23501/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): This matter is currently under consideration.

Childcare Strategy: Welfare Reform

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what guarantee they can give that the childcare strategy will be published and implemented before the introduction of the provisions contained in the Welfare Reform Bill.

(AQW 27555/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: "Bright Start" was launched on 25 September 2013. The first phase of the Bright Start Strategy sets out a strategic direction and lists 15 key first actions that will be put in place to address the main childcare priorities identified during consultation and research. All key actions will be initiated in 2013/14.

The Executive has yet to conclude its discussions on Welfare Reform.

Social Investment Fund Implementation: South East Zone

Mr Dunne asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the Social Investment Fund implementation in the South East zone.

(AQW 28553/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Ten projects were submitted by the South Eastern Steering Group and are currently going through the appropriate economic appraisal procedures. On the basis of present projections, we are hopeful of supporting all these projects, subject to satisfactory economic appraisals. Until this work is completed it is not possible to comment further.

Victims and Survivors Service

Mrs D Kelly asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Victims and Survivors Service.

(AQO 5114/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Victims and Survivors Service has undertaken nearly 2,000 individual needs reviews and funded a total of 68 Victims and Survivors groups to date.

However, we are aware that issues have been raised in relation to the Service, which we take extremely seriously. We have therefore established a Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Equality and Strategy Directorate. The Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, Kathryn Stone, and the VSS Chief Executive, Anne Dorbie, also sit on the Board along with Special Advisors.

We will work together to resolve these issues and see this through to a conclusion to ensure that victims and survivors receive the best possible support.

City of Culture 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) tenders awarded; and (ii) funding provided to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013.

(AQW 28766/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: In relation to the City of Culture's 2013 cultural programme, all contracts were entered into with Derry City Council, therefore the Department did not award any tenders.

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure secured approval for a business case to provide £12.6m funding for the City of Culture programme which was paid to Derry City Council. This included a contribution of £1.5m from OFMDFM through Ilex. In addition, a further contribution of £250k was provided by OFMDFM through Ilex to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to assist with the marketing of the city during 2013.

Child Poverty

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the forecast by the Institute for Fiscal Studies that child poverty is set to increase significantly by 2020 based on their current policy interventions, (i) whether they intend to maintain the income based measurement of child poverty; (ii) whether they intend to meet their statutory targets to reduce child poverty under the Child Poverty Act; and (iii) what additional progressive interventions they intend to undertake to meet these obligations.

(AQW 28987/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) on Child and Working-Age Poverty in Northern Ireland from 2010 to 2020, published in May 2013, was commissioned by our Department to inform our work to tackle poverty and disadvantage. These projections are necessarily subject to uncertainties and limitations, which are noted in the report. IFS is working on an update using more recent data and we hope to publish in the New Year.

We are required, under the Child Poverty Act 2010, to publish a Child Poverty Strategy that contributes to meeting the targets set out in the Act, which are measured by household income.

We published the Executive's Child Poverty Strategy, Improving Children's Life Chances, in March 2011. In pursuit of the targets required by the Act, this Strategy sets out two key strands of work to address the causes and consequences of child poverty: reducing poorly paid work and unemployment amongst adults with children; and improving longer-term prospects through child-based interventions which are designed to tackle the cyclical nature of child poverty. Annual reports on progress were produced in 2012 and 2013 and are available on our department's website.

We are required to adhere to the Child Poverty Act and report progress against its targets and measures until 2020. In addition, in the Programme for Government 2011-15, the Executive made a commitment to deliver a range of measures to tackle poverty and social exclusion through the Delivering Social Change Framework. This was a new approach to tackling multi-generational poverty, based on additional, strategic actions which can make a difference, ultimately with a view to improving long-term outcomes. Delivering Social Change represents a new level of collaborative working across departments. We have sought to drive real initiatives which will have genuine impact on the ground through our seven Delivering Social Change Signature programmes.

Teachers are being recruited to deliver tuition to primary school pupils who are struggling with reading and maths at Key Stage 2 and post-primary pupils who are not projected to get a 'C' grade in English

or Maths. Twenty additional Nurture Units are being created in local primary schools to help address barriers to learning among children arising from social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. Trained staff will select the children who will benefit most from additional support and develop individual learning plans agreed with parents and teachers.

Parenting programmes have been developed which will provide support to new parents living in areas of deprivation. Sixteen existing Family Support Hubs are receiving additional support to provide early intervention family support services and 10 new Hubs will be established by April 2014. A targeted intervention programme to support young people who are not in Education, Employment or Training and their families will also be rolled out; providing work placements, skills training and employment advice.

The programmes will also see investment in local communities. Eleven Social Enterprise Hubs will offer business advice and practical support to social enterprise entrepreneurs to encourage social enterprise business start-ups within local communities and £1.6 million is being invested to enhance play and leisure opportunities.

In addition, we continue to commission research to identify best practice and inform our work to tackle child poverty. In October, we published a Child Poverty Outcomes Framework, developed by the National Children's Bureau and the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes, to support a cross-departmental approach to reduce child poverty. This Framework seeks to identify interventions which will improve outcomes.

We are currently reviewing our Child Poverty Strategy and using the Child Poverty Outcomes Framework to develop a new strategy, under the banner of Delivering Social Change, to improve outcomes for all of our children.

Social Investment Fund: South East Zone

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many applications for funding in the South East zone of the Social Investment Fund (i) have been submitted; (ii) are currently being processed; and (iii) have been approved.

(AQW 29118/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Ten projects were submitted by the South Eastern Steering Group. Four of these projects have full approvals in place and the other six are currently going through the appropriate appraisal procedures. On the basis of present projections we are hopeful of supporting all these projects, subject to satisfactory economic appraisals.

Children Abuse via the Internet

Mr Givan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what action their Department and its arm's-length bodies are taking to protect children from abuse through the internet.

(AQW 29147/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We recognise that while the internet offers new opportunities for children to expand their knowledge and experience, it also brings risks. The Executive is committed to ensuring children and young people are protected from abuse including through the internet.

Over the last year, OFMDFM has taken forward a range of actions to protect children from abuse through the internet, including:

- the commissioning of research to gain a better understanding of internet use by P7 pupils;
- engagement with the UK Safer Internet Centre, including involvement in Safer Internet Day activities on 5 February 2013; and
- a review of activity on internet safety across relevant departments to identify current actions, gaps and any further actions that may be required to address risks.

We have used existing cross-departmental structures such as the Delivering Social Change Programme Board and Children's Champions to ensure work is co-ordinated across the Executive.

In addition, OFMDFM has contributed to work which is being taken forward by the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland to evaluate the effectiveness of current internet safety messages for children and young people, parents and practitioners.

Junior Ministers have also met the Adviser to the EU Commissioner for the Digital Agenda to consider how we could work with the EU to address the issue of child internet safety, including raising awareness of cyber bullying.

In light of its concerns over internet safety, the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) has updated its 'Social Media Policy' and its 'Social Media Guidelines' in relation to the participation of children and young people. NICCY's Legal and Investigations Department deals with casework on a daily basis, some of which involve issues in relation to internet safety.

Bright Start Community Childcare Programme

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how 3000 childcare places will be provided by social enterprise through the Bright Start Community Childcare Programme.

(AQW 29228/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We propose to sustain or create the 3,000 childcare places for school age children through a grant funding scheme. The detail of the proposed grant scheme is currently in development with a view to launching early in 2014.

Bright Start Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for a breakdown of the budget for programmes provided for in the Bright Start Strategy.

(AQW 29230/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Department continues to work on the detailed costings for several of the key first actions set out in the first phase of Bright Start. As a consequence, we are not in a position to provide a breakdown of the budget for each of the programmes in Bright Start. However, we are intending on making more details available on this shortly.

Bright Start Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the need for the number of extra childcare places being provided for under the Bright Start Strategy was established.

(AQW 29231/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Bright Start's key first actions aim to address the priority childcare needs that were identified during public consultation and research. These needs included a lack of provision for school age children; for children with disabilities; and for children in rural areas. The additional childcare places envisaged under the first phase of Bright Start represent a major step towards addressing these needs.

Bright Start Childcare Information Programme

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to provide further detail on the Bright Start Childcare Information Programme.

(AQW 29232/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Under the first phase of the Bright Start Childcare Strategy, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) is enhancing the Family Support NI website. This includes a new childcare specific search facility that is already operational. The facility enables parents to search for childcare services in their area and filter the results by a number of

categories – eg the type of childcare being provided, any current vacancies, and the hours during which the childcare services are available.

DHSSPS has also commissioned a social media application. This will replicate the Family Support NI information and enable parents to search for childcare services using smart phones.

Delivering Social Change: Child Poverty

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what measures will be incorporated as part of delivering social change to address child poverty.

(AQW 29353/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Delivering Social Change is about reducing poverty and associated issues, across all ages; and an improvement in children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities, breaking the cycle of multi-generational problems.

Six Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes, specifically focused on children and families, are currently being implemented to address the causes and consequences of poverty. In October, we announced a seventh Signature Programme to enhance play and leisure opportunities for children and young people. A range of possible future initiatives are also under consideration.

We are currently reviewing our Child Poverty Strategy, Improving Children's Life Chances, and aim to publish a new strategy, setting out future measures to address child poverty under the banner of Delivering Social Change, in March 2014.

Planning, Commissioning and Delivery of Children's Services

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they have any plans to improve the integration of planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services; and to provide further details.

(AQW 29401/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Direct responsibility for the planning, commissioning and delivery of children's services falls within the remit of the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

However, the Member will be aware of the work we are taking forward through the Delivering Social Change framework to provide a co-ordinated approach across the Executive to reduce poverty and bring about improvements in children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities.

Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry

Mr Givan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse led by Justice Hart.

(AQO 5252/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse has been up and running since October 2012, when its confidential Acknowledgement Forum began hearing accounts from victims and survivors.

Of course, the Inquiry is independent from government and, subject to the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse Act and Rules, the procedure and conduct of the Inquiry are directed by the Chairperson.

However, we note that applications from those victims and survivors who wished to be heard by the Inquiry closed on Friday 29 November 2013. Over that 14-month period, the Inquiry has received 433 applications. The Inquiry will commence its oral hearings in the former Banbridge Courthouse today. This will focus on opening statements by the Chairperson Sir Anthony Hart and Christine Smith QC, Senior Counsel to the Inquiry.

Hearings will initially focus on Institutions at Termonbacca and Sisters of Nazareth, Bishop Street Derry/Londonderry. The dates for the subsequent hearings will be announced by the Inquiry in due course.

The Inquiry's terms of reference anticipate that it will have completed all its work by January 2016.

Strategic Investment Fund

Mr Irwin asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the delivery of the Social Investment Fund.

(AQO 5258/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We have agreed indicative financial allocations for each of the nine Social Investment Fund zones. Officials have subsequently met with the Chairs of the nine Steering Groups and then with each Steering Group to agree the projects within each of the area plans which can be funded within the available resources for the zone and to discuss the next steps to progress the delivery of these projects. We expect that the first tranche of projects will receive letters of offer in the coming weeks.

Officials are currently focusing further efforts on securing approval to those projects which sit within the limits of affordability within each zone but have not yet been fully approved. We anticipate completing this exercise by the end of the current financial year.

International Relations Strategy

Mr I McCrea asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the development of an International Relations Strategy.

(AQO 5260/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The International Relations Strategy reflecting recent international visits and activity has been circulated to Executive Ministers for consideration and comment and will be discussed at a forthcoming Executive Meeting.

St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena

Mr Frew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on a strategy for lands at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena.

(AQO 5261/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are working with the Department for Social Development and Ballymena Borough Council to develop strategic plans for the St Patrick's site. Interested stakeholders within the public sector have been identified and regular meetings are held with them to discuss progressing development of the site.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Rural Crime

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to cluster areas of rural crime where there have been multiple livestock and agricultural machinery theft, (i) whether any evidence has emerged of criminal gangs operating to order; and (ii) whether any links to the crimes in localised areas have been identified.

(AQW 29207/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): Responsibility for tackling crime, including rural crime, lies primarily with the PSNI and the Department of Justice. My Department does not hold the information you ask for.

I understand that the PSNI holds statistical and other information relating to crime.

Strangford Constituency: Coastal Defences

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what assessment has been made of the coastal defences in the Strangford constituency as a result of the recent tidal surges.
(AQW 29513/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The sea defences which protect Newtownards and Downpatrick were severely tested during the recent storms. Early indications are that the defences performed well and the Agency has already commenced a post-event inspection programme.

Strangford Constituency: Coastal Defences

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the additional resources he will make available for the repair and improvement of coastal defences in the Strangford constituency, particularly around the Ards Peninsula.
(AQW 29514/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Rivers Agency's responsibilities include the sea defences which protect Newtownards and Downpatrick and there is no doubt that these defences were severely tested during the recent storms.

I am pleased to advise that Rivers Agency's initial assessment suggests that these defences performed well and the Agency has already commenced a post-event inspection programme of its defences. The findings of these inspections will dictate whether additional resources will be required for repairs or improvement.

Tackling Bovine TB

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the level of progress her Department has made in eradicating Bovine TB in cattle.
(AQW 29524/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: TB herd incidence has fallen from its peak of 7.46% at 31 October 2012 to reach 6.48% at 30 November 2013. Whilst there has been slight fluctuation in the herd incidence level on 2 occasions during this period, there has been a 24.3% reduction in the number of animals removed as reactors in the 11 months ending 30 November 2013 when compared with the same period in the previous year, with a corresponding 13.5% reduction in the number of new herd breakdowns. In addition, since November 2012 there has been a downward trend in % animal incidence.

While this reduction is welcome, I am not complacent and it is my aim to achieve a sustained and progressive reduction towards the ultimate eradication of TB in cattle here.

Strengthening of Coastal Defences: Funding

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what funding is available for the strengthening of coastal defences; and what (i) capital; and (ii) resources are allocated to this task.
(AQW 29562/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Rivers Agency is responsible for some 26 km of designated coastal flood defences which are subject to a rolling programme of inspection and maintenance. River Agency's initial assessment following the recent events in early January suggests that these defences performed well. A more extensive inspection of these defences is underway. Should this inspection identify the need for works, these will be given appropriate priority from the Agency's total opening budget allocation of £24.5m for the coming financial year.

Single Farm Payment Claims: Mistakes

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) how farmers, who realise they had inadvertently claimed ineligible land in a field, can correct mistakes after submitting their

Single Farm Payment claims; and (ii) who farmers should contact and the timeframe they have to rectify mistakes after submitting their forms.

(AQW 29572/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) If farmers have inadvertently claimed ineligible land, they can remove this at any time after the submission of their application, provided the Department has not already told them of an error with their application, or they have not been given notice that an on-the-spot check will be or has been carried out.

If the correction affects the Maximum Eligible Area of the field then the farmer should also complete a Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) correction form to enable the Department to update the mapping system.

- (ii) To amend their Single Application Form (SAF), farmers should complete and return the SAF 3 (included in their Single Application packs) or put their request in writing to Single Farm Payment Branch in Orchard House. The LPIS correction form should be sent to their local DARD Direct Office.

Advice on amendments, corrections or withdrawals of single application forms is clearly set out in each year's Guide on how to complete the Single Application and Field Data Sheet. For 2014 applications, this Guide will be issued to claimants in mid-March 2014.

Flood Risk Management

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, further to the expiration of the Statement of Principles governing flood risk management, what consultation she has engaged in to ensure adequate insurance provisions are in place to provide for those affected by localised flooding.

(AQW 29592/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I, along with officials from my Department, have had regular contact with representatives of the Association of British Insurers (ABI), DEFRA Ministers and officials from Departments in England, Scotland and Wales on the replacement to the Statement of Principles on Flood Insurance. Specifically, I met with the ABI as far back as November 2012 to discuss options for a replacement for the Statement of Principles. I have written to DEFRA Ministers on a number of occasions, stressing the need to ensure that home insurance, including provision for flooding, remains available and affordable for all residents in the north of Ireland and that this is adequately reflected in any agreed solution. Senior officials from Rivers Agency have also worked closely with DEFRA on the potential options to replace the Statement of Principles, which were subject to public consultation last year. As insurance is a reserved matter, the new arrangements will also apply to the north of Ireland and are being brought onto the Statute book using the Water Bill in Westminster.

Acreeage of Land Used for Arable Farming

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the amount of acreage of land used for arable farming in (i) 1982; (ii) 1992; (iii) 2002; and (iv) 2012.

(AQW 29665/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Information on arable land use is collected by DARD as part of the annual June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey. The total arable area and summary information on the main activities for selected years is presented in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: AREA UNDER ARABLE PRODUCTION (HA), 1982-2012

Year	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Other Cereals	Pota-toes	Field Vege-tables	Other Arable ¹	Total
1982	1,039	2,727	48,632	567	13,252	1,292	6,655	74,164
1992	7,638	2,028	37,941	143	11,124	1,538	5,524	65,936
2002	7,235	2,351	28,455	56	6,708	1,519	6,323	52,647
2012	9,395	1,879	25,533	259	4,150	1,253	10,544	53,013

Source: June Agricultural and Horticultural Survey, selected years, DARD.

Note 1: Other Arable includes maize and arable forage crops, fruit, short rotation coppice willow and ornamental plants.

Delay in Single Farm Payments

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQO 5265/11-15, whether the delay in processing Single Farm Payments is a result of matching aerial photographs with existing field maps.

(AQW 29756/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Calculations of payments to approximately 3,000 Single Farm Payment claimants have not yet been completed for a range of reasons. They remain to be completed, not as a result of matching aerial photographs with existing field maps, but for a range of reasons including the need to update field maps in the light of inspection findings, the need to have bank details from claimants, the need to investigate claims greater than the maximum eligible area, the need for feedback from two parties where two businesses have claimed the same field and the need for the completion of probate or inheritance proceedings.

Wind Turbines

Mr Wilson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on how many Forest Service sites will wind turbines be installed.

(AQO 5264/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Mr Speaker with your permission I will answer questions 2 and 8 together.

At the start of January 2014 a Wind Farm Development Manager joined Forest Service on secondment from the Strategic Investment Board. We know from market soundings, that there is likely to be strong interest in developing some of the potential forestry sites but at this stage it is premature to speculate about the number or location of the sites that will be developed.

As the main benefits from wind farm operations are felt by the wider economy it is only proper that local communities affected by schemes receive a more direct benefit from energy projects.

Hence what we on this side are anxious to do is protect local communities from the damaging effects of energy generation from whatever source and, where the public interest is clearly in favour of projects going ahead, to ensure local communities are adequately recompensed. For that reason I am keen to see Forest Service projects become a test bed for schemes that provide community benefits from wind farms. The new wind farm manager will be looking closely at the models that have already been developed in other jurisdictions.

In general terms I look for communities to benefit by becoming an active participant in projects from concept through to operation, as well as seeing material gains from jobs in construction and maintenance, in supplying hotel accommodation and other services; and in community benefits schemes producing monetary or “in-kind” benefits as payments for access and as recompense for disruption.

Single Farm Payments

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the percentage of Single Farm Payments made since 1 December 2013.

(AQO 5269/11-15)

Mrs O’Neill: To date, 92% of Single Farm Payment claims have been finalised since the opening of the payment window on 1 December 2013. The Department set its highest payment target ever for December 2013 at 85% and significantly exceeded it by finalising 90% of claims. More farmers received their Single Farm Payment in December 2013 than ever before.

The value of Single Farm Payments made so far is £238.75 million and is a vital element of farm incomes. The improved payment performance this year is a welcome boost for the farming industry and the wider rural economy.

Wind Farms

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the benefits of the proposed wind farms on Forest Service land to the local communities.

(AQO 5270/11-15)

Mrs O’Neill: At the start of January 2014 a Wind Farm Development Manager joined Forest Service on secondment from the Strategic Investment Board. We know from market soundings, that there is likely to be strong interest in developing some of the potential forestry sites but at this stage it is premature to speculate about the number or location of the sites that will be developed.

As the main benefits from wind farm operations are felt by the wider economy it is only proper that local communities affected by schemes receive a more direct benefit from energy projects.

Hence what we on this side are anxious to do is protect local communities from the damaging effects of energy generation from whatever source and, where the public interest is clearly in favour of projects going ahead, to ensure local communities are adequately recompensed. For that reason I am keen to see Forest Service projects become a test bed for schemes that provide community benefits from wind farms. The new wind farm manager will be looking closely at the models that have already been developed in other jurisdictions.

In general terms I look for communities to benefit by becoming an active participant in projects from concept through to operation, as well as seeing material gains from jobs in construction and maintenance, in supplying hotel accommodation and other services; and in community benefits schemes producing monetary or “in-kind” benefits as payments for access and as recompense for disruption.

Low Carbon Road Map

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she intends to participate in the consultation process, recently launched by her counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, on the preparation of a Marine Research and Seafood Sector Low Carbon Roadmap.

(AQO 5271/11-15)

Mrs O’Neill: My Department has not participated directly in the preliminary stakeholder consultation on the preparation of a Marine Research and Seafood Sector Low Carbon Roadmap launched by Minister Coveney on 5 December and which ended on Friday 27 December 2013.

The Department of the Environment is the lead Department for cross cutting climate change issues and, given the consultation was not exclusively fishing focused, but included coastal infrastructure and

wider environmental issues, it would have been the appropriate department to consider input into the consultation.

My Department has provided input to the Climate Change Risk Assessments that have informed the DOE's soon to be published Climate Change Adaptation Programme which encompasses all sectors of the local economy including the marine environment.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why she sought to transfer funds from the Pillar 1 to the Pillar 2 budget of the Common Agricultural Policy without the agreement of the Executive.

(AQO 5272/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The reform of the CAP and the development and delivery of the RDP are absolute core elements of my remit as Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development. These are key policy and operational roles for my Department.

I firmly believed that I am best placed to balance the numerous and often very complex issues which play into decisions on CAP funding. Taking account of legal advice, I believed that I had the authority to take this decision to transfer 7% of the Direct Payments funds. As Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, I have dealt with all aspects of CAP reform for over 2½ years.

I had taken previous similar decisions, in particular the decision in 2012 not to apply an additional year of voluntary modulation, without any of these decisions being challenged. Indeed, my predecessor's decisions on the transfer of funds from direct payments to rural development were not challenged.

The Court held that the issue met the criterion of being significant or controversial and outside the Programme for Government. In fact, the judgement was that the issue was significant and controversial.

Rural Development Programme

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the level of funding available for the next Rural Development Programme following the zero percent transfer rate from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2.

(AQO 5273/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The eventual shape and size of the Programme will ultimately depend on the resources that are available. The notification of a 0% transfer from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 has the potential to reduce the scope and flexibility of the next Programme.

Funding for the Rural Development Programme is drawn from a number of sources. We know the amount of funding we already have allocated to us from Europe, which is approximately 227 million euro.

DARD also contributes to the Programme from its own budget. I am continuing to discuss with my officials how much money from DARD's own budget can be used to fund the Programme.

The onus is now on all of us in the Executive to come up to the mark and make available funds to bridge the deficit which will support the farming sector, enhance the environment and meet the needs of rural communities.

Aquaculture

Ms Ruane asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how she will progress the aquaculture industry.

(AQO 5274/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have just written to Minister Rabbitte in the south suggesting we convene an All Island Aquaculture Shellfish Conference to look at issues of importance to the aquaculture sector. The Conference will look at research that is currently being undertaken on diseases affecting the shellfish

sector, particularly the Oyster Herpes Virus and to identify what lessons can be learned to benefit the industry. The Conference will consider other issues of interest to the sector including licensing regimes, environmental issues, education and training, funding and marketing opportunities.

My Department continues to co-fund the Cross Border Aquaculture Initiative. This organisation provides a range of support services for the sustainable development of aquaculture and represents the interests of the aquaculture industry on a number of government lead groups. On 30 July 2013, our Bottom Grown Mussels received the prestigious Marine Stewardship Council certification. An Aquaculture Representative Group was established and I had a very positive meeting with representatives from the Group in November.

My Department also continues to provide EU funding for capital grant projects under the European Fisheries Fund Aquaculture Measure. To date, the aquaculture sector has received £1.02m. The Reformed Common Fisheries Policy aims to give a higher priority to promoting the sustainable development and to enhancing the competitiveness of EU aquaculture. This will help to underpin the recommendations of Going for Growth which is currently being taken forward.

Fisheries Council

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the December Fisheries Council.

(AQO 5275/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: This was a tough Council, we faced an initial proposal for a large 24% cut in the quota for Area VII prawns and I pressed hard for a sustainable quota that reflected the scientific advice and fishing patterns.

In spite of scientific advice that was only 8.4% less than last year, the Commission frustratingly sought a much larger reduction. I was successful in getting the cut down to 9% which is broadly in line with the scientific advice.

The Council result, across the range of our most important stocks in the Irish Sea and western waters, saw increases in Herring, Anglerfish, and Hake quotas, but with cuts in haddock, plaice and cod. I think this was a reasonable result given the Commission's initial proposals. The cut in the prawn quota can be mitigated over the year through banking of unused quota from 2013 and the use of the quota swap system. Finally, I was pleased that the Commission agreed to our argument for no changes to the number of days at sea that can be fished by the local fleet.

Rural White Paper

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how she will progress the Rural White Paper.

(AQO 5276/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Rural White Paper Action Plan is an Executive initiative aimed at improving the wellbeing of rural communities and contains commitments by all Departments across a wide range of rural issues and challenges.

I am pleased to report that good progress has been made by Departments in delivering their commitments in the Action Plan during its first year of operation since it was launched in June 2012. The first Annual Progress Report on the Rural White Paper Action Plan has now been published and is available on the DARD website.

I see the Rural White Paper Action Plan as a live initiative which continues to respond to the needs of rural dwellers and I intend to ask my Executive colleagues to identify within their Departments new and challenging actions for inclusion in a refreshed Action Plan during 2014.

I also propose looking at how complementary initiatives such as rural champion and rural proofing could help deliver benefits more effectively for our rural communities and I have asked my officials to explore potential options for taking forward this work.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Sports Representation

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the recent report by the Independent Working Group Examining Boxing in Ulster, what plans her Department has to address barriers which prevent sports people from Northern Ireland from representing the UK at international events like the Olympics.

(AQW 29383/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): My Department is fully supportive of the principle that sports people from the north of Ireland can choose to represent either Britain, or Ireland, at International Events. My Department will support Sport NI in its collaborations with other sports councils to provide and enhance guidance to sports governing bodies operating in Britain and Ireland on their responsibilities under the Good Friday Agreement.

In addition, my Department, through Sport NI, provides support to local athletes to enable them to meet the performance standards necessary to qualify for international competition. However, athletes must also meet the required eligibility and selection criteria of the sports concerned. The criteria will vary across the sports and will be dependent on the affiliation structures within the sport, the rules and processes of their governing organisations, and the rules, eligibility and selection criteria applied by the competition organising committees.

Creative Industries: Funding

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the impact that increased funding for arts initiatives could have in stimulating the growth of the creative industries.

(AQO 5285/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Vibrant and creative places and initiatives play a vital role in helping creative ideas, entrepreneurs and businesses to emerge and flourish. The arts and cultural sector provides a crucial ecosystem which helps to develop knowledge, skills, training and networks that contribute to the development of the creative industries.

Many people will, for example, learn their craft in community and professional theatre and then move onto areas such as television, film, music and more broadly onto education and community development.

Derry's term as City of Culture has clearly demonstrated the transformative power of the cultural sector to support a confident, creative, informed and healthy society. Key events such as the CultureTECH festival and the Fab Lab initiative have raised international awareness of the city as a hub for innovation and the creative industries. Initiatives such as DCAL's Creative Learning Centre in Derry, and those elsewhere, are supporting digital and creative skills and inspiring the next generation of creative entrepreneurs and businesses.

My plans for City of Culture legacy will therefore support the economic potential to grow our creative industries and further develop the blend of skills around creativity and entrepreneurship needed in the global economy.

Our arts and cultural landscape can help more of our young people, and more people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, to flourish. That is why I intend to make a bid to the Executive to support ongoing and new interventions which maximise City of Culture benefits and strengthen Derry and the North West as a regional driver for innovation and the creative industries.

Suicide Prevention

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline any plans to provide additional support for suicide prevention.

(AQO 5286/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department has made a significant contribution in promoting mental well-being and awareness of suicide prevention through Sport, the Arts and Libraries. This includes:

- The DCAL Strategy for Sport: ‘Sport Matters’ which is a key contributor to the DHSSPS Suicide Prevention Strategy, Protect Life.
- A commitment to pilot a programme of suicide awareness and prevention training in two areas of the north identified as having high levels of suicide.
- I have also provided funding of £500k per year, for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 to the IFA for a Health Programme, part of which will address issues around suicide awareness.
- DCAL provided £42k through Sport NI to deliver an awareness programme to support the existing Public Health Agency campaign and carrying the “Minding Your Head” message.
- The Libraries NI Health in Mind programme, in partnership with mental health charities, provides positive mental health and wellbeing information.
- The Arts Council’s Youth Arts Strategy includes a commitment to pilot a youth sector initiative aimed at young people at risk of poor mental health.

Murals: Reimaging Schemes

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of previous reimaging schemes for sectarian murals in the light of the creation of several new murals in recent months.

(AQO 5287/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The previous Re-imagining Communities Programme invested over £3.3million in 155 community projects across the north of Ireland. The programme, rooted in A Shared Future, brought together key statutory bodies and departments and delivered an integrated and co-ordinated approach to addressing the issues of flags, emblems and sectional symbols in the north of Ireland. While it is always disappointing to learn of the creation of new sectarian murals, the Re-Imaging Communities evaluation concluded that the programme has been a considerable success both in relation to its own aims and objectives and also in relation to the wider context of inter-group relations across the north of Ireland. In addition, the report highlighted significant benefits to communities including increased community cohesion through strengthening relationships, the development of links between communities and Councils and an increased willingness for individuals and communities to dissociate from division and hostility.

The new “Building Peace Through the Arts – Re-Imaging Communities Programme” is currently underway after its launch in April 2013.

iPads: Pilot Scheme

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on how the pilot scheme for iPads for deprived areas will be developed, including which areas will benefit.

(AQO 5288/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: During this financial year my Department is providing start-up support to pilot community initiatives across Belfast to highlight the benefit of mobile technologies in supporting formal and informal education and learning, as well as health and wellbeing initiatives.

It builds on the work of the DCAL supported Creative Learning Centres and their programmes for schools and young people in the use of new creative digital technologies. This work has a core remit of providing support to those from disadvantaged areas and backgrounds.

Although the initial focus is finalising on approximately four or five initiatives across Greater Belfast, I hope that the outcomes and positive impact of these pilot projects can lead to an expanded scheme across the region.

Arts: West Tyrone

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the level and extent of her Department's financial assistance towards promoting the Arts in West Tyrone in the last 3 years.
(AQO 5289/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The level and extent of my Department's financial assistance towards promoting the arts in West Tyrone in the last three years is as follows:

- The Arts Council provided a total of £57,850 to arts projects, examples include funding towards public art for the new acute hospital for the South West and the purchase of musical instruments and new arts equipment for arts venues;
- The Arts Council provided funding of £10,000 towards the Fleadh Uladh which took place in Dromore Co. Tyrone from 20 to 29 July 2013.
- NI Screen provided funding of £73,075 to schools in West Tyrone for children to participate in after school FILMCLUBS. This figure includes funding for a short film production.
- My Department provided funding of £0.5m towards the Tyrone GAA Centre of Participation at Garvaghy in 2013. The centre includes a range of sporting, culture and arts facilities including a 200 seat auditorium and Irish language facilities.
- Community Festivals funding of £73,700 was made available to the area. Of which, £41,100 was allocated to Omagh District Council and £32,600 was allocated to Strabane District Council.

Boxing: Funding

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, following findings by the Independent Working Group that concluded that Sandy Row Amateur Boxing Club was discriminated against, whether she will review the grants to local boxing authorities.
(AQO 5290/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have no plans to review the grants to local boxing authorities.

The Independent Working Group made twelve recommendations in its report and DCAL and Sport NI will be available to provide practical support to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) as they take forward their considerations of these recommendations.

The current funding being provided to the IABA through the Boxing Investment Programme is to procure and supply boxing equipment, and to carry out technical surveys for facility improvements to eligible clubs across the north of Ireland.

The conditions of this grant include an equity clause to ensure that the facilities and premises assisted by the grant are used in an inclusive manner which will both aspire to and promote good relations. This has been accepted by the IABA.

C S Lewis Festival

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans her Department has to further develop the C.S. Lewis Festival, organised by the East Belfast Partnership, following a successful first year.
(AQO 5291/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am aware of the highly successful, inaugural CS Lewis Festival which took place from 18-23 November 2013 to mark the 50th anniversary of his death and celebrate the life of one of the most talented authors in the world. I congratulate the East Belfast Partnership on the festival's success and it is important that this momentum is not lost.

I am committed to supporting the arts in East Belfast and my Department has assisted with funding in this financial year for the development of an arts strategy for the area. One way I can help develop the C.S Lewis Festival and the arts sector in East Belfast is to continue to provide support to implement the strategy which will help create a vibrant, creative and inclusive part of Belfast with thriving arts and creative industries.

I believe a CS Lewis legacy would be an appropriate and integral part of this vision, providing a platform to commemorate the life of this renowned author, theologian and academic who has brought our city international acclaim.

Department of Education

Applications for Childcare Places

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education to outline the number of applications for childcare places made in the Foyle constituency in the last twelve months, broken down by provider; and the number of applications refused due to lack of spaces.

(AQW 29239/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The Department of Education does not provide childcare. Its Pre-School Education Programme provides funded pre-school education places to children in the year immediately before they start compulsory education.

Admission to pre-school is preference based and parents are encouraged to list a number of preferences as it is not always possible to accommodate everyone's first choice. At the end of the 2013/14 admissions process, 99.9% of all children whose parents engaged fully with the process were placed with over 85% placed in their first preference setting.

All children in the Foyle constituency, whose parents engaged fully with the process, were placed. The Pre-School Education Advisory Group in the Western Education and Library Board will continue to ensure that sufficient provision is available in the area to meet demand.

The table below shows the number of funded pre-school education places available in each setting in the Foyle constituency and the number of first preference applications received by each setting for admissions in 2013/14.

Name of Setting	No. of Places Available	No. of 1st Preference Applications Received
Ashlea PS	26	31
New Buildings PS	26	34
Belmont Nursery School- Full-time	26	80
Belmont Nursery School - Part-time	52	4
Bligh's Lane Nursery School	52	59
Carnhill Nursery School	52	54
Chapel Road Community Playgroup	42	22
Craigbrack Pre-School Group	16	5
Drumahoe Community Playgroup	22	9
Ebrington PS	52	50
Eglinton PS	26	24

Name of Setting	No. of Places Available	No. of 1st Preference Applications Received
Eglinton Community Pre-School Centre	24	19
Fountain PS	26	16
Galliagh Nursery School	52	64
Glendermott PS	26	12
Good Shepherd PS	52	55
Greenhaw PS	52	51
Hollybush PS	52	43
Holy Child PS	52	40
Holy Family PS	52	77
Lisnagelvin Nursery School - Full-time	26	74
Lisnagelvin Nursery School - Part-time	52	7
Little Acorns Pre- School	10	2
Londonderry Model PS	26	40
Longtower PS	26	32
Mullabuoy Pre- School Centre	17	10
Naiscoil Dhoire	26	10
Naiscoil Eadain Mhoir	26	23
Naiscoil na Daroige	13	12
Nazareth House PS	26	29
Oakgrove Integrated PS	52	48
Rainbow Child and Family Centre	21	6
Rosemount PS	52	55
St Bernadette's Playgroup	24	6
St Brigid's PS	26	34
St Eugene's PS	26	20
St Joseph's Community Playgroup	16	14
St Paul's PS	26	16
Steelstown PS	26	44
Strathfoyle Nursery School	52	60
The Academy Nursery School - Full-time	26	61
The Academy Nursery School - Part-time	52	3
Trench Road Nursery School	52	59

Sure Start Programme: Percentage of Children

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children attended a Sure Start programme in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on Sure Start in each year.
(AQW 29283/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Sure Start is a programme targeted at parents and children under the age of 4 living in the top 20% most disadvantaged wards in the north.

DE delivers the Sure Start programme through the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), which has operational responsibility for the delivery of Sure Start. During 2012/13 HSCB developed and implemented a Sure Start database (Sure Start Play) funded by DE, to ensure future effective monitoring of activity within Sure Start projects from 2012/13 onwards.

Information on how many children were registered until the establishment of the database is not held centrally by DE or the HSCB and will have been collated in different ways by the various projects.

In respect of 2013/14 there are 127,324 children aged 0-4 living in the north of Ireland (Source NISRA 2012 Mid Years Population Estimates). 27% of those children (34191) are registered with Sure Start projects.

The budget for the Sure Start programme over the past 5 years was:

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Sure Start budget (£m)	17.561	20.666	21.935	21.600	22.352

Retired Teachers Re-Employed as Teachers

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education how many retired teachers have been re-employed as teachers since January 2013.
(AQW 29392/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not publish data in the format requested. However a comprehensive analysis of provision of substitute cover by retired teachers is contained in the statistical press release "Teacher Workforce Statistics In Grant Aided Schools In Northern Ireland 2012/13", published by the Statistics and Research Team on the Department's website. This can be found at www.deni.gov.uk/workforce_stats_press_release_for_web-3.pdf.

Table 20 in the document indicates for example that the total number of days worked by retired teachers providing substitute cover was 26,831 in the 2012/13 financial year.

The Department continues to advise employers that retired teachers should only be reemployed to provide short-term cover where newly qualified teachers or experienced non-retired teachers are unavailable.

Education and Library Board's and British Heart Foundation's Inter-Board Working Group on Defibrillators

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education for an update on the work of the Education and Library Board's and British Heart Foundation's Inter-Board Working Group on defibrillators; and whether an approved product has been identified for use in schools.
(AQW 29447/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am aware that the Education and Library Boards and CCMS established an Inter-Board/CCMS working group (the Group) to consider and address the increased volume of queries from schools on the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs).

The Group is currently taking forward work to:

- draw up an AED specification and commence a public procurement competition;
- draw up an AED training specification and issue tender documentation;
- develop AED “safe-use” guidelines for schools.

I am pleased to advise that the ELBs have confirmed that draft school guidelines have been developed. In addition, work is at an advanced stage regarding the development of an AED training pack for schools.

The Group is also working to develop a specification for the AED and to progress the AED procurement process in line with the statutory requirements under European Union procurement regulations.

Schools: Defibrillators and Staff

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education what action he is taking to ensure that each school has a defibrillator and adequately trained staff to use the equipment.

(AQW 29448/11-15)

Mr O’Dowd: The decision on the part of a school to acquire a defibrillator and train staff in its use is a matter for each school individually. The health and safety of pupils and staff is the responsibility of the school management, accountable in the first instance to the Board of Governors. I have no plans to place any requirement upon schools in this regard.

However, I would refer the Member to my answer to the recent Written Assembly Question (29447/11-15) which details the current work of the joint Education and Library Board/CCMS working group on the use of automated external defibrillators in schools in this regard.

Growth of Integrated Education

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how his Department has discharged its statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the growth of integrated education further to the enactment of Article 69(1) of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989.

(AQW 29517/11-15)

Mr O’Dowd: Firstly, I should clarify that the statutory duty (placed on the Department of Education) to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education sits within Article 64 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989.

I take the Department of Education’s statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education (that is to say, the education together, at school, of Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils), very seriously.

The integrated sector continues to grow. In 2011, the schools’ census indicated that there were 21,170 pupils attending 42 primary, and 20 post-primary integrated schools here. This has increased to 21,301 pupils according to the 2012 census figures.

To help discharge the statutory duty, my Department provides funding to the Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) to assist with the encouragement and promotion of integrated education. A budget of £646k has been allocated for 2013/14.

In addition, DE also provides funding to help schools with the process of transformation to integrated status. This assists schools in the initial stages of the transformation process, and with the employment of a teacher from the minority community in the school to assist with religious education. The budget available for 2013/14 is £185k.

I recognise the vital and valuable contribution that the integrated sector, together with all sectors of education, makes to building a peaceful and stable future for our children.

Going forward, the Department of Education will ensure that it continues to have a rigorous approach to its duty to integrated education.

South Eastern Education and Library Board Area: Educational Psychologists

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) longest; and (ii) average waiting time between a pupil being referred to an educational psychologist and having their first appointment, since June 2013, in the South Eastern Education and Library Board Area.

(AQW 29548/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The South Eastern Education and Library Board has confirmed that the longest and the average waiting time between a pupil being referred to an educational psychologist and having their first appointment, during the period 3 June 2013 to 31 December 2013, is as follows:

Longest Waiting Time – 298 days*

Average Waiting Time – 116 days

*In some cases, such as very young pre-school children already in receipt of ongoing developmental and therapeutic support, it is accepted good practice to carry out the educational psychology assessment after the child has had this support so that the child's response to intervention can be taken into account as part of a comprehensive special educational needs assessment.

Kirkinriola Primary School: Board of Governors

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the present round of reconstituting of Boards of Governors, whether his Department intends to again appoint (i) three governors to Kirkinriola Primary School; (ii) the chair of the Board of Governors; and, if so, what are the respective timescales, given that the Governors are presently without a chair.

(AQW 29577/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Currently there are two additional DE appointed governors serving Kirkinriola Primary School. As part of the reconstitution of school Boards of Governors the Department intends to:

- (i) continue with the appointment of two additional governors to Kirkinriola Primary School; and
- (ii) review the need for a DE appointed Chair in consultation with the North Eastern Education and Library Board,

in accordance with statutory requirements. The reconstitution process normally takes 12 to 18 months to complete but every effort is being made to expedite the process for Kirkinriola Primary School. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair or when the Chair is absent, the voting members can elect one of their number who is not a member of staff to act as Chair.

Kirkinriola Primary School: Action Plan

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has approved the action plan for Kirkinriola Primary School, arising from its intervention status; and, if not, what is the likely timescale for approval.

(AQW 29578/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The actions plans submitted by the school in March 2013 were cleared by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) in April 2013 and the school was notified accordingly on 29 April 2013.

A revised action plan relating to Strategic Leadership was forwarded to the Department on 22 November 2013. This action plan has also been seen by the ETI and the Department wrote to the school on 8 January 2014 to acknowledge the response that the school has made, and plans to make, regarding this area for improvement.

Kirkinriola Primary School

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education why there has been a delay in the appointment of a leadership mentor in Kirkinriola Primary School.

(AQW 29579/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Kirkinriola Primary School had a follow-up inspection in November 2012 and the current post-inspection action plan on strategic leadership includes a specific action to provide a leadership mentor. However, this action plan could not be agreed ahead of the school principal's return to work in August 2013 following a long-term absence.

From August 2013 a number of meetings took place between the principal and the North Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory Support Service (CASS) link officer to address issues within the action plan including the mentoring programme. The final action plan was agreed by the school's board of governors and forwarded to the Department on 22 November 2013. The Department has since written to the school to acknowledge the response that the school has made, and plans to make, regarding the key areas for improvement in strategic leadership.

The NEELB has advised that the mentoring programme has commenced and the first meeting took place on 18 December 2013.

Community Relations, Equality and Diversity Enhancement Scheme

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Education what was the total funding awarded to schools through the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity Enhancement Scheme in (i) 2012/13; and (ii) 2013/14. **(AQW 29597/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: I can confirm that the total funding awarded to schools through the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) Enhancement Scheme was £221,995 in 2012/13. It is estimated that approximately £213,225 will be awarded in 2013/14.

Intake to Catholic Primary Schools in the South Belfast Constituency

Mr Maskey asked the Minister of Education to detail the projected intake to Catholic Primary Schools in the South Belfast Constituency for the next academic year; and what provisions will be put in place for potential over subscription of these schools.

(AQW 29617/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The process for consideration of applications for admission to primary schools in September 2014 has only just begun with the closing date of Friday 10 January for receipt of applications from parents by schools. It will therefore be some time before the extent of oversubscription, (if any) in a particular area is known. The Education and Library Boards and the Department will work with schools in the period up to 30 April 2014, when letters issue advising parents of the primary school to which their child has been placed (or not), to ensure as far as possible that all pupils are placed in accordance with parental choice.

I am committed to ensuring that all children are placed in a school within their preferred educational sector that is within reasonable travelling distance of their home address. Where necessary the Department will consider an application from a school for a temporary one-year increase of its admissions number to cater for a genuine demographic pressure in its area.

The longer term availability of primary school places in particular areas is being addressed through the area planning process.

Education and Library Boards: School Choice

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education whether a parent is compelled to comply with the choice of school for a child as directed by the Education and Library Board. **(AQW 29637/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: Education and Library Boards support parents in finding a school for their child both during, and after, the open enrolment processes (which place children in a school). If a child's preferences have been exhausted, the Education and Library Board will supply the parents with a list of alternative schools with places available and ask them to make a further school selection.

If at the end of the process a child remains unplaced, their parents are advised to identify a preference for one of the schools with places available in order to ensure that their child will be placed in time for the beginning of the school term. Details of children un-placed and not attending school after the start of the school year are forwarded to the Education Welfare Service, as it then becomes an attendance issue. An Education Welfare Officer will contact the family and offer advice and support to enable the family to reach a decision.

Home Tuition

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to outline the circumstances that home tuition, provided by qualified teachers, is legally permissible as an alternative to school tuition.

(AQW 29638/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Home tuition is not an alternative to full-time school attendance. It can reduce the impact of a disruption upon a child's education but cannot provide the same breadth and quality of learning that school attendance would provide.

Education and Library Boards (ELBs) operate their Home Tuition services as part of their responsibility under Article 86 of the Education (NI) Order 1998, to provide 'education otherwise than at school' (EOTAS) for 'those children of compulsory school age who by reason of illness, expulsion or suspension from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them'.

Within the range of EOTAS services ELBs provide, home tuition is most frequently offered to support pupils recuperating from a long illness, enabling them to keep in touch with learning until they return to school. Its provision is normally limited to a few hours per week and should be supplemented with additional support from the child's registered school.

St. Patrick's Primary School, Killyman Road, Dungannon

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the extension for pre school places granted to St. Patrick's Primary School, Killyman Road, Dungannon, whether he will consider making this dispensation permanent, or guarantee that it will be extended into the next school year.

(AQW 29648/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In order to fulfil the Executive's Programme for Government commitment of ensuring that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it, the Department of Education approved a temporary increase to the enrolment number of the nursery unit of St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon for the 2013/14 school year only to accommodate evidenced exceptional need in the Dungannon area.

On 2 September 2013, the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) published Development Proposal (DP) No. 294, which proposes the establishment of an additional full-time nursery unit at St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon. The statutory two-month objection period ended on 4 November 2013.

DE officials are in the process of preparing advice for my consideration and I anticipate being in a position to make a decision on the proposal in the near future.

Home-To-School Transport Policy

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education whether a full feasibility study concerning the provision of free public transport for all school pupils will be carried out within the review of the home-to-school transport policy, launched by his Department in December 2013; and if so, whether this will be undertaken in consultation with the Department for Regional Development.

(AQW 29809/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As outlined in my reply to you in AQW 23442/11-15 which was published in the Official Report on 24 May 2013, the feasibility of providing free public transport for all school pupils will be

considered as part of a wider Review of Home to School Transport policy. The Review was launched on 2 December 2013.

As part of the terms of reference for the Review, I asked the Panel to consider the option of providing free public transport to all school pupils. Given the independent nature of the Panel, it would be inappropriate for me to dictate how the Review is conducted and, therefore, it is wholly a matter for the Panel to determine what actions they feel are necessary in order to fulfil the Terms of Reference of the Review.

The Panel is due to report its recommendations to me by the end of August 2014.

Education Bill

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Education to outline the reasons for the delay in bringing forward the next stage of the Education Bill.

(AQO 5298/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education Bill completed its Committee Stage on 8 April, 2013. The Bill cannot advance to Consideration Stage without the agreement of the Executive. This remains outstanding.

Post-primary Provision: Craigavon

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Education for an update on reorganisation of controlled post-primary provision in the Craigavon area.

(AQO 5299/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At the outset I want to make clear that it is the responsibility of the relevant managing authorities to determine the most appropriate structure of education provision for children living in their area.

The SELB issued consultation questionnaires during the last week of November 2013 to parents, governors and staff of all controlled post primary schools and designated contributory primary schools in the Craigavon two-tier system. The deadline for return of completed questionnaires is 27 January 2014.

The SELB advise that an analysis of the responses to the consultation will be presented to the Board at its meeting on 12 February 2014. A decision will then be taken on progression of development proposals for any changes proposed.

Education Bill

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education for an update on the progress of the Education Bill.

(AQO 5300/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education Bill completed its Committee Stage on 8 April, 2013. The Bill cannot advance to Consideration Stage without the agreement of the Executive. This remains outstanding.

SEN Assessment: Waiting Time

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Education to outline the average waiting time for an assessment for Special Educational Needs in each Education and Library Board area.

(AQO 5301/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Legislation requires an Education and Library Board to complete a statutory assessment of a child's special educational needs in no more than 26 weeks, allowing for valid exceptions. This period of time allows for a detailed assessment to be undertaken with input commissioned from the pupil's parents or guardians and a range of educational and health professionals if appropriate.

The Boards have advised that the average number of weeks taken for completing a statutory assessment and finalising a statement of special education needs in the academic year 2012/13, allowing for valid exceptions, is as follows:-

Belfast Education and Library Board	21 weeks
North Eastern Education and Library Board	20 weeks
South Eastern Education and Library Board	24 weeks
Southern Education and Library Board	22 weeks
Western Education and Library Board	22 weeks

Free School Meals

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Education to outline the options his Department has considered in determining future eligibility for Free School Meals under Universal Credit.

(AQO 5302/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: If the Welfare Reform Bill as currently drafted progresses through the Assembly, it is intended that Universal Credit (UC) will be introduced here on a phased basis during 2014.

It is proposed that Universal Credit will replace a number of existing social welfare benefits which are used to determine eligibility for free school meals and uniform grants. Therefore, it has been necessary to identify alternative options for free school meal eligibility criteria under Universal Credit.

In developing these options my priority is to ensure that children from lower income households do not lose out following the introduction of Universal Credit here.

The potential options which I am considering in this regard are based on an applicant being in receipt of Universal Credit combined with various household income thresholds.

I am also considering options for transitional protection based on the provision of such protection for various time periods.

I consider that the options currently under development will ensure that free school meals, as a key passported benefit, continue to provide support to those families who are most in need.

Subject to progress with the Welfare Reform Bill it is my intention to consult on these options in due course.

East/South Belfast Corridor

Mr Douglas asked the Minister of Education for an update on the development proposals for the East and South Belfast corridor.

(AQO 5303/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I reported my decisions on the six development proposals for the East and South Belfast corridor to the Assembly this morning. A copy of my statement has been provided to all Members.

I want to emphasise that I see these decisions as very much the first phase of the reshaping of provision in the area. They do not rule out further changes or further development proposals being published.

My officials will be meeting both Boards to discuss the detail of how they will progress my priorities for the next phase of development in this area. I want this done as a matter of urgency to ensure that there are adequate places, in the right schools, to meet future demand.

OECD Education Report

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Education what actions he proposes to take in light of the recent Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development report on the local education system.

(AQO 5304/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In November 2012, I announced that we would participate in an OECD review of evaluation and assessment frameworks for improving school outcomes. I felt that we could learn from the experience of others and drive improvements in educational outcomes.

I welcome the publication of the OECD Report on Evaluation and Assessment in Education; it is a detailed and comprehensive report, which outlines a number of strengths and challenges in our system.

I, along with other education stakeholders, will be giving careful consideration to this report along with the recently published results from the Programme for International Assessment (PISA) 2012 Study.

International benchmarking of our education system in this way provides valuable evidence which helps to inform the development of education policies in line with my Ministerial priorities.

I intend making a formal statement in due course, on evaluation and assessment, which will include a strategic response to this report and an outline of the future of GCSE and A-Level qualifications here. The statement will set the future direction for qualifications and assessment in the north.

I shall continue to encourage stakeholders to examine the report, and my Department has arranged for a workshop at which one of the authors will be making a presentation and facilitating discussion of the report's findings.

Common Funding Formula

Mr Cree asked the Minister of Education to outline the outcome of the consultation on proposed changes to the Common Funding Formula.

(AQO 5305/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The changes to the Common Funding Scheme (CFS) remain on track for delivery for the new financial year. At the closing date of 25 October, nearly 15,000 consultation responses were received to the main consultation, evidence of real engagement.

A full analysis of those responses is currently underway and I will give careful consideration to the views of all those who responded before making my final decisions. And I will arrange for a consultation summary to be published on the DE website, shared with the Education Committee and placed in the Assembly Library in due course.

Department for Employment and Learning

Department's Register of Gifts and Hospitality

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many entries his Special Adviser has made in the Department's Register of Gifts and Hospitality since being appointed; and what is the total value of such entries.

(AQW 29010/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): In the years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 to date, my Special Advisers made ten, four and three entries respectively in the Department's Register of Gifts and Hospitality; all entries related to hospitality. The estimate value of all entries was £260, £125 and £115 by year. The estimated value of hospitality accepted was £175, £125 and £115. All hospitality received was in the course of accompanying me on official business.

October Monitoring Round 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the projects he submitted for funding allocation in the October Monitoring Round 2013.

(AQW 29211/11-15)

Dr Farry: No projects were submitted by the Department for additional funding in the October Monitoring Round.

October Monitoring Round 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the departmental projects that were awarded funding in the October Monitoring Round 2013.

(AQW 29212/11-15)

Dr Farry: As the department did not submit any bids for additional funding, no projects were awarded funding in the October Monitoring Round.

Opportunities for Armed Forces Veterans

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the opportunities his Department has made available to Armed Forces Veterans injured in combat over the past 3 years.

(AQW 29356/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department has adopted the Higher Education Scholarship, which was introduced by the coalition Government in October 2010 from academic year 2011/2012. The aim of the scheme is to give the children of those killed in the service of their country a head start in life by giving them the opportunity to gain a higher education qualification. The scheme will be open to all children for whom the deceased person had legal parental responsibility at the time of death, and biological children born within the 10 months after the death. The scheme is to include those bereaved since 0001 hours on 1 January 1990 and is available in the UK only. The scholarship in Northern Ireland will be set at £7,325 for academic year 2013/2014; this is based on, but not tied to, the sum of tuition fees and maintenance loan.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, my Department will also be introducing the Further and Higher Education Commitment Scheme in Northern Ireland. The Scheme will pay the tuition fees of service leavers who are resident in Northern Ireland when they are studying for a first full level 3 qualification, a first undergraduate or foundation degree, or a first HNC or HND.

My Department is also in discussions with the Ministry of Defence in regard to implementing the Enhanced Learning Credit Scheme in Northern Ireland. The Scheme will give financial help to qualifying service leavers with up to three payments towards the cost of 'higher level learning', namely achieving a qualification at level 3 or above such as an NVQ 3, A-level, HNC, foundation or ordinary degree or equivalent qualification.

Through its Disability Employment Service, my Department provides a range of programmes and services aimed at helping people with disabilities progress towards, move into, and sustain employment. This includes: specialist pre-employment support to help build confidence and prepare the person for work; financial assistance to purchase special aids and equipment; and longer term support to assist with travel to work and other in-work provision to both the disabled employee and their employer, as necessary. Similar measures are also in place to support persons with disabilities who participate in the Department's training programmes, ApprenticeshipsNI and Training for Success.

Third Sector Organisations

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) all third sector organisations funded by the Department who provide services to the public; and (ii) the value of each contract.

(AQW 29411/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department for Employment and Learning has contracted with the following third sector organisations on ten contracts as outlined in the table below.

Contract	Overall Value + Time Frame	Third Sector Organisations	Notes
1. Training for Success	£150m 3 Years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BCW Training 2. Belfast Central Training Ltd 3. Rutledge Joblink 4. South West College (SWC) 5. South Eastern Regional College (SERC) 6. SWANN Training Services 7. Impact Training 8. Loughview Training Services 9. North Down Training Ltd 10. Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) 11. Customized Training Services 12. Derry Youth & Community Workshop Ltd 13. Northern Regional College (NRC) 14. North West Regional College (NWRC) 15. Oriel Training Services 16. Southern Regional College (SRC) 17. Springvale Learning 18. Workforce Training Services 	This contract also includes 10 private companies.
2. Steps to Work	£117m 3 Years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Network Personnel 2. SERC 3. SWC 4. NWRC 5. Springvale Learning 	This contract also includes four private companies.

Contract	Overall Value + Time Frame	Third Sector Organisations	Notes
3. ApprenticeshipsNI	£50m 3 Years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BCW training Ltd 2. Belfast Central Training Ltd 3. SERC 4. SRC 5. SWC 6. Springvale Learning 7. SWANN Training Services 8. Workforce Training Services 9. Youth Action NI, 10. CAFRE 11. Impact Training 12. Loughview Training Services 13. North Down Training Ltd, 14. NWRC 15. BMC 16. Coalisland Training Services Ltd 17. Derry Youth & Community Workshop Ltd 18. NRC 19. Plumbing & Mechanical Services Training NI Ltd 20. Rutledge Joblink 21. Customized Training Services 22. Electrical Training Trust 23. Oriel Training Services 	This contract also includes 18 private companies.
4. Framework for the Delivery of DEL LEMIS 2 Programme	£6m 4 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Derry Youth & Community Workshop 2. East Belfast Mission Job & Training 3. Gems (NI) Ltd 4. Upper Springfield Development Trust 5. Customized Training Services 6. Network Personnel Ltd 	This contract also includes three private companies.
5. Work Connect Programme	£4m 2 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cedar Foundation 2. Action Mental Health 	

Contract	Overall Value + Time Frame	Third Sector Organisations	Notes
6. Framework for the Delivery of the Community Family Support Programme	£3.6m 2 Years	1. Customized Training Services 2. Upper Springfield Development Trust 3. Network Personnel Ltd	This contract also includes one private company.
7. Delivery of Workable (NI) Programme	£3.3m 3 Years	1. Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL) 2. Action Mental Health 3. The Cedar Foundation 4. Disability Action	
8. Disability Support for Training for Success and ApprenticeshipsNI	£1.5m 3 Years	1. USEL 2. The Cedar Foundation 3. Disability Action 4. Sensory Learning Support	This contract includes two private companies.
9. Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Awareness Raising Project	£75k 2 Years	The Rainbow Project	
10. Assessment Service for Deaf and Hard of Hearing	£70k 4 years	Action on Hearing Loss (formerly Royal National Institute for Deaf People)	

University of Ulster Site: Planning Condition

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether any attempts have been made to change the planning condition, that 168 cycle parking spaces be provided at the new University of Ulster site and if so why.

(AQW 29508/11-15)

Dr Farry: The University of Ulster is an independent body and issues relating to planning permission for the new University of Ulster site are a matter for the University and the planning authority. I have therefore asked Departmental officials to refer your question to the University of Ulster requesting that they respond to you directly on this matter.

Registered Training Organisations

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline what steps a company should take to establish themselves as a Registered Training Organisation.

(AQW 29683/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department's procurement of programmes and services is subject to public tendering processes advertised through the Department of Finance and Personnel's Central Procurement Directorate.

In order to be considered suitable to deliver tendered programmes on behalf of the Department, an organisation or company has to meet specific selection criteria, for example; show that it has suitable premises for the delivery of training; hold Awarding Body approval to deliver qualifications; have staff that are appropriately qualified; and display a proven track record in delivering training programmes. Criteria are set out in the related project tender documentation.

Central Procurement Directorate publishes a range of Guidance Notes which aims to increase knowledge and understanding of public sector procurement and so support the development of capability to compete successfully for public sector contracts. These guidance notes are available through the Central Procurement Directorate website - <http://www.dfni.gov.uk/index.htm>.

Awarding Bodies are best placed to offer advice on how to become an Accredited Centre for qualifications.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Value of the Space Industry to the Local Economy

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to quantify the value, and potential value, of the space industry to the local economy; and what her Department is doing to support the sector. **(AQW 29432/11-15)**

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Invest NI recently completed a survey that indicated that there were approximately twenty companies engaged in the space sector generating revenue of £27.5 million per annum.

The space sector is an emerging sector with projections indicating a global space sector to be worth £400 billion by 2030. The UK Space Agency has set a 10% global market share for the UK space industry.

My Department, through Invest Northern Ireland, is working on a number of initiatives with this sector, evidenced by the recent investment by European Space Propulsion and a number of space sector workshops.

Tourist Accommodation

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of (i) bed and breakfasts and beds; (ii) hotels and hotel beds; (iii) caravan spaces; and (iv) camp sites spaces, (a) in 1993; (b) 2003; and (c) for the most recent year available.

(AQW 29433/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information requested is as follows:

Category:	Year:	(a) 1993	(b) 2003	(c) 2013
(i) Bed & Breakfasts	No:	660	709	584
	Beds:	7487	8166	4982
(ii) Hotels	No:	124	128	138
	Beds:	7085	13218	17657

Please note data from 1993 is limited and records do not show the exact month when these figures were collated. Figures for 2003 and 2013 are from December 2003 and December 2013.

Data for Caravan spaces; and Camp Site spaces is not held by my Department or The Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Local Authorities are responsible for the licensing of these sites.

Measures to Build a Stronger Economy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, following the report in the Belfast Telegraph on 19 December 2013 titled 'Red tape burden to be reviewed', to detail (i) the agreement between the Executive and Westminster on measures to build a stronger economy; and (ii) the documents in her possession relating to this agreement.

(AQW 29552/11-15)

Mrs Foster: HM Government and the Northern Ireland Executive launched 'Building a Prosperous and United Community', the NI Economic Pact, on 14 June 2013. The Pact demonstrates the Government and Executive's shared commitment to help Northern Ireland fulfil its economic potential and ensure lasting peace and prosperity.

It sets out a wide range of measures to help rebalance the Northern Ireland economy and drive investment, jobs and growth. It also underpins efforts to tackle community divisions and build a shared future for everyone in Northern Ireland.

An update on progress on commitments contained within the package was published by the UK Government and the Executive on 10 October 2013.

You can access these documents on the HM Government website at the links below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/206979/Building_a_Prosporous_and_United_Community.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/249239/Building_a_Prosporous_and_United_Community_-_A_Progress_Report__publication_version_.PDF

Subsidies Provided for Wind Turbines

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any subsidies provided for wind turbines, during and after their construction, since 2003.

(AQW 29621/11-15)

Mrs Foster: No subsidies are provided before or during the construction of wind turbines by my Department. Wind turbines and other renewable electricity technologies only receive support once they accredit under the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation (NIRO) and start generating electricity.

NIRO support is provided in the form of Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs) issued to generators by Ofgem. As the NIRO is a market-based support mechanism, the actual value of a ROC to a generator will depend on the supply and demand for ROCs during a given obligation period, and the individual arrangements reached between generators and the supplier or other person to whom they sell their ROCs. Table 1 sets out the approximate value of ROCs issued in each financial year since the NIRO's introduction in 2005.

TABLE 1: ROCs ISSUED TO ONSHORE WIND GENERATORS 2005/06 – 2012/13

Year	ROCs issued*	ROC value (buyout price plus 10%)	Total
2005-06	253,889	£35.56	£9,028,293
2006-07	320,706	£36.56	£11,725,011
2007-08	404,996	£37.73	£15,280,499
2008-09	592,512	£39.33	£23,303,497
2009-10	715,407	£40.90	£29,260,146
2010-11	694,828	£40.68	£28,265,603
2011-12	1,127,027	£42.55	£47,954,999
2012-13	1,059,842	£44.78	£47,459,725

* Source: Ofgem RO Annual Reports

Northern Ireland's EU Renewable Energy Target

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail Northern Ireland's EU renewable energy target; and for an update on how this target is being met through the use of wind turbines.
(AQW 29623/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In 2009, the EU set renewable energy targets for Member States. The UK target is for 15% of energy (i.e. electricity, heat and transport) consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020. Devolved Administrations each took action to contribute to the overall UK target.

The Strategic Energy Framework, agreed by the Executive in 2010, set targets of 40% of electricity consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020.

In the rolling twelve month period to the end of November 2013, approximately 16% of electricity consumption was from renewable energy sources of which 93% came from onshore wind.

Energy Efficiency Directive

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the process of transposing the Energy Efficiency Directive; and to outline the requirements that have yet to be completed.
(AQW 29653/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The majority of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) must be transposed by 5 June 2014. Transposition will be mainly through a UK-wide statutory instrument that is being developed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC).

Articles 9-11 (Energy Billing and Metering) and Article 15 (Energy transformation, transmission and distribution) will be transposed separately in Northern Ireland.

Article 15 will be consulted on in February 2014. DETI will lay secondary regulations in the Northern Ireland Assembly in due course to transpose Articles 9-11 and 15.

InvestNI: Twenty Largest Recipients of Grant Aid

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the amount paid to the twenty largest recipients of grant aid from InvestNI, in the last six years.
(AQW 29668/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The amount paid to the twenty largest recipients of grant aid by Invest NI during the last six financial years (2007-08 to 2012-13) was £220million.

Budget Reductions to InterTradelreland

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any budget reductions to InterTradelreland proposed by her Department.
(AQW 29669/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department is co-sponsor department for InterTradelreland in conjunction with the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland. However, the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in the Republic of Ireland are responsible for providing sponsor departments and North South Bodies with business planning and budget guidance on the preparation and submission of 2014-2016 Corporate Plans and 2014 Business Plans.

The guidance includes a requirement for further minimum cash releasing efficiency savings of 4% in 2014 cumulating to 12% in 2016. The baseline for these efficiency savings is the 2013 agreed budget for InterTradelreland.

Procurement of Basic and Superfast Broadband Services

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the procurement of Basic and Superfast Broadband Services; and when the tender will be announced.

(AQW 29744/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The procurement for the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project has concluded and the tender response is being carefully evaluated to ensure that best value for money is achieved. Assuming that the evaluation is satisfactory and, pending necessary approvals, it is anticipated that a contract will be awarded in the coming weeks with implementation commencing immediately thereafter and ending in 2015.

Department of the Environment

Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Complaints Handling

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the public complaints handling and record keeping procedure used by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in relation to industrial noise, odours and pollution.

(AQW 29063/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regulates noise, odour and pollution from industrial installations permitted under the Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) Regulations (Northern Ireland), and investigates reports of water pollution and discharges to waterways and underground strata under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.

Complaints relating to industrial installations regulated under PPC are dealt with by the Industrial Pollution & Radiochemical Inspectorate (IPRI), who aim to respond to the complainant within 1 working day. The complaint investigation will include a site investigation where required, and details are recorded in the IPRI database. The complaint details and any actions taken to resolve the complaint are reviewed by line management before the complaint can be closed. IPRI's internal target is to respond to 85% of complaints within 1 working day, and since April 2013, they have responded to 95% within that timescale.

The NIEA Water Management Unit, operates on a 24-hour, 365 days-a-year basis, to co-ordinate the Agency's response to reported incidents of water pollution and promotes use of the 24-hour Water Pollution Hotline (0800 80 70 60) for incident reporting. A graduated response is used to prioritise incident investigation and targets are in place to investigate reported incidents of water pollution in a timely manner. Details of all stages of the investigation are recorded on PIMS (Pollution Incident Management System), which tracks the progress of all investigations.

A record of all information relating to complaints is retained for a minimum of five years.

Wheelchair Users: Taxis

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28439/11-15, (i) whether wheelchair users are provided with an accessible 7-seater private hire taxi when booking and standard private hire taxis are not deployed in these instances; and in these instances; (ii) if standard taxis are deployed whether they charge the standard or an enhanced fare; and (iii) if standard taxis are not deployed, is this a breach of the Disability Discrimination Act by only offering one type of taxi at an enhanced fare to wheelchair users.

(AQW 29126/11-15)

Mr Durkan:

- (i) The provision of taxi vehicles by operators is a matter for each individual operator to determine according to the needs of the particular consumer. It is worth noting that early indications from a consultant's report prepared for the Department are that not all wheelchair users wish to

travel in a large wheelchair accessible taxi, but that some prefer to travel in a saloon car with the wheelchair stowed in the boot. It is likely, therefore, that in practice both vehicles types are requested and despatched to wheelchair users. The consultant's report will be provided to the Environment Committee and placed on the Department's website when it is finalised.

- (ii) Private hire taxi fares are not regulated by the Department. Operators are free to determine their own fee structure. That said, I reiterate my previous statement that the Equality Commission has advised that DDA legislation makes it unlawful for organisations such as transport service providers, including taxi operators, to discriminate against disabled people in the way in which they provide or do not provide their services. It would be my expectation, therefore, that it is not appropriate for an 'enhanced' fare to be applied to a standard saloon type taxi in these circumstances.
- (iii) The definitive legal position as regards the circumstances described can only be ascertained when tested in court, with the details of a specific instance brought forward by a member of the public affected by such a scenario or by their representatives, and the court making a judgement on the facts of the case brought. If an operator has been advised by a customer that they have a wheelchair, and the customer does not specify a preference between vehicle types, it may be considered reasonable by the courts for the operator to assume that the customer prefers a wheelchair accessible vehicle, but that would be for the courts to determine. If the operator refused, on request, to provide a saloon type car, they would appear to have more of a case to answer in respect of the relevant DDA legislation.

Taxi Operator Licences

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of (i) taxi operator licences issued in 2013; and (ii) drivers included under (a) small; and (b) large operator licences.

(AQW 29276/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Taxi Operator Licensing was introduced on 1 September 2012.

DOE Official Statistics relating to taxi operator licences, which were published for the first time on 28th November 2013, show that there were 1,884 taxi operator licences as at 30 September 2013. Of these 1,637 (87%)² operator's licences issued were for small operator's licences and 247 (13%)² were large operator licences.

As at 12 December 2013, there were 1,652¹ drivers included under small operator licences and 6,121¹ drivers included under large operator licences.

¹ Please note these figures are not part of official statistics and have not been subject to data validation.

² The figure represents the position at 30 September 2013.

Economic Development: Strategic PPS

Mr Sheehan asked the Minister of the Environment which specific provisions for economic development will be included in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

(AQO 5194/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Work on the development of a single Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is now well underway.

The SPPS is required to be in place prior to the transfer of planning powers to Councils in 2015. It is my intention, therefore, to consult on a draft version of the SPPS in early 2014, with a view to publishing it in final form in good time for the transfer of planning powers.

The SPPS will ensure that the Department's planning policies are more proportionate and appropriate for the introduction of the new two-tier planning system. It will be pitched at a higher, more strategic level than in the past so that the councils can take it into account in providing the more detailed

operational planning policy in their new local development plans. The SPPS will be shorter, clearer and more focused and will be much more accessible and intelligible.

The SPPS will also underscore the wider context of the Executive's aims and objectives, and clarify the Government's expectations of the new planning system.

The new SPPS will set out the Core Principles of the new planning system which will include explaining what concepts such as furthering sustainable development and promoting / improving well-being mean for planning. It will also detail how economic development factors are dealt with in planning, including clarifying and reaffirming that economic considerations are material in the determination of planning applications.

I am committed to ensuring that this new approach to planning policy plays its part in contributing to growing a dynamic, innovative and sustainable economy in the North.

Planning Policy Statement

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment to outline when he expects to publish his Single Planning Policy Statement.

(AQO 5196/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Work on the development of a single Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) is now well underway.

The SPPS is required to be in place prior to the transfer of planning powers to Councils in 2015. It is my intention, therefore, to consult on a draft version of the SPPS in early 2014, with a view to publishing it in final form in good time for the transfer of planning powers.

The SPPS will ensure that the Department's planning policies are more proportionate and appropriate for the introduction of the new two-tier planning system. It will be pitched at a higher, more strategic level than in the past so that the councils can take it into account in providing the more detailed operational planning policy in their new local development plans. The SPPS will be shorter, clearer and more focused and will be much more accessible and intelligible.

The SPPS will also underscore the wider context of the Executive's aims and objectives, and clarify the Government's expectations of the new planning system.

The new SPPS will set out the Core Principles of the new planning system which will include explaining what concepts such as furthering sustainable development and promoting / improving well-being mean for planning. It will also detail how economic development factors are dealt with in planning, including clarifying and reaffirming that economic considerations are material in the determination of planning applications.

I am committed to ensuring that this new approach to planning policy plays its part in contributing to growing a dynamic, innovative and sustainable economy in the North.

New Taxi Regulations

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what provision is being made, or proposed, in taxi regulations to cover the unique taxi situation that exists in Belfast.

(AQW 29436/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The new taxi licensing regulations planned for September 2014 will mean that taxis will either be licensed as wheelchair accessible or non wheelchair accessible and all taxis will be able to ply for hire anywhere in Northern Ireland.

I remain committed to the aims of the Taxis Act, of creating a modern, fair and fit for purpose taxi industry in Northern Ireland. However I recognise that the new regulations bring greater challenges for Belfast Public Hire drivers than for other sectors of the taxi industry. Therefore to assist Belfast Public Hire drivers with this transition, the draft regulations will continue to limit Belfast City Centre

ranks to wheelchair accessible taxis only. The specification for a wheelchair accessible taxi will also be modernised, and I will shortly be releasing a consultation which proposes that the current Belfast public hire fleet be the only vehicles granted grandfather rights for the new accessibility requirements. This means they will be able to continue to use their existing vehicle to the end of its useful life, which provides continued protection in terms of their unique access to Belfast City ranks.

Regulations to Implement the Taxis Legislation

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the regulations, and the proposed timescale for the introduction of these regulations, planned to implement the taxis legislation.

(AQW 29437/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department is preparing five sets of subordinate regulations to implement the provisions of the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (“the Taxis Act”), which are summarised below. The titles of the Statutory Rules may change slightly from those listed below during the legislative process.

The Taxi Vehicle Regulations will introduce the new taxi vehicle test, define the various classes of taxi, and introduce single tier licensing, as well as requiring new roof signs and taxi plates. They will come into operation on 1st September 2014.

The Taximeter and Maximum Fare Regulations will require the fitment of taximeters and compliance with a Northern Ireland-wide maximum fare structure. The Regulations, which will become operative on 1st September 2014, will require taximeters to be fitted in early 2015 and receipt printers to be fitted a year later. These derogations have been included in response to concerns raised by the Environment Committee about the financial impact of the new measures.

The Taxi Accessibility Regulations will introduce an improved specification for such vehicles, and will be operative on 1st September 2014.

The Taxi Driving Test Regulations will re-introduce a driving test and a requirement for periodic training for taxi drivers and will be operative on 1st September 2014. Periodic training for existing drivers will be deferred for one year from this date to help address concerns about the financial impact of the new measures.

The Taxis Retention and Disposal Regulations will provide for a system of seizure and retention of vehicles suspected of operating as taxis without a valid taxi licence, based on the power already provided in the Taxis Act. These will come into operation on 1st September 2014.

As well as the five main statutory rules, a number of minor consequential statutory rules will be required to revoke elements of the existing system and to commence the necessary sections of the Taxis Act.

Requirements of the Habitats Directive

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28983/11-15, and given his confirmation that a full review of extant permissions was not carried out at the time the River Faughan became a candidate Special Area of Conservation, what assurances he can give that (i) there are no extant permissions which should have been reviewed but have been missed; and (ii) that no harm has been caused, or no risk of harm is posed to the designation by permissions that should have been reviewed but may not have been.

(AQW 29457/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The River Faughan and Tributaries SAC has been designated for salmon, otters and oak woodland. The features of Atlantic salmon and otter are in favourable condition; although salmon is considered to be at risk due to the uncertainty of the long term trend in returning adults. The woodland feature is in unfavourable condition due largely to the presence of invasive species such as beech. It is, therefore, considered that the integrity of the site has not been impacted by extant permissions having been missed.

Habitats Directive for New Special Areas of Conservation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28983/11-15, for his understanding of the (i) purpose; and (ii) required outcome of the review of extant permissions required by the Habitats Directive for new Special Areas of Conservation.

(AQW 29458/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The purpose and outcome of any review is to prevent any impact on the integrity of the SAC by projects which have been given permission before designation of the site.

River Faughan Special Area of Conservation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28983/11-15, why his Department did not carry out a full review of extant permissions likely to affect the River Faughan Special Area of Conservation, if this is a lawful requirement of the Habitats Directives.

(AQW 29459/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Habitats Regulations require Competent Authorities to review all permissions 'as soon as reasonably practicable'. This is an ongoing process. The Department is undertaking the required review on a case by case basis. That is, where there are amendments or modifications to earlier applications approved before designation of the SAC, or if it is deemed necessary due to the Department becoming aware of a particular issue with the project.

Special Areas of Conservation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated; (ii) how many are in good status; (iii) how many are in unfavourable status; and (iv) how many were the subject of a full review of extant permissions likely to have a significant effect on those designations, as required by the Habitats Directives.

(AQW 29460/11-15)

Mr Durkan:

- I. Northern Ireland has designated fifty four Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). In addition, two candidate SACs have been submitted to the European Commission for adoption as Sites of Community Importance (SCI); and one SCI will be designated as a SAC in due course.
- II. Sixteen SACs are currently in favourable condition.
- III. Five sites are currently classed as being in unfavourable but recovering condition; which means that favourable management is in place, but the sites are not yet fully achieving their conservation objectives. There is an expectation that these sites will recover to favourable status within a reasonable period of time. Thirty three SACs are currently in unfavourable condition.
- IV. The Department has not undertaken a full review of all extant permissions, but it is undertaking the required review on a case by case basis where there are amendments or modifications to applications approved before designation of a SAC, or if it is deemed necessary due to the Department becoming aware of particular issue with the project.

Single Tier Taxi System: Consultation Paper

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to provide a copy of the original consultation paper on the proposed single tier taxi system; and to list the respondents.

(AQW 29595/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department issued a consultation on 4 July 2011 concerning proposals for Taxi Licence and Powers of Seizure (including single tier licensing) within Northern Ireland. The consultation closed on 30 September 2011 and responses were received from 27 individuals as well as the following organisations:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Ards Borough Council | ■ IMTAC |
| ■ Belfast Taxi CIC | ■ Lagan Taxis |
| ■ BRAKE | ■ NEELB |
| ■ Consumer Council for NI | ■ North West Taxi Providers |
| ■ Disability Action | ■ Provincial Chauffeurs Association |
| ■ DS Executive Services | ■ PSNI Road Policing |
| ■ Fonacab | ■ Public Hire Coalition |
| ■ Glenone Taxis | ■ Southern Health Trust |
| ■ Guide Dogs for the Blind Association | ■ Value Cabs |

The consultation and associated synopsis of responses can be found at the following links:

Consultation

<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/foi/recent-releases/publications-details.htm?docid=8283>

Synopsis of Responses

<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/foi/recent-releases/publications-details.htm?docid=8579>

Council Employees

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what disqualifications and restrictions exist to prevent a council employee becoming a councillor in an other council.

(AQW 29606/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, section 4(1)(a), disqualifies a person from being elected or being a councillor if they are employed by that council or any other council.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Reductions in Expenditure in Welfare Reform

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 28846/11-15, and given the recent statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding future reductions in expenditure in Welfare Reform, what are the financial implications in addition to the current extra cost of £5 million per month.

(AQW 29605/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The penalties applied to the Northern Ireland Executive are reflective of the additional costs being incurred by the UK Government as a consequence of welfare policy in Northern Ireland not aligning to that in the rest of the United Kingdom. Whilst the penalty currently stands at £5 million a month, it is expected that this will increase significantly as welfare reforms are rolled out in Great Britain and will reach an estimated £200 million per annum by 2017-18.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer recently indicated that it would be necessary to make further savings in welfare costs after the next General Election. This has the potential to further increase the disparity between welfare systems in Great Britain and Northern Ireland should we not implement similar reforms. As a consequence, the penalties applied to the Northern Ireland Executive would increase.

In addition to the penalties applied by the UK Government, the Northern Ireland Executive will incur significant IT and administrative costs if our welfare system is not aligned to the rest of the United Kingdom.

Estimated Expenditure on Construction

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the estimated expenditure on construction by (i) the private sector; and (ii) the public sector, broken down by district council area, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 29666/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The information requested is not available for district council areas.

However, the Northern Ireland Construction Bulletin publishes a table which provides information on estimates of Construction Output on New Work at the Northern Ireland level for the private and public sectors since 2000. The latest published table is attached overleaf.

TABLE 1 – VOLUME OF OUTPUT¹ IN NORTHERN IRELAND (NEW WORK ONLY) BY TYPE OF SECTOR CURRENT PRICES (£ MILLION)

Year	New Work for Public Sector	New Work for Private Sector	All New Work
2000	576.6	1242.3	1818.9
2001	638.4	1314.0	1952.4
2002	574.1	1296.8	1870.9
2003	588.5	1422.4	2010.9
2004	632.0	1503.1	2135.0
2005	764.8	1583.8	2348.6
2006	817.3	1859.8	2677.1
2007	861.2	1884.1	2745.3
2008	1009.0	1540.7	2549.7
2009	1088.4	1190.6	2279.1
2010	779.5	1132.4	1911.9
2011	770.6	819.8	1590.4
2012	898.2	667.6	1565.8

1 Includes output by contractors only

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Private Health Care Providers

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total spend on private health care providers within the UK and the Republic of Ireland, between January 2011 and January 2013.

(AQW 28948/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The total spend on private health care providers within the UK and the Republic of Ireland amounted to £52.6m in 2011/12 and £66m in 2012/13.

NI Ambulance Service: Voluntary Drivers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to clarify the rate per mile for voluntary drivers providing services for NI Ambulance Service; and when the rate was last reviewed.
(AQW 29527/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust that the standard mileage allowance currently paid to volunteer drivers to cover expenses is thirty eight pence per mile travelled. This rate was introduced on 1 January 2011. The previous rate of thirty three pence per mile travelled was introduced on 1 October 2005.

Healthy Start Scheme: Pregnant Women

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether additional measures can be implemented to ensure pregnant women have access to the Healthy Start scheme.
(AQW 29533/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Healthy Start Scheme is a nutritional safety net for low-income families. The Scheme is open to those who are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4 years old, are in receipt of certain benefits, and have an annual family income of £16,190 or less. All pregnant women under the age of 18 qualify for the Scheme, whether or not they are on benefits.

Information about the availability of Healthy Start is included in leaflets and in online information about benefits and tax credits. Details on Healthy Start are contained in 'The Pregnancy Book' which is supplied to all pregnant women at first booking appointment and 'The Birth to Five Book' which is supplied to all mothers leaving the maternity unit. This information is also available online at www.healthystart.nhs.uk and www.nidirect.gov.uk.

My Department continues to actively look for ways of signposting the Scheme and issues regular Information Updates on Healthy Start for Health and Social Care health professionals.

Local Health and Social Care Trusts: Patient Data

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 28357/11-15, to outline the impact on the integrity of patient data following the changes which have made a large volume of past patient data incomparable with current data; and for his assessment on the ability to gauge the current and past performance of local Health and Social Care Trusts in this area following these changes.
(AQW 29538/11-15)

Mr Poots: Details of outpatient activity during 2012/13, are available online in the Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Outpatient Activity Statistics, available at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ni_hospital_statistics_-_outpatient_activity_2012-13.pdf

The following measurements are included within the Outpatient Activity Statistics:

- Total Attendances
- New Attendances
- Review Attendances
- Missed Appointments (Did not Attend/DNAs)
- Hospital Cancellation Rates
- Patient Cancellations (Could not Attend/CNAs)
- Hospital Cancellations
- DNA Rates
- CNA Rates

This data is presented at a Northern Ireland, HSC Trust and hospital level as well as by specialty of consultant. This data is comparable over time, since the collection was introduced in 2008/09, and is unaffected by the recent review initiated by Health Committee. This data continues to be used by the Health Service to gauge current and past performance of HSC Trusts.

The issue of comparability is with the reasons recorded for hospital cancelled outpatient appointments only. This is only one measurement within the suite of data available to the health service to assess performance.

Consultant-Led Appointments Cancelled

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 28357/11-15, irrespective of any issues of incomparability of data, to provide the data requested for (i) 2010; (ii) 2011; (iii) 2012.

(AQW 29540/11-15)

Mr Poots: As previously explained in AQW 28357/11-15, the methodology used to collect information on reasons for hospital cancelled outpatient appointments was reviewed in 2013/14 and a new process has since been established.

The number of consultant-led appointments cancelled by hospitals due to annual leave is not routinely collected by the Department and would require a manual exercise by Trusts at disproportionate costs.

Details of reasons for hospital cancelled outpatient appointments are available online in the Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Outpatient Activity Statistics, available at:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ni_hospital_statistics_-_outpatient_activity_2012-13.pdf

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ni_hospital_statistics_-_outpatient_activity_2011_12.pdf

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/ni_hospital_statistics_-_outpatient_activity_2010_11.pdf

Third Sector Organisations Funded by Department

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) all third sector organisations funded by his Department who provide services to the public; and (ii) the value of each contract.

(AQW 29543/11-15)

Mr Poots: Funding provided by my Department to the voluntary and community sector is by grant rather than procured contract. In total £6.6m is provided to the sector. Grant funding is utilised for a variety of purposes by organisations and it is not always possible to distinguish funds specifically used for service provision from those used to support policy development and implementation. It has been estimated that around £4.6m of the grant funding provided by DHSSPS is used to support services delivered to the public.

A list organisations in receipt of grant funding from the department is shown below. Organisations listed deliver both service and policy functions from the grant funding that they receive.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ■ Accord | ■ Aware Defeat Depression |
| ■ Action Mental Health | ■ British Association for Adoption Fostering NI |
| ■ Action on Hearing Loss | ■ British Red Cross |
| ■ ADD NI | ■ Cara-friend |
| ■ Addiction NI | ■ Carers NI |
| ■ Adopt | ■ Cause |
| ■ Adoption UK | ■ Cedar Foundation |
| ■ Age NI | ■ Childline Children in Northern Ireland |
| ■ Aids Care Education & Training | ■ Childcare in Practice |
| ■ Alzheimer Society | ■ Children's Law Centre |
| ■ Autism NI | ■ Church of Ireland Board for Social |

- Responsibility
- Contact a Family
- Community Development Health Network Crossroads
- Cruse
- Disability Action
- Down's Syndrome Association
- Eating Disorders Association
- Epilepsy Action
- Family Care Society
- Family Planning Association
- Fostering Network
- Gingerbread
- Harmony Community Trust
- Homestart
- Include Youth
- Life (NI)
- Lighthouse
- MENCAP
- Meningitis Research Foundation
- Mindwise
- Nexus
- Northern Ireland Association Mental Health
- Northern Ireland Childminding Association
- Northern Ireland Hospice
- Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust
- Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation
- Northlands
- Parenting NI
- Positive Life
- Presbyterian Board of Social Witness
- Rainbow
- Relate NI
- Royal Society Prevention Accidents
- Royal National Institute of the Blind
- Samaritans
- SENSE
- Signature
- Society for Muccopolysaccharide Diseases
- Stroke Association
- St Vincent de Paul
- Threshold
- Training Support Programme
- Twins and Multiple Births Association
- Volunteer Now
- VOYPIC
- Women Information Northern Ireland
- Woman's Resource and Development Agency

Radiology Service at Downe Hospital

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he can give an assurance that the radiology service at Downe Hospital will be maintained at the current operating level. **(AQW 29545/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The operating times of the Emergency Department have recently been reduced at night and at weekends. I am advised that no significant changes have been made to the radiology service in the Downe Hospital.

The Use of Enzalutamide

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his Department's position on the use of Enzalutamide. **(AQW 29555/11-15)**

Mr Poots: Enzalutamide is currently under appraisal by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). My Department has formal links with NICE whereby all Clinical Guidelines and Technology Appraisals published by the Institute are reviewed locally for their applicability to NI and, where appropriate, endorsed here. My Department does not challenge the robustness of the NICE guidance but rather its applicability in the legal and policy context of NI. This arrangement has ensured

access to up-to-date, independent, professional, evidence-based guidance on the value of health care interventions. My Department's review of NICE Technology Appraisals is expected to be complete within 4 weeks of the final publication by NICE. As soon as the local review is complete, endorsement decisions will be published on the Department's website.

Consultant-Led Appointments Cancelled

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 28357/11-15, (i) to outline the rationale for the review; (ii) why this review resulted in patient data becoming incomparable with previous data; and (iii) to detail any resultant action emanating from any previous reviews in this area.

(AQW 29559/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The review was initiated as a result of the Health Committee debate on 6th February 2013 on hospital cancelled outpatient appointments.
- (ii) As detailed in AQW 29538/11-15, the majority of information collected on outpatient activity remains comparable with previous years. The issue of comparability is with the reasons recorded for hospital cancelled appointments only. This is only one measurement within the suite of data available to the health service to assess performance.

The variables used to collect the reasons for cancelled outpatient appointments were not previously mandatory on the Patient Administrative System and as such coverage varied across HSC Trusts as did the adherence to the regional guidance issued at the beginning of its collection in 2008/09. The Department has been transparent on this issue, including notes in the technical guidance of publications.

The review facilitated the development of new guidance with an agreed list of regional and sub-regional codes for the reasons for cancellation. This new guidance was issued to HSC Trusts for implementation from 1st July 2013. In addition, the variable 'reason for cancellation' on the Patient Administrative System is now mandatory which will improve the coverage of the relevant data.

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

Accident and Emergency Departments: Medical Complaints

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a broad classification by type of medical complaint for those patients who attended Accident and Emergency departments (i) between 30 and 39 times; (ii) between 40 and 49 times; and (iii) more than 50 times a year, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 29570/11-15)

Mr Poots: This information is not available at a regional level.

Attendances at Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for the total number of attendances at each Accident and Emergency department in each of the last three years.

(AQW 29571/11-15)

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

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

Alternatively, information on waiting times at emergency care departments (excluding planned review attendances) is published on a monthly basis, and is available to view or download from:

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

Definition of Young People

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 29502/11-15, whether the legal definition of young people in the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988, the definition of young people in the Commissioner for Children and Young People Order 2003 or the definition of young people in disability legislation is applicable to the functions of the Children's and Young People's strategic partnership, as outlined in The NI Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14, Appendix 2, Section 2.2.

(AQW 29600/11-15)

Mr Poots: Section 2.2 (e) of Appendix 2 to The Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14 specifies that the age group of children and young people addressed by the Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) and its planning groups is 0-18 years, extended for young people who have been Looked After, those who are homeless and those who have a disability.

While section 2.2(e) of the Plan does not specify an upper age limit, it is clear that the CYPSP can and does act on behalf of disabled children, looked after children and those who are homeless beyond age 18. It is possible, therefore, that this is in keeping with the definitions of a young person contained in the legislation cited above, which extend the definition of young person to age 21.

Minimum Pricing of Alcohol

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on his proposal for minimum pricing of alcohol.

(AQW 29618/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have commissioned research to model the impact of the introduction of minimum pricing for alcohol in Northern Ireland, and it is anticipated that this will be completed within the next few months. When this report is analysed I will take a decision, jointly with the Minister for Social Development, whether or not to proceed with appropriate legislation.

The research that has been commissioned is essential, firstly for demonstrating any legislation that may be brought forward will have the desired impact and secondly to determine if minimum unit pricing is a proportionate response to addressing alcohol related harm. If a decision is made to proceed, we will endeavour to introduce a bill to the Assembly within the current mandate.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust: Services to Help People with Depression

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any funding provided to the community and voluntary sector within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust for services to help people with depression, in each of the last five years, including to whom this funding was awarded and for the provision of which services.

(AQW 29619/11-15)

Mr Poots: Funding is provided by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and the Public Health Agency to voluntary and community groups for services to help people with a range of mental health problems, including depression, in the Northern Trust area. It is not possible to separate out the funding used solely for services for people with depression from other services provided.

Accident and Emergency Facilities at Craigavon Area Hospital

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for his assessment of the current pressures being placed on the Accident and Emergency facilities at Craigavon Area Hospital; (ii) when these pressures will be relieved; and (iii) what action he is taking to ensure that the Southern Health and Social Care Trust is adequately resourced and funded to avoid any future patient backlogs and their associated risks to public health.

(AQW 29649/11-15)

Mr Poots: Emergency departments are busy all year round, but particularly so during the winter months. Ambulances were diverted to other hospitals for a time last week in response to the situation at Craigavon Hospital which was significantly busier than usual. This is a routine part of the operational management of pressures across the system. During the period 1-8 January 2014 there were no breaches of the 12-hour target at Craigavon Area Hospital emergency department, and the Southern Trust continues to treat more than 73% of emergency department patients within 4 hours. The Southern Trust has an escalation plan in place to respond to pressures in the system as required.

Medical Assessment Unit at Belfast City Hospital

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 28124/11-15 to detail (i) if the Medical Assessment Unit at Belfast City Hospital is now fully operational from 6N; (ii) the enhancements that have been made to the service; and (iii) the impact this has had upon Accident and Emergency services at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

(AQW 29664/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust that the Medical Assessment Unit is now operational from Belfast City Hospital's Ward 6 North.

Patients are being directly admitted to the Belfast City Hospital but direct admission to the Royal Victoria Hospital site has not yet been fully implemented. The Trust is working to deliver this. The service provides telephone advice for GPs as well as a route for assessment/admission of patients, potentially avoiding the need for some patients having to attend an emergency department.

Craigavon Area Hospital: Second CT Scanner

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the business case for the purchase of a second CT scanner at Craigavon Area Hospital; and who is responsible for making the final decision of the purchase of the scanner.

(AQW 29698/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Southern Health and Social Care Trust is currently finalising a business case for a second CT Scanner at Craigavon.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is responsible for appraising and approving the business case and for allocation of capital funding. The timing of the purchase will be subject to availability of funding.

There is a range of decision makers in the process of purchasing the scanner with various delegations in place from the Executive to the Minister to the Department to the HSC Board and Trust.

The decision to purchase will be made by the Trust Board once all the necessary approvals are in place and the funding has been secured, both capital and revenue and will be subject to procurement guidelines and rules.

Public Health Agency: Report on Organ Donation

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) when he will complete his consideration of the findings of the Public Health Agency's report on its work to establish attitudes towards organ donation; and (ii) whether he intends to make a statement to the Assembly on this matter. **(AQW 29705/11-15)**

Mr Poots: I am giving careful consideration to the findings in the Public Health Agency's report and the implications for the future development of my Department's policy on organ donation. This is an important matter and requires thorough consideration to ensure that the future policy is the right policy for the people of Northern Ireland. When I have concluded this consideration, I will make a statement to the Assembly as soon as possible.

Review of the Allied Health Professional Support for Children and Young People with Statements of Special Educational Needs in Special Schools and Mainstream Education

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the scope of the Review of the Allied Health Professional Support for Children and Young People with Statements of Special Educational Needs in Special Schools and Mainstream Education. **(AQW 29707/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The initial phase of the review is a scoping exercise which will establish the level of Allied Health Professions (AHP) provision and support for children with special educational needs in special schools and mainstream education. The focus in the first year of the review will be on establishing a baseline of current arrangements, identification of themes and agreeing recommendations for further action. Thereafter, the review will agree a regional model, in partnership with key stakeholders, to ensure that the AHP assessed needs of children are met, irrespective of what school they attend.

The AHPs to be considered by this review will include:

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Dietetics
- Orthoptics; and
- Podiatry

There will also be an opportunity for engagement with representatives from other Allied Health Professions, including those providing music therapy.

Music Therapy

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether music therapy is being considered as part of the Review of the Allied Health Professional Support for Children and Young People with Statements of Special Educational Needs in Special Schools and Mainstream Education. **(AQW 29708/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The Review's focus is primarily on the services provided by Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Orthoptics and Podiatry for children with Statements of Special Educational Needs. In addition, it has been agreed that there will be an opportunity for engagement with representatives from other Allied Health Professions, including those providing music therapy, who work with children with SEN Statements.

Women Diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he would consider introducing automatic referrals for a CA125 blood test for women diagnosed with Irritable Bowel Syndrome symptoms and a family history of ovarian cancer. **(AQW 29739/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The CA125 blood test is one of a number of tests routinely available in Northern Ireland. The decision as to which test is appropriate for an individual patient is a clinical matter.

In January 2009 my department endorsed the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in adults (CG61) wherein clinicians are advised to ask patients who present with possible IBS symptoms if there is any family history of ovarian cancer and if so they should be referred for further investigation.

My department has formally endorsed (NICE) guidance for ovarian cancer (CG122) in May 2012, which can be viewed at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/phealth/sqs/sqsd-guidance/sqsd-guidance-nice-guidance/clinical_guidelines/endorsed_nice_clinical_guidelines_2012-2013.htm. This guidance refers to women over 50 who present with symptoms suggestive of IBS, and advise GPs to carry out appropriate tests one of which is CA125.

Family Fund: Funding

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given the demand for support from the Family Fund, what plans he has to increase the funding available.

(AQW 29741/11-15)

Mr Poots: Through funding support of £1.57m provided by my Department to the Family Fund in 2012/13, almost 3000 families in Northern Ireland with disabled children were helped.

Due to the ongoing financial challenges facing my Department I am currently unable to increase their funding provision. However, DHSSPS officials will be meeting with the Family Fund in the near future to further discuss this issue and how best it can help support families in NI.

Family Fund: Capital

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assurances he can give that the Family Fund has sufficient capital to service the applications for funding.

(AQW 29815/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department provides funding of £1.57m to the Family Fund and in 2012/13 this allowed the Fund to help almost 3000 families in Northern Ireland with disabled children. My Department's allocation includes an amount to cover the administrative costs of processing applications for assistance.

Due to the ongoing financial challenges facing my Department and the finite resources available to me, I am unable to increase their funding provision. However, DHSSPS officials will be meeting with the Family Fund in the near future to further discuss this issue and how best it can help support families in NI.

Department of Justice

Belfast Office of Community Restorative Justice Ireland

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the public funding provided to the Belfast office of Community Restorative Justice Ireland, which is chaired by Harry Maguire, a person convicted of the murder of Corporals Howes and Woods.

(AQW 29521/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): The grant funding committed through the Department of Justice to the Headquarters of Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) for 2013-14 is as follows:

- £50,000 for strategic capacity building in the development of restorative practices across the organisation's network of accredited community-based restorative justice schemes; and
- £40,000 for community restorative interventions involving adjudicated offenders.

Domestic Abuse Bill

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he will bring Northern Ireland in line with the UK in relation to the proposed Domestic Abuse Bill, and if so, when and by what legislation he intends to progress this.

(AQW 29525/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am aware of a proposed Domestic Abuse bill which, if introduced, would make domestic abuse a specific offence in England and Wales carrying a sentence of up to 14 years in prison.

My officials will liaise with colleagues in the Home Office throughout the passage of the Bill in Westminster and will share developments with the Regional Strategy Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Regional Strategy Group's views will then inform any decision by me on the introduction of similar legislation into Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the new Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline is interim in nature; and if so, to detail the reasons for this.

(AQW 29526/11-15)

Mr Ford: I refer the Member to the answer I gave to AQW/29366/11-15.

Offences Concerning Cruelty to Animals

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department plans to re-examine the effectiveness of tariffs for offences concerning cruelty to animals, given the low rate of custodial sentences for such crimes.

(AQW 29560/11-15)

Mr Ford: As Minister of Justice my role is to ensure that any proposals from Departments for new offences or penalties sit appropriately within the existing framework of criminal sanctions. In that context it is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to assess the efficacy of animal welfare legislation.

Within the legislative framework, sentencing in individual cases is a matter for the judiciary. I am aware, however, that sentencing guidelines in respect of animal welfare, including cruelty to animals, were issued in December 2012 for cases being heard in the Magistrates' Courts.

Informed Warnings

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of why it is appropriate that someone who is subject to a concurrent informed warning should continue to serve on the Policing Board.

(AQW 29580/11-15)

Mr Ford: Paragraph 9(1)(b) of Schedule 1 to the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 states that the Minister of Justice may remove a person from office as an independent or political member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board if satisfied they have been convicted of a criminal offence in Northern Ireland or elsewhere committed after the date of their appointment. As an informed warning is not a conviction, the legislation is not applicable.

The Code of Conduct for members of the Northern Ireland Policing Board states that members must not conduct themselves in such a manner that will bring the Board into disrepute. Therefore it is for the Northern Ireland Policing Board to determine whether a member who is subject to a concurrent informed warning is in breach of the code.

Civil and Family Legal Aid Proposals

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of (i) representations he has received from legal practitioners opposing his civil and family Legal Aid proposals; and (ii) meetings he has held with such concerned practitioners.

(AQW 29631/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have undertaken four public consultations on Civil Legal Aid reform, the first in November 2012. My Department has received 49 representations from legal practitioners opposing Civil Legal Aid reforms. I have held nine meetings with legal practitioners to discuss the totality of legal aid reform. My officials continue to engage with representative bodies of the legal professions on the current proposals for reform.

Prison Dogs Put Down

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prison dogs that have been put down in each of the last five years.

(AQW 29635/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) has humanely put down five dogs in the last five years. Two dogs were put down in 2011, two in 2012 and one in 2013. NIPS only put down dogs when advised to do so by a veterinary surgeon for reasons of chronic ill health. NIPS also re-home any dog found not suitable for prison work.

Department for Regional Development

Ulsterbus and Metro Routes

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the punctuality problems experienced by Ulsterbus and Metro routes that Translink are seeking to address.

(AQW 27368/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): Translink has informed officials that there are two specific issues that impact on the punctuality of their Ulsterbus and Metro routes but in particular their urban services.

The first is the one-off or unexpected events, such as road traffic accidents or extreme weather conditions, which will inevitably impact on the ability of public transport to operate as per scheduled timetables.

The second, which is more prevalent in urban areas, is traffic congestion, leading to reduced average speeds, variable and unpredictable journey times.

Translink is pursuing practical solutions in liaison with Roads Service, in respect of the expansion of Park & Ride facilities and improved bus priority measures.

It is also of note that recent Spring 2013 Passenger Charter results were published on 1 October. These results based on an independent survey against charter criteria suggests that 98% of Metro services and 96% of Ulsterbus services arrive no more than 7 minutes late.

A5 Western Transport Corridor Dualling Project

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the A5 Western Transport Corridor dualling project (A5WTC) and the River Foyle and tributaries and River Finn Special Area of Conservation (SAC), (i) who provided the advice that the screening exercise concluded that it was unlikely that the proposed A5WTC scheme would have an adverse effect on the integrity of this SAC and consequently a full Appropriate Assessment was not required; (ii) to whom this advice

was provided; (iii) whether this advice has since proven to be inaccurate; (iv) what action, including disciplinary, has been taken as a result; and (v) who carried out the screening exercise.

(AQW 28743/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: During the tenure of my predecessor, a screening exercise, rather than a report to inform an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive, was carried out on behalf of the Department by Mouchel, the consultants for the A5WTC project.

For the roads which have progressed past this point during my tenure, where the Habitats Directive is relevant, these being, A31 (Magherafelt Bypass), A26 (Frosses Road) and A6, an Appropriate Assessment either has been or will be carried out.

I have asked for an independent review of the project consultant's work in respect of the completion of the Appropriate Assessment process. An independent review of the methodology proposed to address the Court's Ruling is substantially complete and a review of the Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Statement processes is ongoing. When these urgent aspects of the review are finalised, the focus of the independent review will switch to the adequacy of the screening work previously carried out by Mouchel.

Public Transport Useage in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the increase in public transport useage in North Down over the last five years.

(AQW 29285/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In overall terms public transport usage has grown over the last five years, with an additional 210,000 journeys at the end of 2012/13. In the last three years the increase has been 235,000 journeys.

Strathmore Park

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Regional Development what work his Department, or the Roads Service, has carried out in the Strathmore Park area of North Belfast in the last five years; and (ii) what plans his Department has to undertake drainage work in this area over the next five years.

(AQW 29290/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: There is a lot of surface scarring of the roads in the Strathmore Park area due to utility installations. Whilst this may not be aesthetically pleasing, the roads are considered to be safe and structurally sound and there are no recorded instances of road drainage problems. For this reason there has been no major expenditure on resurfacing or drainage work in the Strathmore Park area in the last five years.

In accordance with road maintenance policy, safety inspections are carried out on a two monthly cyclical basis and any defects will be identified for repair.

NI Water has advised that water infrastructure work has been carried out within the NI Water Mains Rehabilitation Programme between September and December 2011. The work included 1,131 metres of mains replacement/renewal through open cut and pipe bursting techniques along with 190 service replacements.

Translink Investigation: Report

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will undertake to provide a report on the outcome of a Translink investigation in which it is alleged that a visually impaired man with a guide dog was refused access to a bus by a driver.

(AQW 29329/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My officials have contacted Translink about this matter and it has investigated this incident. The driver in question has been interviewed and it is my understanding that the bus didn't stop at the relevant bus stop.

Translink has assured me that the failure to uplift this passenger was a genuine mistake.

I would suggest the individual involved contacts Translink and if you can contact the individual I would ask that you pass this invite on. Translink senior management would be happy to meet him, to further discuss the matter and take the opportunity to extend both the Company's and the driver's personal apologies.

Footpaths in the Towerview Area of Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to resurface the footpaths in the Towerview area of Bangor.

(AQW 29331/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The footways at Towerview Avenue and Towerview Crescent, Bangor are being considered for possible inclusion in the Roads Service 2014-2016 footway reconstruction programme for North Down, subject to funding availability and other priorities.

Enterprise Project

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the Enterprise project to which he is considering allocating EU funding.

(AQW 29361/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is both active and successful in bidding for EU funding across a range of Programmes and is a major contributor to the achievement of the 2011-15 Programme for Government commitment to increase drawdown of competitive EU funds. The allocation of EU funding is the primary responsibility of organisations and Departments other than my own.

In the case of the Enterprise project, allocation of INTERREG IV(a) monies is the responsibility of the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB). As stated in my answer to Oral Question 5221/11-15 on December 10th, my Department has been approached by the SEUPB which is now urgently seeking to divert the unspent Narrow Water Bridge funds into contingency projects. In this respect, officials from my Department have, in co-operation with the Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport and Translink, identified the upgrading of the Enterprise Service's rolling stock as a suitable alternative.

The cross border coaches are now 16 years old; their design life is 30 years. Having reached half-life, the project will deal with system obsolescence and compliance with standards including those relating to Persons of Reduced Mobility and general safety as well as aesthetic refurbishment. A new electronic system to enable seat booking in real time for all carriages up to the boarding time for that particular service forms part of the project with the system being fully integrated into the booking service. I believe, in order to further increase passenger numbers, there should be an enhanced environment with increased functionality.

I am pleased that in bringing this project forward for consideration by the SEUPB, my Department can make an active contribution to help ensure that the INTERREG funds are not lost to the people of Northern Ireland.

Park and Ride Sites on the A6 at Dungiven

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the provision of the Park and Ride sites on the A6 at Dungiven.

(AQW 29446/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My officials recently examined five suggested sites along the A6, in and around Dungiven, and will consider if any can be progressed ahead of the dualling of the A6, between Londonderry and Dungiven.

Ards Peninsula Roads Budget

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will allocate additional resource to the Ards Peninsula roads budget to address subsidence and the weakening of road infrastructure as a result of the recent tidal surge,

(AQW 29511/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has begun the process of assessing the damage caused by the recent tidal surge which affected not only the Ards Peninsula, but other parts of the coastline and adjoining roads. It may be some time before the full impact is known, necessary repairs are implemented and the full cost is realised. However, remedial works have already begun at some locations on the Ards Peninsula, with additional preparatory work being undertaken in advance of the commencement of works at other locations.

My Department has already submitted additional funding bids as part of January Monitoring. If successful, any additional funding will be allocated on a needs basis.

In addition, officials are still assessing the extent of the damage caused and specific bids for further funding may be required, which would hopefully be considered sympathetically at a later date, if repairs cannot be funded from within existing budgets.

Department for Social Development

Universal Credit

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the cost to his Department to date, of preparing for the introduction of Universal Credit.

(AQW 29478/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Northern Ireland Universal Credit Programme was established in May 2011. The costs incurred in running this Programme are set out below (to the nearest £100k):

- £1.9m in 2011/12 financial year.
- £4.5m in 2012/13 financial year.
- £4m to 30 November in the 2013/14 financial year.

People in Receipt of Incapacity Benefit and/or Employment Support Allowance

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to people who were in receipt of Incapacity Benefit and/or Employment Support Allowance, who were examined by Atos Healthcare and deemed fit for work and either accepted this ruling or proceeded to Appeal but were over-ruled, where liability rests if people become ill as a result of work, particularly in instances of an exacerbation of an existing condition which was made known at examination or death.

(AQW 29529/11-15)

Mr McCausland: All claimants of Employment and Support Allowance, along with those who are undergoing Incapacity Benefit Reassessment, are subject to the Work Capability Assessment process to determine their ability to work and carry out everyday tasks. This is a functional assessment based on the premise that eligibility should not be determined by a person's disability or health condition, but rather how their ability to function is affected. The responsibility of the approved Health Care

Professional, who carries out the assessment, therefore differs from that of a GP needing to make a diagnosis and plan treatment.

In addition claimants do not need to be fully fit to go back to work and should discuss options available to them with their employer who may be able to facilitate reasonable adjustments in the workplace.

The question of where legal liability (if any) rests -should a claimant become ill as a result of work- can only be authoritatively determined by a court of competent jurisdiction, upon examination of all the relevant facts of each particular case.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive: All-Trades Contract

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the name of the contractor that was appointed to the All-Trades contract at the last tender date in each district of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

(AQW 29535/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that at the last tender date, which was August/September 2012, the following contractors were appointed to the NIHE Response Maintenance Repairs Contract.

District	Contractor
Belfast 1& 3 (West)	Mel Davison Construction*
Belfast District 2 East	Garrivan O'Rourke*
Belfast Dist 4	Direct Labour Organisation
Belfast Dist 5 Shankill	Mel Davison Construction*
Belfast Dist 6 North	Garrivan O'Rourke*
Belfast Dist 7 South	Mel Davison Construction*
Castlereagh	ESE Ltd
Lisburn Antrim Street	Garrivan O'Rourke*
Lisburn Dairy Farm	Mel Davison Construction*
Bangor, Newtownards **	H & A Mechanical Services Ltd
Downpatrick	ESE Ltd
Armagh / Banbridge	PK Murphy
Lurgan/Brownlow/Portadown	Mel Davison Construction*
Fermanagh(4&5)	PK Murphy
Dungannon	PK Murphy
Newry (1-5)	Bayview Contracts
Newtownabbey 1 & 2	CFM
Ballymena, Carrick, Larne **	H & A Mechanical Services Ltd
Antrim **	PK Murphy Construction Limited
Ballycastle/Ballymoney	CFM
Coleraine	Direct Labour Organisation
Larne **	H & A Mechanical Services Ltd

District	Contractor
Magherafelt/Limavady	CFM
Omagh / Cookstown	CFM
Strabane	Robinson Ferry Construction Ltd
Londonderry 1,2,3 **	Omega Mechanical Services Ltd

* These contractors have subsequently entered into Administration and alternative arrangements have been made.

** The contracts for these Districts were awarded in 2010 and they will be the subject of a secondary competition during early 2014 from the new framework.

The Information provided in this response is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Direct Labour Organisation

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to contracts that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Direct Labour Organisation have taken over, to detail each contract and whether (i) each has decreased or increased the labour force; and (ii) all rights under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations have been protected.

(AQW 29537/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that their Direct Labour Organisation initially provided cover for all eight contracts vacated by contractors who had gone into administration. The contracts were: -

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ■ West Belfast | ■ Shankill |
| ■ South Belfast | ■ Lisburn Antrim Street |
| ■ East Belfast | ■ Lisburn Dairy Farm |
| ■ North Belfast | ■ Craigavon |

The Housing Executive confirms that, in taking this action, the Direct Labour Organisation acted in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) Regulations 2006, and that any employees from those previous contractors who met the requirements of the TUPE Regulations were transferred to their Direct Labour Organisation, as follows: -

West Belfast (MDC)	41
South Belfast (MDC)	39
East Belfast (Garrivan & O'Rourke)	8
North Belfast District 6 (Garrivan & O'Rourke)	12
Shankill (MDC)	38
Lisburn Antrim Street (Garrivan & O'Rourke)	9
Lisburn Dairy Farm (MDC)	15
Portadown (MDC)	57

The Housing Executive advises that a small number of these staff have subsequently left. They further explain that as neither MDC nor Garrivan & O'Rourke employed electricians, they engaged electricians to supplement the workforce on these contracts.

Third Sector Organisations Funded by Department

Mr Ross asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) all third sector organisations funded by his Department who provide services to the public; and (ii) the value of each contract.

(AQW 29542/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A list of third sector organisations funded by the Department for Social Development and the value of each contract for 2013/2014 is attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Table below sets out the third sector organisations which receive grant assistance from the Department for Social Development to assist them in the provision of services to the public.

The awarded amount represents funding for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
174 Trust	£655.00
174 Trust	£705.00
174 Trust	£11,191.20
23rd Antrim Scout Group	£500.00
ABC Community Network	£66,538.89
Advice NI	£1,406,999.80
Age Concern Derry	£74,021.16
Age Concern North Down	£40,628.00
AgeNI	£75,501.00
Alpha	£277,535.00
An Droichead	£47,440.80
An Gaeláras Cultúrlann uí chanáin	£25,262.06
An Gaeláras Cultúrlann uí chanáin	£36,021.04
An Munia Tober	£42,420.00
An Munia Tober	88,519.64
An Tearmann Project Ltd	£633.00
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School	£42,400.96
Apex Housing Association	£3,390,661.00
Ardavon Trust	£30,202.00
Ardinariff Historical and Cultural Society	£125.00
Ardoyne Womens Group	£66,237.94
Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum	£194,845.42
Ards Community Network	£61,786.00
Ardstraw & District Community Development Association	£510.00
Ark Housing Association Northern Ireland Ltd	£318,539.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Arts for All	£10,893.95
ArtsEkta	£6,200.00
Ashton Community Trust	£38,868.98
Ashton Community Trust	£47,528.00
Ashton Community Trust	£65,696.69
Ashton Community Trust	£94,360.35
Ashton Community Trust	£127,181.08
Association of Charitable Foundations	£10,000.00
Atlas Womens Centre	£47,865.80
Atlas Womens Centre	£66,538.00
Autism Initiative NI	£806,587.00
Ballee & Harryville Community Enterprises	£1,193.07
Ballee Community Childcare	£27,340.20
Ballybeen Men's Motivational Group	£500.00
Ballybeen Womens Centre	£71,292.00
Ballybeen Womens Centre	£179,564.30
Ballykeel Together Development Association	£633.00
Ballykeel Together Development Association	£7,990.00
Ballymagroarty & Hazelbank Community Partnership	£121,692.86
Ballymena Borough Council	£12,694.45
Ballymena Borough Council	£17,845.58
Ballymena Business Centre Limited	£1,870.00
Ballymena Business Centre Limited	£2,099.74
Ballymoney Community Resource Centre	£65,564.00
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	£40,374.63
Ballynafeigh Community Development Association	£66,405.24
Ballysillan Community Forum	£95,923.00
BANBRIDGE AMATEUR BOXING CLUB	£550.00
Barnardos NI	£94,173.49
Barnardos NI	£309,038.00
BEAT NI Limited	£37,109.80
Belfast & Lisburn Womens Aid	£1,360,532.00
Belfast Activity Centre	£126,292.43
Belfast Central Mission	£450.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Belfast Central Mission	£977,865.00
Belfast Charitable Society	£51,366.00
Belfast Community Sports Development Network	£24,079.37
Belfast International Comedy Festival	£4,500.00
Belfast Lough Sailability	£500.00
Belfast Photo Festival	£7,000.00
Belfast Print Workshop	£960.00
Benedy Community Association	£125.00
Beragh Youth Club	£375.00
Blackie River Community Centre	£129,556.49
Blackmountain Action Group	£22,459.60
Blackmountain Action Group	£61,917.96
Bloody Sunday Trust	£21,087.02
Bogside & Brandywell Initiative	£67,417.26
Bogside & Brandywell Initiative	£149,278.29
Bovalley Community Association	£333.33
Broughshane & District Community Assoc Ltd	£500.00
Bryson Lagansports	£14,800.00
Building Ballysally Together	£40,607.76
Cairde Teo	£633.00
Camphill Communities Trust NI	£117,855.00
Camphill Community Clanabogan	£551,906.00
Camphill Community Mourne Grange	£716,435.00
Cancer Lifeline	£59,041.10
Care For The Family	£43,522.42
Carnlough Community Association	£500.00
Carrick Hill Residents Association	£41,429.20
Carrickfergus Community Forum	£60,642.00
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	£12,000.00
Cathedral Quarter Trust	£12,000.00
Cathedral Youth Club	£42,978.64
Causeway Enterprise Agency	£11,626.10
Causeway Enterprise Agency	£29,303.00
Causeway Rural & Urban Network	£70,828.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Causeway Volunteer Centre	£25,000.00
Causeway Volunteer Centre	£34,854.70
Causeway Womens Aid	£267,280.00
Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group	£64,779.39
Celtic Bhoys FC	£500.00
Charter for Northern Ireland	£43,460.38
Chrysalis Womens Centre	£21,818.62
Chrysalis Womens Centre	£52,177.95
Church of Ireland Diocese for Derry and Raphoe	£23,424.00
Churches Community Work Alliance	£124,006.52
City Centre Initiative	£15,294.59
City Centre Initiative	£67,607.76
Clann Eireann Youth Club	£15,600.00
Clarendon Shelter	£236,134.00
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	£249,833.78
Clonoe Rural Development Agency	£500.00
Clooney Estate Residents Association	£43,900.66
Coach House Regeneration Limited	£500.00
Coalisland Training Services	£59,012.87
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£25,038.00
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£52,491.84
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£69,439.28
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£133,070.99
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£135,378.26
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£139,952.26
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£141,349.56
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	£38,904.15
Community Restorative Justice (Ireland) NW Region	£159,991.66
Community Restorative Justice Ireland	£217,016.35
Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh	£53,840.85
Confederation of Community Groups Newry & Mourne	£66,539.00
Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland	£26,772.04
Conway Education Centre	£256,146.67
Cookstown & Magherafelt Volunteer Centre	£21,062.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Cookstown & Magherafelt Volunteer Centre	£33,357.00
Co-operation Ireland	£342,155.00
Corpus Christi Youth Centre	£633.00
County Antrim Boxing IABA	£3,100.00
County Armagh Community Development	£71,000.00
Craigavon Amateur Boxing Club	£6,000.00
Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Centre	£20,412.82
Craigavon and Banbridge Volunteer Centre	£32,697.00
Craigavon City Football Club	£386,737.83
Creating Space	£580.00
Creggan Country Park Enterprises Ltd	£63,056.64
Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership	£47,528.00
Creggan Pre-School & Training Trust Limited	£112,659.63
Cuan Mhuire (NI) Limited	£273,639.00
Cullybackey Development Agency	£500.00
Curryrierin Community Association	£59,432.74
Daddy Promotions Ltd	£5,000.00
Depaul Trust NI	£1,778,302.00
Derry & District Youth Football Association	£16,000.00
Desertmartin Accordion Band	£375.00
Development Trusts NI	£121,441.28
Devenish Partnership Forum	£36,925.00
Devenish Partnership Forum	£61,461.02
Devenish Partnership Forum	£61,929.06
Devenish Partnership Forum	£111,841.48
Divis Joint Development Committee	£101,673.38
Dockers Amateur Boxing club	£633.00
Donaghadee Lifeboat	£475.00
Donegall Pass Community Forum	£53,954.76
Donegall Pass Community Forum	£100,353.26
Donemana Cricket Club	£510.00
Donemana Haven	£480.00
Dove House Community Trust	£18,111.46
Dove House Community Trust	£76,486.28

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Dr B's Kitchen (Barnardo's)	£850.00
Drumellan Community Association	£400.00
Drumsurn Community Association	£125.00
Dunclug Partnership Group	£58,210.10
Dungannon Youth Resource Centre	£633.00
Dungiven Retirement Association	£125.00
Dunluce Family Centre	£17,400.00
Dunluce Family Centre	£53,525.77
Dunluce Family Centre	£79,083.56
East Belfast Community Development Agency	£45,887.00
East Belfast Community Development Agency	£50,624.61
East Belfast Community Development Agency	£159,515.40
East Belfast Community Development Agency	£330,031.56
East Belfast Mission	£366,073.00
East Belfast Partnership	£13,400.80
East Belfast Partnership	£20,000.00
East Belfast Partnership	£174,008.68
EDGE	£500.00
Embrace Ballysillan	£500.00
Enterprise North West	£14,952.00
Ex Prisoners Interpretative Centre	£186,207.96
EXTERN	£1,905,588.00
Extra Care	£23,862.00
FACT	£60,401.00
Falls Community Council	£66,539.00
Falls Community Council	£320,414.63
Falls Women's Centre	£53,742.01
Falls Women's Centre	£151,723.95
Farset Youth & Community Development Ltd	£148,401.16
FASA	£325,849.52
Feeny Community Association	£125.00
Fermanagh Womens Aid	£197,914.00
First Housing Aid & Support Services	£2,257,287.00
First Steps Womens Group	£40,526.34

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
First Steps Womens Group	£62,899.00
Flax Housing Association Ltd	£286,135.00
FOCUS	£52,098.75
Focus on Family	£23,652.51
Focus on Family	£66,009.99
Focus on Family	£169,378.91
Footprints Womens Centre	£50,566.80
Footprints Womens Centre	£71,292.00
Footprints Womens Centre	£109,562.14
Fountain Street Community Development Association	£43,070.51
Foyle Parents and Friends Association	£600.00
Foyle Womens Aid	£22,762.16
Foyle Womens Aid	£692,682.00
Foyle Womens Information Network	£47,528.00
Friends Of Mullan Mews	£210.00
Galbally Youth & Community Association Ltd	£500.00
Galliagh Community Development Group	£39,354.88
Gasyard Wall Feile	£25,542.91
GEMS Northern Ireland Ltd	£60,586.47
GEMS Northern Ireland Ltd	£81,169.06
Gingerbread Derry	£42,572.92
Glen Community Parent/Youth Group	£66,167.08
Glen Development Initiative	£88,172.90
Glenbank Community Association	£17,663.36
Glens Community Association	£333.33
Glens Community Association	£23,395.34
Glens Community Association	£36,305.55
Goal Line Youth Trust Portadown	£800.00
Gosford Housing Association	£9,641.00
Grace Women's Development Ltd	£850.00
Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland	£5,100.00
Grange Youth and Community Group	£633.00
Grange Youth and Community Group	£6,366.26
Greater Shankill Partnership Board	£18,360.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Greater Shankill Partnership Board	£180,607.68
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£29,173.88
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£31,154.28
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£44,078.72
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£46,391.22
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£66,295.00
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£84,600.52
Greater Shantallow Area Partnership	£146,767.24
Greater Turf Lodge Residents Association	£633.00
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£9,159.56
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£57,090.47
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£73,803.63
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£75,254.49
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£114,007.38
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£130,403.00
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£161,840.58
Green Shoot Productions	£2,000.00
Greencastle Youth Club	£375.00
Greenway Womens Group	£66,108.69
Greenway Womens Group	£71,292.00
Greysteel Community Association	£125.00
Growing Connections N1	£500.00
Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd	£11,447.00
Hannahstown Community Association	£633.00
Happy Faces NI	£500.00
Harmony Homes (NI)	£28,731.00
Harryville Partnership Initiative	£12,884.33
Helm Housing	£336,880.00
Hillcrest House Ltd	£49,156.46
Hillstown Rural Community Group	£500.00
Hobby Horse Playgroup	£66,066.28
Holy Cross College	£20,650.74
Hollywood Family Trust	£61,786.00
Hollywood Shared Town	£500.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
HURT	£9,510.00
Impact Training	£850.00
Indian Senior Citizens Club	£500.00
Ionad Uibh Eachach	£87,828.47
Irish Football Association	£59,324.52
Irish Rugby Football Union Ulster Branch	£59,449.52
Irish Street Community Association	£64,661.00
Irvinestown Lady of the Lake Festival	£500.00
John Paul II Youth Club	£633.00
Kilcooley Community Forum	£48,100.43
Kilcooley Community Forum	£87,115.00
Kilcooley Womens Centre	£38,900.00
Kilcooley Womens Education & Development Group	£44,309.34
Kilcreggan Homes	£238,979.00
Kilcronaghan Community Association	£375.00
Killycurragh Youth Club	£375.00
Kingdom Youth Club	£500.00
Lagan Legacy	£5,700.00
L'Arche Belfast	£58,791.00
Larne Community Care Centre	£32,677.00
Larne Community Development Project	£50,379.00
Larne Enterprise Development Company Ltd	£47,924.56
Laurencetown Summer Scheme	£475.00
Leafair Community Association	£5,149.70
Leafair Community Association	£27,708.95
Legion of Mary Morning Star	£557,034.00
Lenadoon Community Forum	£30,787.86
Lenadoon Community Forum	£87,792.80
Lenadoon Womens Group	£48,611.00
Leonard Cheshire NI Regional Office	£1,028,752.00
Liberty Consortium	£50,199.25
Life NI	£79,307.00
Ligoniel Improvement Association	£143,920.44
Lilac Cancer Support Group	£500.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Limavady Senior Citizens	£125.00
Limavady Volunteer Centre	£22,956.65
Limavady Volunteer Centre	£30,084.50
Lisanelly Regeneration Group	£375.00
Lisburn North Community Association	£400.00
Lisnafin / Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association	£510.00
Lisnafin / Ardnalee Trust Cross Community Development Association	£30,017.55
Living Rivers Lighthouse Hostel	£340,080.00
Loreto Grammar School	£67,509.48
Loughgall Football Club	£500.00
Loughgiel Community Association Ltd	£178,835.00
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	£100,876.55
Lower Shankill Community Association	£65,005.56
Lurgan - Pheonix Amateur Boxing Club	£16,723.01
Lurgan Golf Club	£288,249.80
MACS Supporting Young People	£752,059.00
Maghera Sons of William Flute Band	£400.00
Magherafelt Womens Group	£47,865.80
Magherafelt Womens Group	£66,519.00
Maiden City Motor Club Ltd	£11,532.35
Mainstay DRP	£561,868.00
Markets Development Association	£13,107.74
Markets Development Association	£60,431.36
Mayfair Business Centre Ltd	£5,000.00
Mayobridge GAC	£500.00
Melmount & East Banks Estates Community Associations Forum	£42,154.60
Memory Making Ltd	£500.00
Methodist Mission	£558,717.00
Michael Donald Photography	£1,000.00
Mid-Ulster & South Tyrone Association for the Single Homeless	£333,406.00
Milford Buildings Preservation Trust	£500.00
Millisle Youth Forum	£500.00
Milltown Super Adults	£5,064.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Mindwise New Vision	£717,663.00
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum	£35,894.61
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum	£129,382.00
Naionra an Droichid	£1,000.00
Naionra an Droichid	£1,000.00
Naiscoil Neachtain	£125.00
NCH Northern Ireland	£257,718.00
New Life Counselling	£165,216.31
New Mossley Presbyterian Youth Club	£500.00
Newington Housing Association Ltd	£12,961.00
Newry & Mourne Co-op Ltd	£ 43,439.56
Newtownabbey Methodist Mission	£27,975.00
Newtownards Road Womens Group Ltd	£89,945.64
NI Association For Mental Health Belfast	£2,614,802.00
NI Childrens Hospice	£2,520.00
NI Deaf Youth Association	£633.00
NIACRO	£176,488.00
NICVA	£998,104.99
North Belfast Employment Centre	£56,915.40
North Belfast Employment Centre	£57,152.55
North Belfast Partnership Board	£42,268.10
North Belfast Partnership Board	£167,587.59
North Belfast Womens Initiative & Support Project	£33,736.88
North Down & Ards Womens Aid	£238,811.00
North Down Community Network	£49,890.74
North West Community Network	£58,495.00
North West Play Resource Centre Ltd	£42,611.16
North West Tongues, Tones & Tappin	£125.00
Northern Ireland Alternatives	£353,754.44
Northern Ireland Institute for the Disabled	£589,158.00
Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network	£37,500.00
Northern Regional College	£34,057.64
Northern Regional College	£144,972.26
Oasis - Caring in Action	£13,361.64

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Ocean Youth Trust Ireland	£500.00
Ogras Youth Club	£708.00
Ogras Youth Club	£48,119.17
Old Library Trust	£62,179.15
Omagh Volunteer Centre	£19,385.52
Omagh Volunteer Centre	£29,116.60
Omagh Womens Aid	£188,655.00
On Guard Gym	£28,506.06
Open Door	£375.00
Open Door Housing Association	£280,904.00
Orchard Grove	£30,574.00
Our Lady of Mercy Girls college	£4,000.00
Outburst Arts Festival	£4,500.00
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland	£36,000.00
Outer West Partnership	£59,341.51
Over The Hill Music Collective	£1,000.00
Portadown - Dialogue for Diversity	£4,805.76
Positive Futures for People With A Learning Disability	£2,014,863.00
Praxis Care Belfast	£4,298,609.00
Prospects Newtownards	£290,868.00
Queerspace Belfast	£850.00
Randalstown ARCHES Association Ltd	£52,281.00
Rathcoole Churches Community Group	£21,731.26
Rathcoole Primary School	£70,458.52
Redburn/Loughview Community Forum	£500.00
Resource Centre Derry	£41,770.90
Resource Centre Derry	£57,916.65
Resource Centre Derry	£87,643.48
Roden Street Community Development Group	£120,892.46
Roe Valley Residents Association	£333.33
Roe Valley Residents Association	£40,192.54
Rosemount & District Welfare Rights Group	£87,961.70
Rosemount House Limited	£298,771.00
RSUA PLACE Built Environment Centre	£3,200.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Sailortown Mothers and Toddlers	£633.00
Saints Youth Centre	£633.00
Scotch Street Youth Club	£600.00
SENSE NI	£23,524.00
Shankill Womens Centre	£49,021.00
Shankill Womens Centre	£54,546.80
Shankill Womens Centre	£168,805.54
Shantallow Men's Support Group	£400.00
Shantallow Social Support Group	£400.00
Shantallow Womens Group	£400.00
Shared History Interpretive Project	£633.00
Shelter NI	£312,724.00
Shopmobility Cookstown	£375.00
Simon Community NI	£5,300,635.00
Sion Mills Community Association	£510.00
Sirocco Youth Football Club	£633.00
SOS Bus Ltd	£900.00
South Belfast Partnership Board	£155,235.44
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	£66,538.89
Speedwell Trust	£500.00
Springhill Park Community Development Association	£49,205.15
Springvale Tenants Association	£850.00
St Andrews Church of Ireland	£31,787.38
St Columbs Cathedral	£28,854.96
St Kevin's Senior Citizens	£633.00
St Malachys Youth Centre	£38,000.00
St Mary's Community Group	£980.00
St Patrick's GAC	£500.00
St Rose's Dominican College	£4,000.00
Stadium Youth & Community Project	£89,298.53
Star Neighbourhood Centre	£141,167.33
Steelstown Brian Og's G.A.A. Club	£510.00
Strabane & Lifford LGBT Group	£510.00
Strabane & Lifford LGBT Group	£42,120.19

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Strabane Community Project	£29,896.64
Strabane Ethnic Community Association	£33,742.30
Strabane Local Strategy Partnership	£38,817.56
Strabane Sigersons GAA	£29,763.80
Strategic Investment Board	£18,053.34
Strathfoyle Community Association Ltd	£20,055.00
Strathfoyle Womens Group	£14,069.44
Strathfoyle Womens Group	£66,533.00
STRATHROY AFTER SCHOOL CLUB	£40,049.33
Stravaganza Productions	£510.00
Streetbeat Youth Project	£82,919.78
Suffolk Community Forum	£27,401.70
Suffolk Community Forum	£65,786.46
Supporting Communities NI	£5,000.00
Supporting Communities NI	£20,845.85
Synergy@JVC	£74,078.92
Tanglewood Music	£500.00
The Abbeyfield Belfast Society Limited	£194,443.00
The Abbeyfield UK NI	£402,961.00
The Beeches Professional and Therapeutic Services	£63,068.00
The Black Box Trust	£8,000.00
The Cedar Foundation	£850.00
The Cedar Foundation	£1,351,241.00
The Churches Voluntary Work Bureau Ltd	£28,334.00
The Churches Voluntary Work Bureau Ltd	£32,525.00
The Churches Voluntary Work Bureau Ltd	£57,352.00
The Cithrah Foundation	£84,763.00
The Drummond Centre Project Limited	£ 460.00
The Fermanagh Trust	£55,526.00
The Fountain Primary School	£15,984.77
The Gasyard Development Trust	£46,668.41
The Legion of Mary - Regina Coeli Hostel	£106,527.00
The Link Family & Community Centre	£70,334.00
The Lively Bunch	£633.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
The Open Door Centre	£500.00
The Pink Ladies Breast Cancer Support Group	£39,291.16
The Rainbow Project	£850.00
The Resurgam Community Development Trust Ltd	£169,224.48
The Rivers Community Project	£500.00
The Rotary Club of Dungannon	£500.00
The Salvation Army HQ	£1,364,036.00
The Villages Together	£600.00
The warehouse Project	£633.00
The Welcome Organisation	£63,403.00
The Whistle Project	£510.00
The Womens Centre Derry	£20,173.72
The Womens Centre Derry	£31,211.78
The Womens Centre Derry	£71,288.62
Thirst For Ltd	£3,000.00
Threshold	£1,256,223.00
Top of the Hill 2010	£65,021.24
Tots at the Bridge	£42,468.53
Training For Women Network Ltd	£184,324.35
Triangle Housing Association	£2,618,602.00
Triax Ltd	£64,895.64
Triax Ltd	£258,891.30
Trinity Housing Association	£60,528.00
Tullycarnet Community Support Services LTD	£81,485.38
Tullycarnet Primary School	£110,211.00
Tyrone Donegal Partnership	£99,968.47
Ulster Council Gaelic Athletic Association	£58,699.52
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	£60,573.00
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	£72,182.76
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	£120,419.16
Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership	£42,795.28
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£1,000.00
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£16,423.83
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£53,315.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£95,173.88
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£140,605.79
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£227,766.09
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£251,216.49
Upper Springfield Development Company Limited	£292,975.08
Vine Centre Limited	£121,773.77
Vine Centre Limited	£153,503.78
Volunteer Now	£1,000.00
Volunteer Now	£8,085.00
Volunteer Now	£111,350.00
Volunteer Now	£187,208.97
Volunteer Now	£340,700.00
Walkway Community Association	£500.00
Waterside Area Partnership	£79,523.50
Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership	£14,459.18
Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership	£28,823.78
Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership	£57,668.20
Waterside Women's Centre	£36,628.23
Waterside Women's Centre	50,379.00
WEA NI	£63,112.00
Welcome Trust Disabled Care Group	£633.00
West Bann Development	£2,800.00
West Bann Development	£50,628.22
West Bann Development	£60,753.69
West Belfast Parent Youth Support Group	£89,572.69
West Belfast Partnership Board	£181,658.41
West Belfast Traders Forum	£28,020.00
West Kirk Community Project	£22,379.91
Willowfield Parish Community Association	£12,931.25
Windsor Womens Centre	£66,538.89
Windsor Womens Centre	£112,022.76
Wishing Well Family Centre	£49,579.16
Womens Aid Ballymena	£569,675.00
Womens Aid Newry	£384,087.00

Organisation Name	Awarded Amount
Womens Common Path Network	£633.00
Women's Resource & Development Agency	£46,368.70
Womens Support Network	£78,930.70
Womens TEC	£78,918.00
Woodstock Rhythm And Blues Festival	£1,000.00
YMCA North Down	£685,673.00

Welfare Reform Oversight Board

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the work of the Welfare Reform Oversight Board; and whether the Board will produce a report on the Welfare Reform Bill.
(AQW 29594/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Following my statement to the Assembly on the flexibilities which were secured from Lord Freud on how Universal Credit would be paid in Northern Ireland, I announced the establishment of an Oversight Board chaired by my Department's Permanent Secretary with members from a cross section of representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The Board provides support in developing the criteria to enable the implementation of the different payment flexibilities.

The Board has met on three occasions and considered papers produced by the Universal Credit Programme Team on payment flexibilities policy and implementation issues. The Board has also received feedback from public consultation events which were organised across Northern Ireland to facilitate input from organisations not represented on the Oversight Board as well as political parties and individuals.

At the next meeting it is planned to present the Board with the latest policy and operational thinking taking into account political discussions.

The Board will then produce a final report on the criteria for payment flexibilities in Universal Credit.

Current Gambling Legislation

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the current gambling legislation applicable locally; (ii) any proposed amendment to current gambling legislation; and (iii) whether there are plans to harmonise gambling legislation within the UK.
(AQW 29642/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) Gambling in Northern Ireland is primarily regulated by the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. Other legislation, such as the National Lottery etc. Act 1993, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and the Gambling Act 2005 also contain provisions which are applicable to Northern Ireland.
- (ii) Following a review of the current legislation early last year I announced my intention to update the law in order to address the rapidly changing gambling environment that exists today, ensure fairness within the gambling industry, protect the young and vulnerable and keep crime out of gambling. My Department is currently working on the drafting of new legislation.

In addition, the Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Bill, currently progressing through the UK Parliament, contains provisions which will ensure that Northern Ireland consumers continue to have the same protection as other British consumers in relation to the advertising of remote gambling. The Assembly approved a Legislative Consent Motion in respect of this Bill on 17 June 2013.

- (iii) The introduction of new legislation may bring Northern Ireland gambling laws into closer harmony with those of the rest of the United Kingdom, there will, however, remain areas where differences exist. For example, while it is intended that Gaming Machine categories and standards currently used in Great Britain will be adopted here; there is no intention to introduce harder forms of gambling such as Casinos.

North West Regional Science Park

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development to detail when the construction of the North West Regional Science Park is due to be completed.

(AQW 29662/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Work began on the construction of the North West Regional Science Park on 29 July 2013 and is due to be completed by 28 July 2014.

Universal Credit

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social, pursuant to AQW 29478/11-15, for a breakdown on the nature of costs incurred.

(AQW 29663/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland Universal Credit Programme was established in May 2011. The costs incurred in running the Programme are set out below (to the nearest £100k):

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Staff Salaries & GAE	1,588,402	3,476,280	3,046,742
Computer Charges	45,881	53,000	270,000
Consulting/Research	311,376	389,500	138,000
Estates Work	-	30,000	24,000
Capital Expenditure	-	600,000	500,000
Total	1,915,659	4,548,780	3,978,742*

Up to 30 November 2013

New Social and Affordable Homes: South Tyrone

Ms McGahan asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Programme for Government target to deliver 8,000 new social and affordable homes by 2015, how many of these homes are anticipated for South Tyrone.

(AQW 29686/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Programme for Government (PfG) set a target to deliver 6,000 social and 2,000 affordable homes over the period 2011/12 to 2014/15.

All new social housing is developed by registered housing associations through the social housing development programme. During the PfG period, 135 new social houses are planned for the South Tyrone area. 75 houses have started and a further 60 are scheduled to start during the next financial year.

Affordable homes are currently delivered through the co-ownership scheme with the areas in which properties are purchased being determined by the demands of applicants of the scheme. A total of 37 homes have been delivered in the South Tyrone area through co-ownership as at March 2013. The figures of the 2013/14 financial period are not currently available.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

People Paid by the Commission: Local Councillors

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission to detail how many people paid by the Commission also hold a role as a local councillor.

(AQW 29583/11-15)

Mrs Cochrane (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission is responsible for processing remuneration payments to four distinct groups of people namely:

- (i) Members;
- (ii) Permanent Assembly Commission employees;
- (iii) Members of statutory and advisory bodies (for example, Members of the Independent Financial Review Panel, the Northern Ireland Assembly Commissioner for Standards and the Secretariat Audit and Risk Committee); and
- (iv) Members' and Parties' support staff.

For categories (i) to (iii) above, there is currently no-one receiving payment from the Commission while holding an office as a local councillor. For category (iv), the Commission does not hold information on whether these staff have a role as a local councillor as they are employed by a Member or Party.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 17 January 2014

(AQW 29022/11-15)

It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate expense, to provide the breakdown of costs on new school builds in the way requested. However, costs have been provided as detailed below.

The costs for new build schools included in Capital Announcements but where construction work has not yet commenced are detailed in the table below. The information provided covers all costs incurred since the commencement of planning up to 31 March 2013.

School Ref No.	Scheme	Total spend to 31 Mar 2013 £000s
306-6551	Braidside IPS, Ballymena	36
104-6596	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain	67
124-0291	Colaiste Feirste, Belfast	2,717 - includes site purchase of £2.35m
306-6561	Corran IPS, Larne	13
203-2277	Craigbrack, Mullabuoy, Listress PS, Derry	16
223-0138	Dean Maguirc College, Carrickmore	133
503-2585	Edendork PS	91
242-0229	Foyle & Londonderry College	15,073 - includes site purchase of £14.5m
204-6638	Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh, Strabane	40
504-6637	Gaelscoil Ui Neill, Coalisland	45
506-6553	Portadown IPS	26
303-6562	Holy Family PS, Magherafelt	155
523-0278	Holy Trinity College, Cookstown	227
123-0009	Little Flower Girls SS, Belfast	153
242-0065	Loreto College, Omagh	43
142-0022	Methodist College, Belfast	221
206-6552	Omagh IPS 03/04	486 - includes site purchase of £400,000
342-0058	Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt	70
503-1387	St Bronagh's PS, Rostrevor	519
503-6435	St Clare's Abbey PS, Newry	654
423-0107	St Columbanus College, Bangor	671
203-2737	St Columbkilles's PS, Carrickmore	247
203-6116	St Conor's PS, Omagh	112
503-6675	St Joseph's & St James, Newry	0

School Ref No.	Scheme	Total spend to 31 Mar 2013 £000s
542-0045	St Louis GS, Kilkeel	672
503-6043	St Mary's PS, Banbridge	85
303-0625	St Mary's, Cargan, Glenravel PS, Ballymena	0
542-0056	St Mary's, St Paul's, St Michael's, Lurgan	0
523-0076	St Patrick's College, Banbridge	243
542-0268	St Patrick's GS, Armagh	378
542-0304	St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon	621
203-1898	St Paul's PS, Irvinestown	26
503-1160	St Teresa's PS, Lurgan	186
503-1103	Tannaghmore PS, Lurgan	207
142-0264	Victoria College, Belfast	376
201-6068	Artigarvan PS, Strabane	112
301-3315	BallyKelly PS, Limavady	169
231-0015	Belmont Special School	3
331-6676	Castletower Special school	10
221-0305	Devenish College	59
501-1575	Dromore Central PS.	337
201-0382	Ebrington PS, Derry	151
101-6485 111-0003	Glenwood PS./Edenderry N.S. Belfast	226
201-2245	Eglinton PS, Derry	154
201-6152	Enniskillen Model PS	132
421-0046	Glastry College, Ballyhalbert	697
421-0086	Knockbreda HS, Belfast	1189
431-6516	Knockevin Spec School, Downpatrick	323
231-6662	Limegrove/Glasvey (Rossmar) Special School	6
541-0057	Lurgan College	434
201-2261	New Buildings PS, Derry	92
321-0207	Parkhall College, Antrim	956
541-0067	Portadown College	243
101-0307	Springhill PS. Belfast	128
101-0252	Strandtown PS, Belfast	308
421-0029	The High School, Ballynahinch	385

To the end of the 2012/13 financial year £3.8m has been spent on the Lisanelly Shared Education Campus. However, of this total amount circa £600k relates to the “carrying cost” of the Department owning the Lisanelly site (i.e. site security and utilities). Please see the table below for a breakdown of expenditure.

Area of Spend	Total Spend to 31/03/13
Development of Exemplar Designs and Programme Director costs	£2,754,337.76
Development of Strategic and Outline Business Cases	£116,600.97
Legal Advice for input to Business Cases	£32,344.88
Decontamination Survey Costs	£260,818.27
Holding Costs (Security and Utilities)	£614,505.63
Total	£3,778,607.51

(AQW 29199/11-15)

In my statement to the Assembly in January 2013, I announced the following Primary Schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area to advance in planning:

- St Mary’s Primary School/Glenravel Primary School;
- Braidside Integrated Primary School;
- Corran Integrated Primary School, Larne;

I had also announced a proposal to meet the needs of children in the Islandmagee area however following discussions with the NEELB the project announced at that time has been withdrawn. The NEELB is considering an alternative solution in that area.

The Department continues to work with all the managing authorities on the strategic planning of the schools’ estate, including the potential for future capital investment. There will always be greater demand for investment than funds available and at such time as any future capital announcement is made it will take account of strategic priorities identified across all sectors.



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