

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 16 December 2011

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Written Answers to Questions

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Suggested amendments or corrections will be considered by the Editor.
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to arrive not later than two weeks after publication of this report.

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 16 December 2011

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Department's Spend

Dr McDonnell asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail their Department's (i) direct; and (ii) indirect spend in each of the last ten years in the Belfast City Council area.

(AQW 3528/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): OFMDFM do not hold their financial data by council areas and therefore it is not possible to provide an answer to this question.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Dickson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when a decision will be made on the bids received under the Social Investment Fund.

(AQW 3689/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The proposals for the Social Investment Fund are currently out for consultation. There are no bids being considered at this time. Officials are working with other departments to finalise proposals for consideration under the Social Protection Fund.

Police Ombudsman Post

Mrs D Kelly asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the timescale for the recruitment to the post of Police Ombudsman.

(AQW 3993/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering appropriate arrangements for the identification of a person to recommend for appointment as Police Ombudsman, in line with our responsibilities under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, as amended in 2010.

Funding of Victims' Groups

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the level of funding allocated to each victims' group in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3996/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We would refer the Member to the reply we gave to AQW 1170/11-15 on 18 July 2011.

In addition, figures for 2010/11 are now available and are set out below:

Victims Capital Scheme Grant Awards 2010-2011

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Armagh City & District Council			
090989	County Armagh Phoenix Group	Financial support towards capital expenditure items and refurbishment costs for groups working with victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland conflicts.	2,021.80
Total for Armagh			2,021.80
Fermanagh District Council			
090958	Ulster Defence Regimental Association Enniskillen Branch	Financial support towards capital expenditure items and refurbishment costs for groups working with victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland conflicts.	257.55
091024	South East Fermanagh Foundation	Financial support towards capital expenditure items and refurbishment costs for groups working with victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland conflicts.	2,267.11
Total for Fermanagh			2,524.66
Overall Total			4,546.46

VICTIMS/SURVIVORS STRATEGIC SUPPORT FUND GRANT AWARDS 2010-2011

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Belfast City Council			
100408	New Life Counselling Service	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	85,052.63
100425	Corpus Christi Services	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	59,782.14
100426	Victims and Survivors Trust (VAST)	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	61,261.68
100427	Holy Trinity Centre	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	18,524.53
100435	Ashton Community Trust	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	235,809.00
100457	Lenadoon Community Counselling Network	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	49,490.44

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Total for Belfast			509,920.42
Derry City Council			
100401	Aurora Counselling Services	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	34,234.63
100434	Pat Finucane Centre	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	6,399.00
100456	Cunamh	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	51,063.45
Total for Derry			91,697.08
Fermanagh District Council			
100437	Firinne	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	73,049.34
Total for Fermanagh			73,049.34
Lisburn City Council			
100458	Colin Community Counselling Project	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	31,147.18
Total for Lisburn			31,147.18
Multiple Councils			
100436	Relatives for Justice	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	308,951.62
100459	WAVE	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	588,590.50
100464	Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma & Transformation	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	196,417.00
Total for Multiple			1,093,959.12
Omagh District Council			
100393	Tara Counselling & Personal Development Company Ltd.	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	93,057.39

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Total for Omagh			93,057.39
Strabane District Council			
100428	The Koram Centre	Strategic Support Fund: salaries, running costs and associated service delivery costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	125,071.61
Total for Strabane			125,071.61
Overall Total			2,017,902.14

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS CORE FUNDING GRANT AWARDS 2010-2011

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Armagh City & District Council			
100111	Families Acting for Innocent Relatives	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	67,862.63
100131	SAVER/NAVER	Running costs and salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	34,386.02
100144	WAVE Trauma Centre Armagh	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	26,561.80
Total for Armagh			128,810.45
Ballymoney Borough Council			
100145	WAVE Trauma Centre Ballymoney	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	19,677.86
Total for Ballymoney			19,677.86
Banbridge District Council			
100126	NOVA	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	124,987.49
Total for Banbridge			124,987.49
Belfast City Council			
100101	Ashton Community Trust	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	29,690.18
100102	Centre for Health and Well Being	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	40,013.77
100105	Contact Youth Counselling Services (NI)	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	45,834.52
100106	Corpus Christi Services	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	28,818.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100112	FODDD	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	35,204.10
100114	Haven Victim Support Group	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	46,428.56
100118	Lenadoon Community Counselling Network	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	21,600.38
100119	Lifeline	Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	2,520.83
100123	New Life Counselling Service	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	13,596.61
100124	Nexus Institute	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	8,026.50
100129	Relatives for Justice	Salaries and running costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	55,624.38
100135	Springhill Community Group	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	48,444.24
100136	Streetbeat Youth Project	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	42,746.18
100137	Survivors of Trauma	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	66,326.17
100141	Wider Circle	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	55,575.03
100143	Victims and Survivors Trust (VAST)	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	26,566.11
100146	WAVE	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups.	53,876.18
Total for Belfast			620,891.74
Coleraine Borough Council			
100128	Regimental Association of UDR	Running costs and salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	34,747.00
Total for Coleraine			34,747.00
Craigavon Borough Council			
100115	H.U.R.T. Group	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	71,058.41
Total for Craigavon			71,058.41

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Derry City Council			
100103	C.A.L.M.S	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	74,943.74
100104	Columba Celtic Heritage Support Services	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	51,289.85
100107	Cunamh	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	33,978.89
100108	Derry Well Woman	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups	44,479.52
100120	Lifeways Psychotherapy & Counselling Centre	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	43,132.72
100142	United Services Club Victims & Survivors	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	29,126.91
100147	WAVE	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	35,117.82
Total for Derry			312,069.45
Fermanagh District Council			
100100	Aisling Centre	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	42,839.32
100113	Firinne	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	31,038.09
100132	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Running costs and salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	60,805.28
100133	South East Fermanagh Foundation	Running costs and salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	82,316.64
100140	The Ely Centre	Salaries and Running Costs for Victims and Survivors Groups.	69,511.39
Total for Fermanagh			286,510.72
Lisburn City Council			
100116	ICPD	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	40,019.66
Total for Lisburn			40,019.66

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Multiple Councils			
100109	Ex Services Mental Welfare Society	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	62,956.48
100125	NI Music Therapy Trust	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups.	48,104.00
Total for Multiple			111,060.48
Newry & Mourne District Council			
100122	Mourne Action for Survivors of Terrorism	Running Costs and Salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	28,543.73
Total for Newry and Mourne			28,543.73
Omagh District Council			
100127	Omagh Support & Self Help Group	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	78,107.86
100138	TARA Counselling & Personal Dev Centre	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	30,708.66
100148	WAVE Trauma Centre Omagh	Running costs and salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	23,946.54
100149	West Tyrone Voice	Running costs and salaries for Victims and Survivors Groups	68,735.47
Total for Omagh			201,498.53
Strabane District Council			
100117	The Koram Centre	Running costs and salaries for victims and survivors groups	30,440.60
Total for Strabane			30,440.60
Overall Total			2,010,316.12

VICTIMS/SURVIVORS DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDS 2010-2011

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
All Councils			
100183	Wounded Police and Families Association	Annual Programme of events and activities specifically designed to support the Wounded Police and their families as a result of the conflict.	17,275.75
100255	Fire Service Past Members Association	Members meetings and respite support programme	8,958.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100446	Justice for Innocent Victims of Terrorism	To provide advocacy support services to the membership of JIVT.	10,649.46
Total for All Councils			36,883.21
Antrim Borough Council			
100611	Antrim Youth Information and Counselling centre	Financial support towards volunteer expenses.	864.00
Total for Antrim			864.00
Ards Borough Council			
100339	Comber Veterans (Op banner)	Respite support activity.	1,020.79
100515	Royal Irish Rangers	Social inclusion support activity.	942.00
100547	NI Phoenix Project	Support towards Organisational Development Meetings of NI Phoenix Steering Committee.	1,414.00
100569	USC Association-Newtownards Branch	Respite support and befriending programme.	1,144.00
100606	Newtownards and District Phoenix Group	Befriending training support and supervision.	2,439.10
Total for Ards			6,959.89
Armagh City and District Council			
100164	The Royal British Legion	Respite support activity.	935.00
100178	County Armagh Phoenix Group	Group visit to Wicklow to visit The Glencree Peace Centre followed by attendance and participation in the ANZAC Memorial Service in Dublin	3,820.00
100204	WAVE Trauma Centre Armagh	Continuation of existing counselling provision and complementary therapies to maintain ongoing support to those individuals who have been affected by the N I Conflict.	5,775.85
100216	County Armagh Phoenix Group	Respite and social support programme.	7,567.02
100288	FAIR	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	13,421.75
100289	Saver Naver	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	10,433.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100305	County Armagh Phoenix Group	A support scheme for volunteers and coordinators undertaking befriending work with County Armagh Phoenix Group	4,638.55
100507	Armagh Association Voluntary Welfare Group	Newsletter	2,240.33
100605	County Armagh Phoenix Group	Befriending Support Programme	2,212.20
100632	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Befriending	20,400.50
Total for Armagh			71,444.20
Ballymena Borough Council			
100239	RUC GC Association (Ballymena Branch)	Members' meetings and respite support activity.	3,150.00
Total for Ballymena			3,150.00
Ballymoney Borough Council			
100201	The Regimental Association	Respite support activity.	5,789.00
100205	WAVE Trauma Centre Ballymoney	Continuation of existing counselling provision and complementary therapies to maintain ongoing support to those individuals who have been affected by the N I Conflict.	8,145.00
Total for Ballymoney			13,934.00
Banbridge District Council			
100196	UDR Association County Down	Remembrance activities.	1,120.00
100237	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Respite support programme	17,420.00
100253	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Transgenerational Support Programme.	8,811.00
100270	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Befriending programme support.	1,653.25
100279	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	The continued training and coordination of Befrienders together with the running of the service	5,212.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100322	South Down Action for Healing Wounds	Complementary therapies to assist Victims and Survivors with the healing process	4,500.00
100327	Phoenix Group Banbridge	Social Inclusion and Respite Support	8,325.98
100334	Together Encouraging and Remembering (TEAR)	Social inclusion and respite support.	2,207.85
Total for Banbridge			49,250.08
Belfast City Council			
090334	The Cross Group	Voluntary support with respite activity.	1,097.40
100180	New Life Counselling Service	Training for counsellors and sessional counselling support for victims and survivors of the troubles.	4,137.85
100184	Forum For Action On Substance	Transgenerational Support Programme	45,286.52
100186	WAVE	Continuation of psychotherapy intervention services and complementary therapies for individuals who have been affected by the Northern Ireland conflict.	12,650.00
100198	Springhill Community House	To provide series of 5 home-based sessions of complementary therapy to most affected victims to increase confidence and participation	10,000.00
100234	Centre for Health and Well Being	Annual programme of activities and services designed to support victims/survivors.	5,160.73
100268	Centre for Health and Well Being	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	5,625.63
100272	Victims and Survivors Trust (VAST)	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	610.13
100274	New Life Counselling Service Ardoyne	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	9,121.75
100278	Corpus Christi Services	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	865.00
100286	Families Beyond Conflict	A Befriending Support Programme to support victims and survivors.	7,740.60
100299	HELP NI	Transgenerational one-to-one mentoring support programme.	35,344.06

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100306	Victims and Survivors Trust (VAST)	Befriending Programme support.	6,762.86
100324	Corpus Christi Services	Counselling support.	215.00
100326	RUC GC Foundation	Respite support.	1,380.66
100330	HAVEN	Personal development and respite programme.	4,811.00
100387	HAVEN	Workplan of services and activities to support victims/survivors.	11,229.50
100389	Springhill Community House	Workplan of activities and services designed to support victims/survivors.	34,830.00
100404	Hurt Group	Workplan of services and activities to support victims/survivors.	20,615.00
100448	WAVE	Storytelling Project.	4,000.00
100505	HELP NI	Organisational Development - Management Committee Training.	2,538.75
100535	HELP NI	Volunteer support.	4,000.00
100591	WAVE	Respite and social inclusion activity.	3,221.00
100592	WAVE	Storytelling - Second print of the 'Injured' -series of Individual Victims' Stories.	6,250.00
100593	WAVE	Planning/Storytelling residential.	4,030.60
100594	WAVE	Recording of transgenerational activity.	4,000.00
100595		Remembrance activity.	1,174.96
100601	Centre for Health and Well Being	Mental Health and Wellbeing through complementary therapy support.	7,990.00
100622	Forum For Action On Substance	Mental Health and Wellbeing through Holistic Therapies	10,000.00
100623	HELP NI	Respite support activity.	3,400.00
100624	HELP NI	Volunteer Support	2,274.00
100626	Niamh (Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health	Bursary awards.	7,500.00
100645	Springhill Community House	Training programme for victims/survivors.	4,504.00
Total for Belfast			282,367.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Coleraine Borough Council			
100332	Regimental Association of UDR	Historical and educational respite support.	1,563.50
Total for Coleraine			1,563.50
Cookstown Borough Council			
100160	Comrades Support Group	Social inclusion and respite support programme.	12,414.00
100173	Stewartstown and District Support Group	Series of respite and educational programmes designed to meet the needs of victims and survivors of the conflict.	16,309.18
100236	Colleague Support Group	Support towards meetings management mileage and respite activities	8,648.00
100340	Cookstown Voluntary Welfare Support Group	Respite support activity.	1,825.00
Total for Cookstown			39,196.18
Craigavon Borough Council			
100176	Portadown Voluntary Welfare Group	Respite trip to Harrogate and Yorkshire Dales for members of Portadown Voluntary Welfare Group	4,300.00
Total for Craigavon			4,300.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Derry City Council			
100188	Eglinton Building Bridges	Personal Development and Befriending Programme	48,628.00
100202	WAVE Trauma Centre Derry	Continuation of existing counselling provision and complementary therapies to maintain ongoing support to those individuals who have been affected by the Northern Ireland Conflict.	4,305.00
100245	UDR Association-Londonderry Branch	Social Inclusion and Respite Support Activities	4,711.30
100267	C.A.L.M.S	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	8,193.75
100269	Derry Well Woman	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	5,805.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100396	Columba Community	Projects to help people make the transition from victim to survivor.	4,126.14
100400	Calms	Annual Programme of activities and services designed to support Victims/Survivors	36,087.93
100406	Derry Well Woman	Annual Programme of activities and services designed to support Victims/Survivors	21,274.59
100423	Teach na Failte	Mental Health and Wellbeing through Counselling Support	12,600.00
100438	C.A.L.M.S	Annual Programme of activities and services designed to support Victims/Survivors	43,002.25
100602	Ulster Special Constabulary Ass. Londonderry Branch	Befriending and Respite Support Activities	2,289.27
100610	Teach na Failte	Mental Health and Wellbeing through Counselling Support	5,460.00
Total for Derry			196,483.23

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council			
090680	Dungannon Branch USCA "Welfare Fund"	Social Inclusion and Respite Support	201.57
100174	Aughnacloy Comrades Support Group	Respite and Social Outreach Programme	12,293.14
100200	Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Association-East Tyrone Branch	Meetings for Members	360.00
100214	Clogher Ladies Friendship Group	Organisational Development Training	342.80
100284	South Tyrone Voluntary Welfare Group	Respite Support	1,000.00
100285	Comrades Support Group - Dungannon Branch	Respite and Social Inclusion Support Programme	7,000.00
100325	Victims Support Welfare Group	Respite and Social Inclusion Support Programme	7,384.80

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100545	Dungannon Branch USCA "Welfare Fund"	Respite and Befriending Support	607.84
100550	South Tyrone Voluntary Welfare Group	Respite Activity	3,720.00
100551	Victims Support Welfare Group	Respite Activity	4,546.66
100552	Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment-Old Comrades-Clogher Branch	Social Inclusion Activities	3,065.70
100559	USC Assoc - Clogher Branch	Social Inclusion and Befriending Activities	1,841.31
100603	Tyrone East Phoenix Group	Befriending Programme Support	6,329.50
100613	South Tyrone Voluntary Welfare Group	Social Inclusion Activity	755.00
100614	Victims Support Welfare Group	Respite Support Activity	3,068.21
Total for Dungannon and South Tyrone			52,516.53
Fermanagh District Council			
090595	Justice for Innocent Victims of Terrorism	Research Project on the impact of the HET and to establish if there is a need for further advocacy support to Members	1,850.01
100162	Fermanagh Voluntary Welfare Support Group	Social Inclusion and Respite Programme of Activities	27,937.50
100170	Royal Irish Rangers Association Enniskillen Branch	Remembrance Activities Social Inclusion and Respite Support Activities	23,702.00
100187	South East Fermanagh Foundation	Annual Programme of activities and services designed specifically to support Victims/ Survivors	116,416.94

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100192	Ulster Defence Regimental Association Enniskillen Branch	Social Inclusion Befriending Programme and Respite Support Activities	17,434.09
100210	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Assoc (Enniskillen Branch)	Social Inclusion Activities	7,682.00
100213	5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoons (Fermanagh Branch)	Social Inclusion Activities	7,028.00
100215	Ladies Friendship Group	Befriending Programme Support	456.57
100226	The Ely Centre	Personal Development Programme	2,800.00
100228	UDR Association - Lisnaskea Branch	Social Inclusion Befriending and Respite Support Programme	18,058.40
100243	Ulster Defence Regimental Association Enniskillen Branch	Personal Development Programme	3,340.00
100244	Firinne	Alternative Therapies and Respite Programme	7,526.99
100250	Ladies Friendship Group	Respite Support Programme	3,961.00
100273	The Ely Centre	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	15,538.12
100291	Firinne	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	750.00
100295	South East Fermanagh Foundation	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	17,299.00
100392	The Ely Centre	Workplan of services and activities to support victims/survivors.	28,438.77
100541	The Ely Centre	Continuation of ongoing Carers Programme	5,824.00
100561	USC Association- Lisnaskea Branch	Respite and Befriending Programme	3,966.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100596	Fermanagh Voluntary Welfare Support Group	Social Inclusion Activity	430.00
Total for Fermanagh			310,439.39
Larne Borough Council			
100431	Association of the Royal Irish Regiment Fermanagh/ South Tyrone Branch	Members Meetings and Respite Support Activity	4,615.70
100573	Garryowen Masonic Lodge No 923	Social Inclusion Activity	1,200.00
Total for Larne			5,815.70
Multiple Councils			
100165	Disabled Police Officers Association NI	Residential for 80 members and their carers to include workshops addressing the roles of individuals and communities during the troubles identifying members' needs and establishing a basis for further workshops and activities. Art therapy sessions for 16 members and two social functions for members and their families to enhance supportive relationships between members and their families in a safe environment.	7,844.00
100175	Tyrone East Phoenix Group	A programme of befriending service including bringing befriendees together for coffee mornings	21,228.64
100182	Relatives for Justice	Annual Project Costs for Relatives for Justice offices in Belfast, Tyrone, Armagh and Down offices.	20,707.85
100191	Tyrone West Phoenix Group	Organisational Meetings and Respite Programme	32,137.95
100195	Wives Club UDR	Social Inclusion and Respite Programme	11,894.23
100206	Royal Ulster Constabulary GC Association	Social Inclusion and Respite Programme	22,031.45
100249	Lansew Association	Respite Support Programme	15,248.88
100292	Relatives for Justice	Support toward continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	3,630.00
100293	Ashton Community Trust	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/Survivors.	18,228.00

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100331	North West Prison Officers	Respite Activities and Storytelling Project for Members.	3,256.00
100429	WAVE	Residential for families of people who have disappeared during the troubles.	1,600.00
100443	Wider Circle	Organisational Development to develop the centre's priorities and needs	3,970.80
100509	Ashton Community Trust	Financial support towards working with victims and survivors of the Northern Ireland conflict.	34,025.13
100514	Tinderbox Theatre Company	Delivering drama performances that will reach out to those who have been affected by the Northern Ireland conflict	3,650.00
100557	RUC George Cross Association	Remembrance Activities	831.00
100572	Wider Circle	Provide facilitator training and deliver two twelve week self help trauma programmes using volunteer facilitators.	2,402.01
Total for Multiple			202,685.94
Newry and Mourne District Council			
100190	Mourne Action for Survivors of Terrorism	Annual Programme of activities and services specially designed to support Victims/ Survivors	41,029.26
100193	Fews Community Association for Victims/ survivors	Respite and Befriending Programme	4,901.00
100238	Newry and Mourne Voluntary Welfare Group	Befriending Programme Support	2,583.20
100290	Mourne Action for Survivors of Terrorism	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/ Survivors.	4,316.29
100318	Mourne Action for Survivors of Terrorism	Remembrance Activity	7,602.40
100512	Newry and Mourne Voluntary Welfare Group	Respite Activity	5,925.50
100598	Newry and Mourne Voluntary Welfare Group	Respite and Befriending Programme	7,639.20

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
Total for Newry and Mourne			73,996.85
 Newtownabbey Borough Council			
100439	The Breakaway Blues	A residential and partnership with victim groups in Derry/Londonderry and cross community coffee mornings.	2,684.20
Total for Newtownabbey			2,684.20
Omagh District Council			
100179	Omagh Police Wives	Series of activities to assist ex-police wives in their recovery process	2,615.69
100203	WAVE Trauma Centre Omagh	Continuation of existing counselling provision and complementary therapies to maintain ongoing support to those individuals who have been affected by the N I Conflict.	12,135.00
100217	The Strule Association	A Series of Respite Support Activities and Befriending Training	14,090.60
100235	Omagh Support and Self Help Group	Annual Programme of activities and services specifically designed to support Victims/ Survivors	23,633.18
100251	Omagh Support and Self Help Group	Annual Programme of activities and services specifically designed to support Victims/ Survivors	10,329.51
100275	TARA Counselling and Personal Dev Centre	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/ Survivors.	2,500.00
100294	Omagh Support and Self Help Group	Support towards continuation of ongoing services to Victims/ Survivors.	4,556.03
100319	Families Moving On	Annual Programme of activities and services specifically designed to support Victims/ Survivors	37,182.50
100323	TARA Counselling and Personal Dev Centre	The provision of psychotherapy and counselling sessions to Victims/ Survivors	2,500.00
100424	The Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment Old Comrades- Omagh Branch	Remembrance Social Inclusion and Respite Support	13,748.89

Ref	Group	Summary	Amount Paid (£)
100544	Omagh Police Voluntary Welfare Group	Respite Support Activity	3,441.25
100546	Families Moving On	To provide administrative support for the newly formed group Families Moving On	1,944.00
100563	Ulster Special Constabulary - Omagh	Respite and Befriending Support	2,318.77
100604	Tyrone West Phoenix Group	Befriending Programme Support	4,318.75
100625	Omagh Support and Self Help Group	Provision of information packs and brochures detailing work and services available to victims and survivors of the conflict.	2,647.21
Total for Omagh			137,961.38
Strabane District Council			
100302	Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment Castlederg Branch	Respite Support Programme	16,338.27
100314	Have Your Tomorrows (Hurt)	Provide services for addiction problems stemming mainly from experiences during the troubles	9,600.00
100402	West Tyrone Voice	Workplan of services and activities to support Victims/Survivors.	27,047.49
100589	West Tyrone Voice	Respite Support	180.00
Total for Strabane			53,165.76
Overall Total			1,545,661.04

Legislative Programme

Mrs D Kelly asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 3490/11-15, to detail the timetable for assessing legislative requirements and publishing the legislative programme.
(AQW 4123/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Following the publication of the draft Programme for Government, we are currently consulting with all Ministers of the Executive about their legislative proposals which should reflect the priorities and commitments set out in the Programme. Once these have been received and considered we will prepare and, at an appropriate time, seek the Executive's agreement to a Legislative Programme.

Ilex Urban Regeneration Company's One Plan for Derry Regeneration Programme

Mr Eastwood asked First Minister and deputy First Minister, with regard to the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company's One Plan for Derry regeneration programme, to detail (i) the funds from their current budget that have been committed to projects under this programme; (ii) the projects that are being funded; and (iii) the start dates for these projects.

(AQW 4245/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Ilex Regeneration Company is jointly sponsored by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) and the Department for Social Development (DSD). Both departments have tasked Ilex with the production and delivery of the regeneration plan for Derry-Londonderry, and especially the development of the former military sites at Ebrington Barracks, owned by OFMDFM, and Fort George owned by DSD.

The One Plan was published in June 2011 and Ilex is currently engaging with other departments to ensure that it is used to inform future decision making in the North West.

Funding for capital expenditure allocations in the 2010 Budget on the development of the Ebrington site are detailed below:

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Capital	6,015	7,800	4,800	4,400	23,015
Revenue	1,911	1,891	1,870	1,849	7,521
Total	7,926	9,691	6,670	6,249	30,536

The Department provides provision for revenue costs to Ilex i.e. 50% of the annual running costs of Ilex and other expenditure largely in relation to projects at Ebrington.

It is envisaged that the following projects will be developed on the Ebrington site:

- the development of the parade ground infrastructure and public realm;
- the car park and enabling platform;
- the refurbishment of a building to house the Maritime Museum; and
- the development of the Clocktower building in the main square.

In addition, ongoing conservation works to bring other buildings back into use on the site will continue.

The parade ground works commenced in September 2010 with a completion date of early 2012. The car park project is due to commence in 2012. The Clocktower is due to commence in 2012/13 and the Maritime Museum is due to commence in 2014/15.

Public Contracts

Mr McCartney asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list all the current public contracts within their Department, including to whom each contract was awarded; how the contracts were advertised; and when each contract is next due for tender.

(AQW 4305/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Details of all current public contracts within our Department are given in the table below.

No.	Contract title	Contract awarded to:	How contract was advertised*	Date contract next due for tender
1	OFMDFM- Development of Framework Guidance: Sustainable Development Statutory Duty	Jim Kitchen Consulting	By Invitation Only	December 2011 (current contract ends 2 December 2011)
2	OFMDFM - Provision of Consultant for work on Disability Issues	Disability Action	By Invitation Only	January 2012 (current contract ends 6 January 2012)
3	EIS production of AV material	Morrow Communications	ITT Open to All Suppliers Non-EU- Procurement	March 2012
4	nidirect advertising campaign	Navigator Blue	Invitation only (using Advertising Framework)	March 2012
5	Office of the NI Executive in Brussels (ONIEB) - Cleaning contract	APS	Procured with 3 quotations	October 2012
6	NI Bureau, Washington -Venue for St Patrick's day business breakfast	Ronald Reagan International Trade Centre	Open tender in Washington DC	November 2012 – annual open tender
7	ONIEB - Photocopier maintenance contract	Orgaburo	Procured with 3 quotations	December 2012
8	Mac Maintenance Contract	EOS Systems	3 quotes	April 2013
9	OFMDFM Classified Placement Service	ASG	ITT Open to All Suppliers Eu-Open	June 2013
10	The Supply of Security Passes to the Northern Ireland Government Departments	Emos-Infineer Ltd	ITT Open to All Suppliers Other	July 2013
11	Business Planning System	Parity	Procured after 3 quotations	Contract ends July 2013. Decision on re-tendering will be made nearer the date.
12	TGI Software database	BMRB (now known as Kantar Media)	Single tender action	August 2013

No.	Contract title	Contract awarded to:	How contract was advertised*	Date contract next due for tender
13	'Maintenance of the Children's Research Database'	ARK	CPD	September 2013
14	OFMDFM - Event Management Services	Morrow Communications	ITT Open to All Suppliers Other	October 2013
15	Northern Ireland Civil Service Recruitment Advertising Placement Provider	ASG	ITT Open to All Suppliers Eu-Open	January 2014
16	OFMDFM Graphic Design Services	Page Setup	ITT Open to All Suppliers Eu-Open	March 2014
17	ONIEB - Handset phone rental	Nextel – ING lease	Procured with 3 quotations	November 2014
18	ONIEB - Water filters	Culligan	Procured with 3 quotations	February 2015
19	Media Monitoring and Evaluation	Kantar Media	Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), Dept of Finance and Personnel	November 2015
20	ONIEB - Security call out	Securitas	Procured with 3 quotations	Renewable every year
21	ONIEB - Security patrol	Russo Security	Procured with 3 quotations	Renewable every year
22	Phase 2 remediation works Maze/Long Kesh Regeneration Site	Bilfinger Berger Environmental Ltd	ITT Open to All Suppliers Non-EU-Procurement	One off contract – not being re-tendered
23	Maze/Long Kesh Habitat Survey	Scott Wilson	By Invitation Only Appointment from Framework	One off contract – not being re-tendered
24	Maze/Long Kesh Contamination Assessment Work	White Young Green	CPD	One off contract – not being re-tendered
25	'Spatial deprivation research'	QUB	CPD	One off contract – will not be retendered
26	NI Bureau, Washington Engaging porters for office move	Washington Removals	Open tender in Washington DC	One off contract re office move

***Note:** All contracts awarded through Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) in the Department of Finance and Personnel since May 2008 have been advertised through the eSourcingNI portal. Those contracts identified on the table as "Invitation to Tender (ITT) Open to All Suppliers" were publicly advertised to all potential suppliers. Those contracts listed as "By Invitation Only" were advertised to a restricted number of suppliers. Where other methods have been used these have been specified on the table.

Public Appointments

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the public appointments both they and their predecessors have made since May 2007.

(AQW 4910/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: A list of public appointments made by us or our predecessors since 8 May 2007 is set out below.

Body/Office	Appointees	Date Appointed	Date Left
Commissioner for Children & Young People	Ms P Lewsley	08/01/2011 (R)	
Commission for Victims & Survivors	Ms P MacBride	02/06/2008	
	Mr B McAllister	02/06/2008	
	Mrs B McDougall	02/06/2008	
	Mr M Nesbitt	02/06/2008	17/02/2010
Commissioner for Older People	Mrs C Keatinge	14/11/2011	
Economic Research Institute of NI Ltd	Dr I McMorris	19/08/2008 (R)	24/02/2010
	Mr J McKenna	26/02/2010	
	Mr D Prince	26/02/2010	09/11/2010
Ilex Urban Regeneration Company Ltd	Sir RW McNulty	01/10/2007	
	Professor R J Sterling	01/10/2007	24/07/2009
	Mr T J Fanning	01/04/2008	08/12/2009
	Mr M McNulty	01/04/2008	
	Mrs V Watt	01/10/2008	28/02/2011
	Mr K Alexander	09/03/2009	31/07/2009
	Mr M Heaney	28/07/2009 (R)	
	Mr J McDaid	28/07/2009 (R)	13/07/2011
	Professor D Heenan	01/08/2009	
	Dr A McGinley	08/09/2009	
	Mr F A Hewitt	01/07/2010	
	Dame G M M Keegan	01/07/2010	
	Mrs M Lee	01/07/2010	
	Mr C C McKenna	01/07/2010	
	Sir R W McNulty	01/10/2010(R)	
	Mr J Meehan	18/02/2011	25/10/2011
	Mr M McNulty	01/04/2011	
	Ms S O'Connor	26/10/2011	

Body/Office	Appointees	Date Appointed	Date Left
Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission	M J McNulty	15/06/2011	
	Mr A Rankin	15/06/2011	
Strategic Investment Board Ltd	Mr D Gavaghan	21/07/2007 (R)	30/04/2010
	Mr D Dobbin	01/10/2008 (R) Board Member	31/03/2009 Board Member
	Mr D Dobbin	01/04/2009 Acting Chairperson	17/11/2009 Acting Chairperson
	Mr D Dobbin	18/11/2009 Chairperson	
	Mr R Hannam	04/01/2009 (R)	
	Mr F A Hewitt	01/12/2010	
	Ms G McAteer	01/11/2009	
	Mr A J McFerran	01/11/2009	
	Mr D Rooney	01/11/2009	
	Mr C Thompson	01/12/2010	
	Mr D J Waugh	01/11/2009	31/05/2011

Body/Office	Appointees	Date Appointed	Date Left
Planning & Water Appeals Commissions	Mr A Allen	02/01/2008	
	Mr A Allen	02/01/2011 (R)	19/10/2011
	Mr D K Beggan	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr A R Beggs	15/09/2008	
	Mr G S Carlisle	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr M J Culshaw	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr A J Dale	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Ms R Daly	15/09/2008	
	Ms J de-Courcey	02/01/2008	
	Mr M W Evans	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr I B Fernie	05/04/2010 (R)	
	Mrs S J Glover	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr D Hainsworth	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mrs S E Hesketh	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mrs S M Holden	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr N P Howard	21/03/2008 (R)	
	Mr N P Howard	21/03/2011 (R)	
	Mr M C Hurley	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mrs A R Jones	15/09/2008	
	Mr J B Martin	28/04/2008	
	Mr J H Martin	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Ms D M MacGabhann	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr A L McCooey	28/04/2008	
	Mr D F McCoy	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mrs B McGlinchey	07/01/2008	
	Mr S G O'Hare	28/04/2008	
	Miss P O'Donnell	07/01/2008	
	Mr D Storrie	01/09/2008	31/08/2011
	Mr M Watson	07/01/2008	
Attorney General for Northern Ireland	Mr J Larkin QC	24/05/2010	
Commissioner for Public Appointments	Mrs F Huston	01/08/2008 (R)	31 /07/2011
Commissioner for Public Appointments	Mr John Keanie	01/08/2011	

Shackleton Army Barracks at Ballykelly

Mr Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what provision has been made to cover the cost of decontaminating the site of the Shackleton army barracks at Ballykelly.

(AQW 4951/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Experience from previous military sites and documents provided by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) indicate the likely presence of contamination at Shackleton.

It is not possible at this stage to make a reliable estimate for the cost of any decontamination as such detailed determination depends on the final uses for the site.

UK City of Culture 2013

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the terminology used in the draft Programme for Government, whether it is Executive policy to delete the reference to the United Kingdom in referring to Londonderry being the UK City of Culture 2013; and, if so, why this is the case.

(AQW 5051/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: No such policy has been determined by the Executive.

Promoting a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) to outline the measures they have taken since coming into office, or plan to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether they will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby their Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5260/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, all departments are required to fulfil the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

In this regard, all departments are required to consider how all policy development and spending decisions contribute to promoting good relations.

The approach to mainstreaming good relations considerations into policy development and resource allocation will be considered as part of the overall development of the final Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

As a designated public authority, OFMDFM is required to set out in an equality scheme how it proposes to fulfil the duties imposed by Section 75 in relation to its relevant functions.

OFMDFM is committed to the discharge of its Section 75 obligations in all parts of the organisation and will continue to commit the available resources in terms of people, time and money to ensure that the Section 75 statutory duties are complied with and that the equality scheme is implemented effectively.

In addition, we have significantly increased funding for good relations work since devolution, supporting the Community Relations Council and local Council good relations programmes, along with organisations and projects such as Contested Spaces and Re-imaging Communities.

Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how their Department can promote transparency when the minutes from the Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum are not produced in a timely manner, particularly the minutes of the meetings between March and October 2011.

(AQW 5373/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Minutes of the meetings of the Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum are not made public, as matters discussed can relate to policy still under development. Such matters may be exempt from disclosure under Freedom of Information as it is necessary to allow frank and open discussions about policy options without compromising the policy formulation process.

The Child Poverty Strategy (CPS), for example, provides a unique opportunity for the Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum to contribute to the delivery of policy through its role in agreeing a CPS Action Plan. This demonstrates a higher level of transparency and inclusiveness and gives practical effect to the joint production of delivery mechanisms by Government and key stakeholders.

Officials and Junior Ministers maintain open channels of communication between meetings with members of the Forum who wish to raise issues related to the work of the Forum.

The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled to take place in January 2012.

Social Protection Fund

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the time-scale for notification of the outcome of departmental bids to the Social Protection Fund, which includes funding for young people and lone parent work experience programmes.

(AQW 5440/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Executive proposed a Social Protection Fund to mitigate against the impact of the financial cuts on the most vulnerable in our society.

The Executive agreed to prioritise fuel poverty through this fund and agreed that the £20 million would contribute towards a fuel allowance scheme distributed through DSD and DHSSPS.

Commissioner for Older People

Mr G Robinson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the development of strategies to tackle fuel poverty among the elderly is within the remit of the Commissioner for Older People.

(AQO 937/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Fuel poverty has an impact on a range of vulnerable groups including older people. Responsibility for the development of strategies to tackle fuel poverty rests with the Department for Social Development.

Claire Keatinge took up her post as Commissioner for Older People on 14th November 2011 and has a wide range of duties including promotional, advisory and educational responsibilities which will be deployed in the interests of older people, both generally and individually. This clearly could include advocating or supporting the development of policies to tackle fuel poverty.

As Commissioner, Claire will be able to influence strategies by contributing through the consultation process and if considered necessary, she can challenge any proposals that may have a negative impact on older citizens.

Programme for Government

Mr McQuillan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the monitoring arrangements for the Programme for Government.

(AQO 932/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: This Programme for Government (PfG) has, as a prerequisite, clearly defined lines of accountability, effective monitoring and reporting regimes.

At a delivery level, monitoring will be the responsibility of the Delivery Oversight Group, chaired by the Head of the Civil Service. The Head of the Civil Service is, with the support of Permanent Secretaries, tasked with driving programme delivery and ensuring constancy of direction and purpose.

At Programme level, the PfG Programme Board, which we jointly chair and is attended by the Minister of Finance and Personnel, will have the primary monitoring responsibility.

OFMDFM officials, in conjunction with officials in the Department of Finance and Personnel, are preparing detailed guidance which explains the new framework for delivery of PfG commitments. We intend to bring this guidance to the Executive as soon as possible with a view to seeking agreement and subsequent implementation.

The new framework for delivery is designed to ensure that there is the maximum amount of delivery against the commitments while enabling departments to make significant progress against targets.

The previous Programme for Government – which contained 334 PSA targets and 66 Key Goals and Commitments – presented a heavy bureaucratic burden in terms of reporting. In designing our new PfG, we have consciously sought to alleviate this burden without compromising the effectiveness of our monitoring and reporting activities.

It is our intention that monitoring and reporting will continue on a regular basis throughout the lifetime of the Programme for Government. Our Department, along with the Department of Finance and Personnel, will have operational responsibility for this, and it is intended that all Ministers will monitor and report progress to Executive colleagues at agreed intervals.

Public Meetings on the draft Programme for Government

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 5020/11-15, to detail the date, time and location of each of the planned public meetings on the draft Programme for Government; and the agenda for each meeting.

(AQW 5548/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: It is anticipated that there will be seven public meetings as part of the consultation process for the draft Programme for Government, as listed below. Dates and venues are indicative and subject to booking confirmation.

The agenda for each meeting will ultimately be determined by attendees, but will be framed around an introductory session; a general question and answer session; a discussion on priorities and commitments and final responses, observations and questions.

Date	
Monday 9 January	Omagh – Omagh Enterprise Centre
Monday 16 January	Newry - N&M Enterprise Agency
Monday 23 January	Derry/Londonderry - Millennium Forum
Monday 30 January	Belfast - Malone House
Monday 6 February	Armagh – Upper English Street
Monday 13 February	Enniskillen - Clinton Centre
Monday 20 February	Ballymena – Ballymena Business Centre

St Andrews Review into North-South Implementation Bodies and Areas of Co-operation

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 3228/11-15, whether the option of reducing the number of North South implementation bodies is being considered under the first term of reference of the St Andrews Review.

(AQW 5599/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: As we reported to the Assembly on 29 November 2011, the NSMC agreed at its 13th Plenary meeting on 18 November that a number of proposals under the first

element of the Review would be discussed at the next round of NSMC meetings in sectoral format with a view to decisions being taken at the NSMC Plenary meeting in June 2012.

This matter therefore remains under consideration and, in accordance with the statutory provisions, a report on progress will be made to the Assembly following the next NSMC Plenary.

Government Contracts: Social Clauses

Mr G Kelly asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, in light of the commitments set out in the draft Programme for Government, if they will engage with the Minister of Finance and Personnel, to ensure that any advice coming from the Central Procurement Directorate, recommends the inclusion of social clauses in all contracts.

(AQO 930/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Building on the last Programme for Government, our new Programme commits us to include social clauses in all public procurement contracts for supplies, services and construction. The targets set will vary from contract to contract.

The Minister of Finance & Personnel has an important role in helping to take this policy forward and given that the Central Procurement Directorate comes under his control then we will be engaging with him and with all Executive colleagues so as to ensure that we get the maximum social return on our investment.

Given the financial constraints that the Executive has to operate under then we believe that it makes good sense for us to get the maximum value from the money that we have at our disposal. Where we can we will ensure that local companies can bid for contracts and through the use of social clauses we can help deliver on our social agenda which includes a commitment to those most disadvantaged within our communities.

By integrating social clauses into procurement policy, it is clear that in many cases we will be able to provide employment and training opportunities for those furthest from the labour market and in areas of high social need. By reinforcing the commitment in our new Programme for Government, we are sending a clear sign that this is no longer an aspiration. It is now a requirement.

Social Protection Fund

Mr W Clarke asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Social Protection Fund.
(AQO 934/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: As stated within the draft Programme for Government, the Executive remains committed to tackling the problem of disadvantage here.

The Executive agreed to allocate the £20 million Social Protection Fund to the priority issue of fuel poverty and this will be distributed through DSD and DHSSPS for fuel poverty payments.

United Kingdom Bill of Rights

Mr McGimpsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the discussions they have had with Her Majesty's Government in relation to Northern Ireland's input to a United Kingdom Bill of Rights.
(AQO 935/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Kenneth Clarke, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, wrote to us to advise that the Coalition Government was setting up an independent commission to investigate the creation of a potential UK Bill of Rights.

This process is separate from the one established under the Good Friday Agreement and the St Andrews Agreement regarding a Bill of Rights here. The Human Rights Commission fulfilled its responsibility to make proposals on supplementary rights here, when it submitted its report to the Secretary of State

on 8 December 2008. The UK Government consulted on proposals for a Bill of Rights here and the consultation responses were published in December 2010.

An advisory group to the Commission on a proposed UK Bill of Rights, comprising representatives of the devolved administrations, is also being set up. We have been asked for two nominees to the panel and we are considering who they should be.

We understand that the Commission will not be asked to consider the scope for specific supplementary rights here. However, it will clearly need to consider how any proposals it makes in respect of the UK will impact on the responsibilities of the devolved administrations.

Former Military Sites

Mr Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what action they intend to take as a result of the report by the Audit Office on the sale, use and management of six former military sites.

(AQO 938/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The NIAO report on the transfer of former military and security sites to the Executive will be the subject of a Public Accounts Committee hearing. In line with agreed protocols on handling such matters it would therefore not be appropriate for us to make any comments on the report until the Assembly process is complete.

It would be our intention to put in place a strategy for implementation of the relevant recommendations outlined in the report.

Audit Report on the Gifting of Military Sites by the Ministry of Defence

Mrs Cochrane asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the audit report on the gifting of military sites by the Ministry of Defence.

(AQO 939/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The NIAO report on the transfer of former military and security sites to the Executive will be the subject of a Public Accounts Committee hearing. In line with agreed protocols on handling such matters it would therefore not be appropriate for us to make any comments on the report until the Assembly process is complete.

Child Poverty Strategy

Mr McKay asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Outcomes Model associated with the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan.

(AQO 941/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: During the third meeting of the re-established Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum, which took place on 27 October 2011, members considered an outcomes model approach to be used in developing the Children's Strategy and Child Poverty Strategy action plans.

Social Protection Fund

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how they will use the Social Protection Fund to help people facing hardship caused by the economic downturn.

(AQW 5752/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Executive proposed a Social Protection Fund to mitigate against the impact of the financial cuts on the most vulnerable in our society.

The Executive subsequently agreed to prioritise fuel poverty through this fund and agreed that the £20 million budget would contribute towards a Winter poverty payment scheme, distributed through DSD and DHSSPS.

Childcare: Funding

Ms Ruane asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether any of the £3 million set aside for childcare, that is not spent this year, will be ring-fenced and re-profiled in future years of the Comprehensive Spending Review period.

(AQO 974/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We plan to put more detailed proposals on the development of the Childcare Strategy to the Executive early in the New Year.

These proposals will clarify what improvements are needed, and how we intend to deliver the essential changes to transform childcare provision.

The Executive will also need to agree the re-profiling of the additional £12m allocation to the Childcare Fund, which is an Executive Fund to support the development of the Childcare Strategy.

We remain committed to ensuring proper investment in childcare and are working with departments to develop proposals for early investment across government that will improve provision and support the development of the Childcare Strategy.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Ms P Bradley asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline their Department's plans to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2012.

(AQO 979/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The regional commemoration to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day in 2012 will be held on Thursday 26 January at the Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey. This will be the eleventh year we have commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day.

Social Investment Fund: Armagh City

Mr Irwin asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether the Social Investment Fund will assist in the social development and regeneration of the community in the east of Armagh City.

(AQO 980/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The outcome of the public consultation process, which ends on 23 December 2011, will inform how the Social Investment Fund will operate and how specific areas and communities will benefit.

Through SIF, areas in need will benefit from a co-ordinated and strategic approach to issues of poverty and disadvantage. It will enable communities to determine the priorities in their areas and develop responses in partnership with Government, the statutory sector and the voluntary and community sector.

North/South Ministerial Council: Constitutional Convention

Mr Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether any discussions have been held at recent North-South Ministerial Council meetings regarding the Constitutional Convention planned by the Irish Government and the necessity of Northern Ireland's participation within this convention.

(AQO 981/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: No discussion has taken place at meetings of the North South Ministerial Council on the Irish Government's proposed Constitutional Convention.

Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation

Mr McCartney asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the establishment of the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation.

(AQO 982/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: A public appointment competition for the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation is currently underway and we will announce the outcome of the competition in due course.

Victims and Survivors Service

Mr Molloy asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on establishing the Victims and Survivors Service.

(AQO 985/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: This remains a key issue for this Department and all available resource is being used to ensure that when the Service is established it reflects the needs and demands of the Sector.

We are determined to meet key targets such as the phased introduction to individual assessments starting in April 2012. Key milestones have been achieved and transition arrangements are being considered to ensure there is no gap in support to the Sector.

The Commission for Victims and Survivors and officials are working closely together to ensure that the Service is fit for purpose and appropriately resourced.

Junior Minister Anderson and Junior Minister Bell also chair monthly meetings with the Commission and officials to ensure the establishment of the new Service by April 2012.

Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy

Mr Flanagan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the work of the cross-party Working Group on the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

(AQO 986/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Party leaders agreed to the establishment of the cross party working group on Cohesion, Sharing and Integration in June of this year and representatives from each of the five main parties were nominated.

The group held its first meeting on 27 September and continues to meet on a weekly basis. Members initially received a presentation outlining the main findings from the independent analysis of the consultation. They have used this information to identify a work programme that will enable them to fully consider the detail of the various issues that have been raised.

The priority now is to establish a political consensus and agree on the strategic direction against the issues raised by the consultation.

The cross party working group will continue to work over the coming weeks with a view to publishing the final strategy and an associated action plan in early 2012.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Rural Poverty

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how much money has been earmarked to combat rural poverty in the current budgetary period; and (ii) to detail the rural poverty incentives her Department has supported in the last twelve months, broken down by council area.

(AQW 5137/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): £16m has been allocated by DARD to tackle rural poverty and isolation in the current budgetary period. In the last financial year (2010-11) DARD supported the following initiatives: Rural Community Development; the Maximising Access to Grants, Services and Benefits initiative; the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme; rural broadband; the rural support charity; rural childcare programme and rural challenge programme. Measures have not been targeted specifically by council area. The information that is available at district council level is set out in the following tables:

A RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Council Area	Rural Support Network funded
Antrim and Newtownabbey	South Antrim
Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon	Armagh, Down and Antrim
Strabane, Derry	Strabane and District
Down, North Down, Ards, Newry and Mourne and east of Banbridge	East Down Community
Ballymena, Coleraine, Limavady, Moyle	North Antrim Community
Fermanagh	Fermanagh Rural Community
Omagh	Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
Cookstown and Magherafelt	Cookstown and Western Shores
Dungannon	Community Organisations of South Tyrone and area.

B MAXIMISING ACCESS TO GRANT, BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Council area	No. of household visits targeted
Moyle	250
Coleraine	50
Larne	50
Ballymoney	100
Cookstown	300
Magherafelt	50
Antrim	100
Down	250
Newtownards	250
Dungannon	250

Council area	No. of household visits targeted
Craigavon	50
Armagh	200
Newry and Mourne	750
Strabane	484
Derry	150
Omagh	350
Fermanagh	216
Limavady	350

C ASSISTED RURAL TRAVEL SCHEME

Rural Community Transport Partnership	Council Catchment Areas	Funded Trips in 10/11
ART	Armagh District Council Area;	6,857
DART	Banbridge District Council Area; Craigavon District Council Area;	2,013
NMCT	Newry and Mourne District Council Area;	4,846
CRCT	Cookstown District Council Area;	7,943
DDCT	Dungannon and South Tyrone District Council Area;	6,445
OACT	Magherafelt District Council Area;	12,124
DDAT	Down District Council Area; Ards District Council Area; North Down District Council Area;	14,586
EASILINK	Strabane District Council Area; Derry City Council Area	15,511
	Omagh District Council Area;	8,250
NCCT	Limavady District Council Area	7,850
	Coleraine District Council Area; Ballymoney District Council Area;	2,073
	Moyle District Council Area; Ballymena District Council Area;	6,807
FAST	Fermanagh District Council Area;	10,415
RURAL LIFT	Fermanagh District Council Area	10,980
LVRT	Lisburn District Council Area; Castlereagh District Council Area;	3,833
SACT	Larne District Council Area; Carrickfergus District Council Area; Antrim District Council Area; Newtownabbey District Council Area	7,249
Totals		127,782

D RURAL CHILDCARE PROGRAMME

Beneficiary Council Area	Project Promoter funded
Antrim and Ballymena	Taylorstown Cross Community Complex
Antrim and Magherafelt	Laughterland Playgroup
Newry and Mourne	South Armagh Childcare Consortium
North Down	Glencraig Integrated Children's Centre
Newry and Mourne	Sticky Fingers Early Years Arts
Down	Ballykinlar Cross Community Playgroup
Ards	Carrowdore Early Years Centre
Derry	Positive Futures
Newry and Mourne, Banbridge, Dungannon, Fermanagh, Omagh, Derry, Moyle, Ballymena, Larne, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Ards, Down, Lisburn, Strabane	Northern Ireland Childminders Association
Fermanagh	ARC Healthy Living Centre Ltd
Fermanagh	Glendurragh Childcare Services Ltd
Derry	Tiny Tots Community Playgroup
Coleraine	Glenullin Childcare Trust
Magherafelt, Cookstown, Omagh	Barnardo's Children's First Centre
Derry	Claudy Rural Development
Omagh	Omagh Early Years
Omagh Dungannon	Eskra Childcare Ltd
Omagh	Naiscoil na Gcrann
Dungannon	Rainbow Daycare (Eglis) Ltd

E RURAL CHALLENGE PROGRAMME APPENDIX 2

Beneficiary Council Area	Project Promoter funded
Ards	Millisle & District Community Association
Armagh	County Armagh Community Development Committee Limited Singing Kettle STEP South Tyrone Empowerment Programme x 2 projects
Ballymena	Community Network Women's Aid Bannside Community Safety Group Community Focus Learning

Beneficiary Council Area	Project Promoter funded
Ballymoney	Rasharkin Community Association Loughgiel Community Association Ballymoney Community Resource Centre
Banbridge	Katesbridge Community Association
Belfast	National Autistic Society The Cedar Foundation Shopmobility Belfast
Coleraine	Age Concern Coleraine
Cookstown	Ardboe Community Projects Kingsmill Co-ordinating Committee Broughderg Area Development Association Ltd Age Concern Cookstown
Craigavon	TADA Rural Support network DART Partnership
Derry	St Columb's Park House Derry Healthy Cities/Health NW RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People) Bridge Accessible Transport Aware Defeat Depression x 3 projects
Down	Kilcoo Community Association
Dungannon & South Tyrone	Killyman St Mary's G.F.C Cappagh Village Regeneration Group Niamh Louise Foundation
Fermanagh	BOHO Community Association Educational Guidance Service for Adults (EGSA) Fermanagh Womens Aid Naiscoil na Traonaigh Erne East Community Partnership LTD Mummers Foundation
Limavady	Hands That Talk x 2 projects Gortnaghey Community Association Dromboughil Community Association
Lisburn	Magheragall 50 plus Group Moiria Friendship Group

Beneficiary Council Area	Project Promoter funded
Magherafelt	Glasgowbury Music Group The Rural College and Derrynoid Moneyneena Senior Citizens Group Naiscoil Mhachaire Ratha Carntoger Community Association Granaghan & District Women's Group
Moyle	Glenarm Youth Club Glenariff Improvement Group Cuhendall Development Group
Newry & Mourne	Crossmaglen Rangers GFC South Armagh Childcare Consortium FARM Support Group
North Down	Growing Connections NI
Omagh	RNIB NI x 2 projects Sperrin Carers Support Group Naiscoil na gcrann Mountfield Community Association Greencastle St Patrick's GFC Creagan Research and Education Camowen Farmers Combined Ltd. Nippers Alley Playgroup Sixmilecross Enterprise Ltd x 2 projects
Strabane	Strabane and District Community network The Plum Club Castleberg Youth Forum DERG Valley Care Ltd x 3 projects Dennett Interchange LTD Strabane & District Playclub

Rural Childcare Demands

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures her Department has put in place to meet rural childcare demands.

(AQW 5138/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: As you know DARD does not hold primary responsibility for Childcare service provision. As part of the Department's wider poverty and social inclusion work DARD ran the Rural Childcare Programme as an innovative pilot programme which aimed to enhance the rural evidence base for the development of future policy and priorities in the area of rural childcare provision. A composite evaluation of the programme will shortly be available and as I have previously committed I will present to OFMDFM who are leading development of the new Childcare Strategy for the North.

There are ongoing opportunities under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 for childcare project infrastructure expansion or piloting of new initiatives.

I will continue to press OFMDFM for the need for the new Childcare Strategy, and associated action plan, and to ensure that the very specific circumstances of rural areas are provided for. I would welcome any information that you have to evidence the rural childcare demand.

Rural Poverty Measures

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the rural poverty measures implemented by her Department in the Upper Bann constituency in each of the last four years.

(AQW 5139/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department successfully delivered a £10m package of measures in the last budget period (2008/09- 2010/11) to address rural poverty and social exclusion across the following initiatives: community development; rural challenge programme; maximising access to grants, benefits and services fuel poverty; rural transport; broadband; childcare; and the rural support charity. Measures were not targeted by parliamentary constituency although some detail is available.

This includes funding to the Armagh, Down and Antrim (TADA) Rural Network to assist rural community development across an area inclusive of the Upper Bann constituency. Home heating systems were installed in 41 properties in the Upper Bann constituency during 2008/09 and 24 properties received home insulation in 2009/10.

Two projects were successful in 2009/10 in securing small grants under the rural challenge programme and these projects were delivered by end 2010/11 - funding of c£3,100 was awarded to the Armagh, Down and Antrim (TADA) Rural Network and c£4,400 to Down and Armagh Rural Transport Partnership (DART).

One Super Output Area (The Birches) in the Upper Bann constituency area was also included for intervention (target 50 vulnerable households) through the Maximising Access to Grants, Benefits & Services Project.

Also through the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS) approximately 3,435 individual passenger journeys were funded by DARD (352 in 2009/10 and 3,083 in 2010/11) in the Upper Bann constituency and delivered by the Down, Armagh Rural Transport Partnership (DART). No childcare or broadband projects were supported in the Upper Bann constituency from rural poverty measures and information on rural support beneficiaries is not available.

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail her Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5223/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The tables below detail the actual and proposed spend in the West Belfast constituency by my Department, and its arm's-length bodies.

ACTUAL FUNDING BETWEEN 2008 AND 2011:-

Financial Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Amount	£214,804	£594,098	£197,340

PROPOSED FUNDING BETWEEN 2011 AND 2015:-

Financial Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Amount	£234,580	£263,605	£266,584	£235,390

Note: estimates on proposed funding include potential Single Farm Payments (SFP) in the West Belfast constituency. However, this forecasted spend would be subject to any changes to the SFP Scheme under the EU Agricultural Policy Reform programme for 2013 and beyond, which is currently the subject of consultation amongst EU Member States.

Encouraging Farmers to Plant More Hedgerows

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her Department's policy to encourage farmers to plant more hedgerows.

(AQW 5240/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department recognises the importance of well-managed hedges in our landscape, which provide food and shelter for wildlife and act as a barrier to livestock. DARD's agri-environment schemes encourage farmers to plant hedges as part of a positive programme for hedge restoration and regeneration. One aspect of Field Boundary Restoration is hedge planting and scheme participants receive payments in return for planting a new hedge or gaps in an existing hedge. Scheme participants are required to plant a mix of native hedge and tree plant species and protect the new plants from grazing animals and weeds. All hedge restoration and planting must follow the exact line of an original boundary.

Agri-environment scheme participants restore over 500 km of hedgerows annually.

Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) to outline the measures she has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether she will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby her Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5244/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD has historically supported community development in rural areas through the Rural Community Network (RCN), the NI Women's Rural Network (NIRWN) and local Rural Support Networks (RSNs) of which there are currently 9 which all play a key role in promoting good relations in rural areas. Over the current budget period DARD provided £2.5m to support community development.

Under the NI Act 1998, we are required to fulfil the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. In this regard, we are required to consider how all policy development and spending decisions contribute to promoting good relations.

As a Department we remain fully committed to equality and good relations and to meeting the commitments in our new Equality Scheme, which has been approved by the Equality Commission for NI. We take our Section 75 statutory duties seriously as a public authority, promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, and also in making equality central to our public policy decision making and when delivering expenditure programmes.

All individual DARD policies are equality screened to identify those policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and / or good relations. If our screening assessment concludes that the likely impact of a policy is 'major' in respect of one, or more, of the equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, we will subject the policy to an equality impact assessment.

The approach to mainstreaming good relations considerations into policy development and resource allocation will also be considered as part of the development of the final Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

Lough Neagh Levels Scheme (1955)

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her Department's assessment of the potential impact of altering the levels, as detailed in the Lough Neagh Levels Scheme (1955), to reduce flooding caused by rivers which flow into Lough Neagh.

(AQW 5356/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The current control range operated for the Lough Neagh levels was identified to meet the balance between the needs of many different stakeholders. Reducing the water levels of Lough Neagh from the current control range would potentially have an adverse impact on commercial, environmental and recreational interests. There is additionally no guarantee that reducing the lough levels would prevent all flooding experienced on lands adjacent to the tributaries that flow into the Lough.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) her Department's target for the reduction of Bovine Tuberculosis in each of the next five years; (ii) whether her Department expects to meet the targets; and (iii) what saving will be made if the targets are met.

(AQW 5360/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department does not have a target for the reduction of Bovine TB in each of the next 5 years for the reason outlined below.

On 22 July 2010 the Executive agreed to the amendment of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) TB indicator to remove the existing measurement and create a new target for TB. The previous target was to achieve a 27% reduction in TB annual herd incidence during the period 2008-2011. The new TB target that was approved by the Executive was to implement our section of the 2010 Bovine TB Eradication Plan and to maintain eligibility for the EU co-funding of the plan.

The approved amendment to the TB target was necessary to take account of a change in policy to achieve EU Commission approval to our 2010 Eradication Plan. The new policy introduced on 1 January 2010 was to remove as reactors those animals that give an inconclusive result to a second consecutive TB test, rather than a third test as previously. For disease predictions based on past data to remain valid, the key policies in place must remain unchanged, otherwise it is not possible to compare like with like. This was accepted by the Executive

Whilst the period of this target ended in March 2011, my Department continues to have an objective to achieve and maintain annual EU Commission approval for our TB Eradication Plan. EU Commission approval of our TB Eradication Plan is vital in protecting our annual £1,000 million plus export-dependent trade in livestock and livestock products. It also enables my Department to be eligible to draw down some €5 million co-funding in relation to each of the 2010, 2011 and, recently approved, 2012 Eradication Plans to offset the cost of the programme. This also means that my Department complies with the Public Accounts Committee recommendation on this point.

My Department continues to closely monitor disease levels and disease incidence figures are published each month on the Department's website. Our TB herd incidence was 5.30% at 31 October 2011.

I am pleased that considerable progress has been made in reducing TB incidence in cattle here from its peak of around 10% in 2002. My aim is to reduce and ultimately eradicate TB in cattle here and I will continue to work towards this end.

Discussions with the Director General of DG Mare in Brussels

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide details of (i) her recent discussions with the Director General of DG Mare in Brussels; (ii) any follow-up action her Department is taking to ensure there is no ambiguity in relation to fisheries in the Irish Sea and based in Northern Ireland, specifically in respect of the positive science and measures already taken by the local fleet to reduce discards.

(AQW 5399/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I met with Lowri Evans, Director General of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on 14 November when I attended the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. I highlighted difficulties with the proposed zero TAC on cod in Irish Sea and emergency technical measures. I also stressed the importance of the Area VII Nephrops to the local fleet and set out the case for a rollover in the TAC. On Irish Sea Herring I challenged the Commission's proposal to cut this TAC by 25% on grounds that it was "data poor" pointing out the considerable body of information there was on the stock. This is described in some detail in a paper produced by AFBI. That paper will be submitted by DEFRA to the Commission together with other evidence on stocks which the Commission regard as "data poor".

In terms of discards, the Commission has seen the results of the gear trials carried out on square mesh panels which significantly reduced by-catches of haddock and whiting by more than 50%. This information is being considered in the context of the proposed emergency technical measures. I accept that there is more that our fleet could do to reduce discards in the Nephrops fishery through more selective fishing gears and my Department has, through the European Fisheries Fund committed finance to undertake further gear trials in partnership with the industry early in the New Year.

Fish Stocks in the Irish Sea

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the lines of communication between the Sea Fisheries Division within her Department, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the European Commission, that are used to convey the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute's positive assessment of fish stocks in the Irish Sea, such as herring, and the developments by the local fleet to reduce discards.

(AQW 5400/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: AFBI scientists have provided a paper on the findings of the enhanced survey work for submission to the Commission which seeks to justify an increase to the TAC for this stock. This has been sent to DEFRA and will be submitted to the Commission together with other papers on stocks which the Commission regard as "data poor". Details of previous trials on square mesh panels have been sent to the Commission directly by DARD. It is understood that the Commission is considering these findings in relation to its proposed "emergency technical measures" for the Irish Sea which may be published in the New Year.

Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how her Department will help the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other charities to deal with any increase in neglected animals during the recession.

(AQW 5403/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Animal welfare in the north is regulated under the Welfare of Animals Act 1972 and the Welfare of Animals Act 2011, as currently commenced. Under this legislation, my Department has responsibility for enforcement in respect of farmed animals and the PSNI has responsibility for the welfare of non-farmed animals. At present, the PSNI is the only organisation which has powers to seize animals which are suffering, or are likely to suffer if their circumstances do not change. When animals are seized, the PSNI has responsibility for the care of these animals while they remain seized. When carrying out these statutory duties, the PSNI can obtain assistance from animal charities such as the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA). The PSNI therefore make the necessary financial arrangements with these organisations.

The USPCA and other animal charities are funded by voluntary donations. My Department does not provide funding to any of these organisations.

From 2 April 2012, Councils here will have responsibility for enforcement in respect of non-farmed animals, including horses, under the new Welfare of Animals Act 2011. My Department will continue to work closely with all the relevant agencies to protect the welfare of animals in the north.

Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what support her Department is offering the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and other charities, in the rescue and rehabilitation of the neglected horses found recently on a farm in Co. Antrim.

(AQW 5404/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Animal welfare here is regulated under the Welfare of Animals Act 1972 and the Welfare of Animals Act 2011, as currently commenced. Under this legislation, currently only the PSNI has powers to seize animals which are suffering or likely to suffer if their circumstances do not change. When carrying out these statutory duties the PSNI can obtain assistance from voluntary organisations as it sees fit, including from animal charities such as the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA).

Regarding the recent animal welfare case in County Antrim, on receiving the initial complaint Veterinary Inspectors from my Department responded immediately and were the first on the scene. As there were no farmed animals in distress they contacted the local PSNI and remained on-site until the PSNI arrived and took over lead responsibility for this case.

I understand that a number of welfare organisations, including the Donkey Sanctuary and Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary, stepped in at the request of the PSNI and provided assistance with the rescue, transportation and on-going needs of the animals.

My Department's Veterinary Service is continuing to liaise with the PSNI on this case and may be called upon in support of an eventual prosecution.

Blocking of the Mill Race in Doagh

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action she is taking to ensure that appropriate compensation is in place following the blocking of the Mill Race in Doagh.

(AQW 5408/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Rivers Agency has no record of any incident involving the blocking of the Mill Race in Doagh and no reports of any flooding at this location. There are therefore no plans for payment of compensation.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department would consider commissioning a study to determine the impact that hydraulic fracturing could have on the beef and dairy farming industries.

(AQW 5436/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am aware that exploration for potential gas fields is regulated and that the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is responsible for granting exploration licenses.

Planning permission would be necessary before any drilling or hydraulic fracturing operations could take place. It is likely that a detailed environmental impact assessment would be required as part of any planning application. An assessment would have to take into account the impact that hydraulic fracturing could have on the beef and dairy industries, as well as the impacts on water, landscape and the tourism industry.

Should any planning permission be sought in future for drilling or hydraulic fracturing operations my Department would be a consultee on the planning application. My Department would want to ensure that any potential impact on the farming industry was fully considered and addressed.

At this stage I am both personally and politically concerned about the process of hydraulic fracturing and its potential impact on environment on the island of Ireland.

Department's Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many staff are employed in her Department's Information Service; and what is the annual cost of this service.

(AQW 5437/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development operates its Information Service via Media Services Branch which is made up of two sections, the Press Office and the Graphics Unit. There is a total of 14 staff employed in the Information Service and the total salary costs for 2010/11 were £385,505.

Fisheries Science Staff of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether fisheries science staff of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute will be back to their full complement by the end of the year.

(AQW 5457/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute has confirmed that it has procedures in place to ensure that by the end of the year (31 March 2012) it will have the full complement of fisheries science staff required to carry out its work programmes.

Disallowances Imposed by the European Commission

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide further clarity on the reasons for the disallowances imposed on her Department by the European Commission in relation to Single Farm Payments.

(AQW 5468/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In my statement to the Assembly on 21 November, I highlighted the reasons for the disallowances being imposed by the Commission.

By way of clarification, following an area aids (land eligibility) audit in 2006 audit, the Commission advised that 3 areas of control were causing them concern. These related to:

- the farm mapping system
- the on-the-spot checks carried out by the Department's inspectors; and
- the application of regulatory sanctions and recovery,

The most recent disallowance confirmed by the Commission relates to the allocation of Single Farm Payment entitlements and follows audits in 2006 and 2008. The Commission raised its concerns regarding:

- the methods used by DARD to scale back and assess awards from the National Reserve;
- entitlements having been allocated to the wrong beneficiary in conacre situations;
- land not in agricultural use was used to establish entitlements;
- entitlements were established on an area less than the overall area declared;
- an overrun of the regional ceiling.

Dog Licences

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline any plans that his Department has for dog licences.

(AQW 5470/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Earlier this year, the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011 amended the Dogs Order 1983. The amendments made a number of changes to the dog licensing system here including: introducing the power for dog wardens to attach control conditions to individual dog licences where breaches of

the Dogs Order have taken place; increasing the licence fee from £5 to £12.50, with concessionary rates for those over the age of 65, and those on certain benefits; and increasing the fee for a block licence from £12.50 to £32. These changes came into operation on 3 October 2011. As well as these changes, from 2 April 2012 compulsory microchipping of dogs will commence. From that date when applying for a dog licence, whether for the first time or for a renewal licence, it will be a condition of the licence for the dog to be microchipped.

Single Payment Scheme

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the ruling of the Parliamentary Ombudsman regarding the maladministration of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) by the Rural Payment Agency, whether she will review her Department's administration of SPS to ensure that claimants are compensated for similar 'innocent mistakes' made as a result of errors not being picked up by her Department.

(AQW 5535/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The recent British Parliamentary Ombudsman's report looked at specific cases and, in particular, at the level of service provided to English farmers in the early years of the Single Payment scheme. The compensation recommended relates to poor customer service in these cases rather than the interpretation of regulatory provisions.

My Department will consider this report, as it relates to specific cases and the level of service provided to these in the early years of the Rural Payment Agency's scheme administration. There are clear provisions within EU regulations to allow correction of obvious errors made by claimants when submitting their claims. These are carefully defined and I have arrangements in place for these to be implemented in cases of obvious error.

Single Farm Payment

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the circumstances in which a farmer could receive a Single Farm Payment for land they did not own, and therefore deprive the land owner of the payment.

(AQW 5549/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: To be eligible to apply for Single Farm payment (SFP) a claimant must satisfy all the scheme conditions as laid down by the EU. A claimant must:

- Be a farmer undertaking agricultural activity (at a minimum, this involves keeping land in good agricultural and environmental condition), ;
- Hold payment entitlements and have eligible agricultural land;
- Ensure that any individual field, or area within a field, declared to activate SFP entitlements is at least 0.1 hectares; and
- Have the land on which payment is claimed at their disposal on 15 May of the year of the claim.

A claimant does not have to own the land to be eligible for SFP, but has to ensure that all of the above conditions are met. In cases where a landowner has leased land or let land in conacre to another farmer, they need to decide who meets the eligibility conditions and agree who will claim SFP on that land.

Farmers Achieving the Best Price for their Produce

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what her Department is doing to help farmers achieve the best price for their produce.

(AQW 5648/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The price that farmers receive for their produce is a commercial matter and therefore is not something in which that I can directly intervene. However, I believe that farmers should receive a

fair price for the produce that they bring to the marketplace and I would encourage the agri-food sector, as a whole, to follow a market-led strategy to secure the best financial return.

You may be aware that I am working with the DETI Minister to put in a place a Food Strategy Board, whose role will be to develop a longer term strategy for the agri-food sector. This strategy will include challenging growth targets and, as such, its development will be important for planning future growth of the sector.

It is important to help farmers develop strong and profitable relationships with their supply chain partners and my Department proactively facilitates such communication through various supply chain initiatives. This includes support through the Supply Chain Development Programme, funded by the NI Rural Development Programme.

Assistance is also available from CAFRE and AFBI, to help farmers improve their efficiency, competitiveness and innovation and this, in turn, supports efforts to achieve better financial returns in today's competitive marketplace. I would encourage farmers to avail of this assistance in particular through local CAFRE farm advisers and also through agricultural and food technologists based at Greenmount and Loughry Campuses respectively. CAFRE staff can provide bespoke technical support and training to meet farmers' needs and enhance their efficiency and competitiveness.

Commercial Bee Colonies

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an estimate of the number of commercial bee colonies kept by commercial bee keepers in each of the last five years; and, if no statistics are available, whether her Department is aware of any reduction in the size of the bee population over this period.

(AQW 5688/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Beekeeping in the north of Ireland is typically small-scale and not commercial. There is presently no registration of beekeepers but estimates, from beekeeping associations and DARD's inspectorate, suggest that there are some 1,000 beekeepers managing in the region of 4,000 hives.

The Department is not aware of any reduction in size of the bee population over the period. While, managed honey bee colonies suffer overwintering losses, losses for 2010/11 were 16 per cent, which would be within the expected range.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Olympic Teams

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many Olympic teams have expressed an interest in training in Northern Ireland before the London 2012 Games.

(AQW 5241/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): To date Sport NI have secured three pre Games training camps in the run up to the London 2012 Games.

The three teams are the Chinese Artistic Gymnastics team, the Australian Boxing team and the Irish Paralympics Team. Council of Ireland

In addition a number of pre Games events involving International athletes have taken place in the north of Ireland. These are the Boccia World Cup, a 2012 Paralympic qualifying event; a Table Tennis tournament; and the Yonex Irish Badminton Championships, a 2012 Olympic qualifying event.

Sport NI is involved in sensitive negotiations with a number of other countries about pre Games training and qualifying events. This is a highly competitive process and therefore I am unable to detail these Countries or sports.

Promoting a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) to outline the measures she has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether she will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby her Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5245/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, all Departments are required to fulfil the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

My Department's remit impacts on the lives of many throughout our community. Sport, arts and creativity and linguistic diversity make a direct and valuable contribution to good relations and the creation of a shared and better future.

The steps taken by my Department to progress the good relations duty during the past year are detailed in our Annual Progress Report 2010/11 to the Equality Commission. The revised Departmental Equality Scheme, approved by the Equality Commission in September 2011, details the actions we are currently taking to promote a shared and better future.

The statutory equality duties require DCAL to consider how all policy development and spending decisions contribute to promoting good relations and this includes the screening of policies as recommended by the Equality Commission.

The approach to mainstreaming good relations considerations into policy development and resource allocation will also be considered as part of the development of the final Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

Departments Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many staff are employed in her Department's Information Service; and what is the annual cost of this service.

(AQW 5438/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department's Information Service had a total of 6 staff (4 Executive Information Service Officers and 2 Administrative staff) in post during 2010/11.

Pay Bill costs for this financial year amounted to £190,046.56, this includes salary costs, employer costs including superannuation, national insurance and all overtime and allowance costs.

Visitor Numbers

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what role her Department has in helping the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to achieve its target of a 20 per cent increase in visitor numbers.

(AQW 5442/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) will play a central role in helping DETI achieve its visitor target.

The department will invest £158.24m capital and £431.19m current funding in the culture, arts and leisure sector in the north of Ireland over the 4 years of the current CSR Period 2011-2015.

A number of key infrastructure projects funded by DCAL have recently been completed in Belfast including the new PRONI building in Titanic Quarter, the new Ulster Museum, the Lyric Theatre, and the Metropolitan Arts Centre is due to open early in 2012. Additionally many regional venues have also been completed.

This investment will make a significant contribution to the cultural infrastructure and cultural product that will enhance the tourism offer available here.

The department is working closely with DETI on the NI 2012 Programme at the heart of which is the Titanic celebrations but includes other projects connected with the 2012 Olympic Games.

DCAL has also committed £6.04m to the World Police and Fire Games, that will take place in 2013, and it is hoped the event will attract in the region of 25,000 visitors to Belfast.

Angling Licenses

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department has any plans to simplify angling licences, such as having a single licence for coarse and game fishing.

(AQW 5460/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The angling licensing regime was established by the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, as amended, and any changes require the full legislative process to be undertaken.

The current licensing regime recognises that there are distinct types of angling and allows anglers to only pay for that which they practice. However, to accommodate those practising both game and coarse fishing and negating the need for them to purchase two licences, the game licences also cover anglers for coarse fishing.

The Department has also introduced a number of concessionary licences to encourage participation in angling for juveniles, senior citizens and those with disabilities. There are also 3 and 14 day licences available to encourage visitors to fish legally.

While my Department keeps the licensing regime under review, there are no immediate plans to change the current system. Any future changes would be informed by the views of stakeholders.

Harmonisation of Angling Licences Across the Island of Ireland

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she plans to have any discussions with the Dublin government to harmonise angling licences across the island of Ireland, particularly to enable angling tourists to fish freely.

(AQW 5461/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have no immediate plans to have any discussions with the Dublin Government on angling licensing.

DCAL officials have had discussions with representatives of the Loughs Agency and Inland Fisheries Ireland on a range of issues of mutual interest, including angling licensing.

It is understood that the Loughs Agency is considering the feasibility of piloting an electronic licensing system within its jurisdiction.

Zebra Mussels

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the impact that the spread of Zebra Mussels is having on navigable waterways; and for her assessment of the response taken to date to tackle the spread of Zebra Mussels on the island of Ireland.

(AQW 5462/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Zebra mussels have had a significant impact on navigation activities in Upper Lough Erne due to extensive aquatic weed growth as a result of increased water clarity stemming from their capacity to filter water. This has resulted in increased maintenance costs for Waterways Ireland.

Waterways Ireland (WI) has introduced a variety of measures to stop/minimise the spread of non native invasive species, including zebra mussels, within the navigable inland waterways in the Island of Ireland such as:

- Targeted and focused bio-security protocols for all maintenance and capital works including cleaning of boats and equipment have been implemented.
- Monitoring and surveillance have been undertaken facilitating surveys on a periodical basis to document and locate potential new infestations (e.g. Survey of Introduced Aquatic Plants within the Shannon River System, 2007 – reports from Lough Derg Science Group).

WI participates in relevant invasive species working groups in order to be kept abreast of the latest information and developments with regard to Zebra mussel management. For example:

- CAISIE (Controlling Aquatic Invasive Species in Ireland - EU Life+ funded project being project managed by IFI with WI a project partner)
- Zebra Mussel Control Group (with NPWS, NIEA, QUB, AFBI NI Water and IFI)
- Invasive Species Ireland (with Loughs Agency, DOENI, DCAL, DARD, An Taisce, Bord Bia, Heritage Council, EPA, OPW, DoE)

WI works in conjunction with relevant statutory agencies to increase and raise awareness with stakeholders and members of the public with regard to Invasive Species. In this regard WI is a member of the Lough Erne Invasive Species Group

Fixed Penalty Scheme for Angling Infringements

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department has considered the introduction of a fixed penalty scheme for angling infringements.

(AQW 5515/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am aware that the Fisheries Conservancy Board, which was responsible for the enforcement of Fisheries legislation until it was abolished on 1 June 2009, gave some consideration to the feasibility of a fixed penalty scheme.

The Board concluded that there were a number of practical difficulties in introducing and operating a fixed penalty scheme in the context of fisheries legislation and decided not to proceed.

Criminal offences related to fisheries were established in the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, as amended, and if it was considered appropriate, the introduction of a fixed penalty scheme would require a major review of primary legislation.

I consider that the Act still provides a sound foundation for the conservation and protection of fisheries. Major changes to the Act to enable a fixed penalty system would be resource intensive for DCAL and is not currently a priority for the Department.

Lough Erne Game Fishery

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what level of public consultation took place prior to the decision of the Fisheries Conservancy Board to allow parts of the Lough Erne game fishery to become a coarse fishery.

(AQW 5516/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: In 2005 the Department re-defined the area on Lower Lough Erne where fishing ground bait and maggots were permitted. This was in recognition of the changing fish ecology in the Lough.

At the time in question the Fisheries Conservancy Board was the representative stakeholder forum for the range of salmon and inland fisheries interests. Prior to the Department making the Regulations it consulted with the Board on the proposals and the Board approved these in March 2004.

Consequently, the Board introduced the Fisheries (Amendment No.2) Byelaws 2004 (S.R. 504) which re-aligned the Lower Lough Erne area on which a coarse fishing licence was valid, with the new ground bait and maggots line. As this amendment was considered a consequential change following on

from the already approved new ground bait and maggots line, no further consultation was considered necessary.

Angling Permits

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the number of angling permits purchased in each Council area in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 5517/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Records of angling permit sales are not held in a manner that enables the production of a breakdown by each local council area. The table below details total permit sales for each of the last ten years.

Type of Permit	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Game Season	824	1530	1534	1530	1623
Juvenile Season	881	1628	2801	3177	3442
3 Day Game	N/A	N/A	1749	1811	1889
14 Day Game	N/A	N/A	51	40	56
Local Season	892	1405	1108	1180	1222
Coarse Season	997	1258	1080	1038	1091
3 Day Coarse	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14 Day Coarse	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Concessionary Over 60	N/A	N/A	1331	1563	1816
Concessionary Disabled	436	789	1040	1121	1175
8 Day Permit	56	44	N/A	N/A	N/A
Daily Permit	953	1354	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Sales	5039	8008	10694	11460	12314

Type of Permit	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Game Season	1593	1752	1680	1669	1293
Juvenile Season	3148	3581	3410	3622	3161
3 Day Game	1653	2228	2111	2552	2320
14 Day Game	49	37	60	43	51
Local Season	1118	1238	1244	1289	1210
Coarse Season	1195	1175	1199	1280	1221
3 Day Coarse	124	104	150	120	125
14 Day Coarse	21	8	4	7	16
Concessionary Over 60	1901	2103	2286	2582	2605
Concessionary Disabled	1429	1482	1631	1712	1744
8 Day Permit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Daily Permit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Type of Permit	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Sales	12231	13708	13775	14876	13746

Increasing Levels of Emigration

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the work her Department will take to reduce the impact that increasing levels of emigration are having on sporting organisations.
(AQW 5654/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for undertaking work to reduce the impact on sporting organisations of any existing, or potential, increase in levels of emigration rests, in the first instance, with the organisations concerned. However, under the sports strategy, Sport Matters, DCAL is, and will be, working with sports organisations and other stakeholders to help improve the north of Ireland's sporting image at home and abroad by establishing a world class sports system in the north. It is expected that improving the north's sporting image and establishing a world class sports system will help address the impact of any current or future socio-economic change, including levels of emigration, on sporting organisations.

Ulster Canal

Mr Boylan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the Ulster Canal project.
(AQO 998/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Waterways Ireland has lodged the project for planning permission in both jurisdictions.

On the 25th of October plans were submitted with Monaghan Co. Council, Clones Town Council and Cavan Co. Council in the South and on the 28th of October with the Department of the Environment (DOE) Planning Service in the North.

Waterways Ireland must await the outcome of this process before proceeding further.

Creative Industries: Professional Arts Sector

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether there is a link between the professional arts sector and developing the long term capacity for the growth of creative industries.
(AQO 999/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The creative and cultural industries are characterized by a diversity of occupations, provision and business models, including publicly subsidized companies and venues supported by the arts funding system; smaller companies accessing project funding; and commercial entities.

The richness, diversity and vibrancy of the arts sector can contribute to many aspects of creative industries including film and television production, digital media and cultural tourism.

Líofa 2015: Universities

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her Department is working with local universities to promote and achieve the Líofa 2015 campaign objectives.
(AQO 1000/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department has been engaging with local universities since the inception of the Líofa Initiative in September of this year.

Representatives of all universities in the North were invited to the Líofa launch and delegates from the University of Ulster and St Marys Teacher Training College were in attendance on the day.

Furthermore I have been engaged in correspondence with St Marys and Stranmillis Teacher Training College on Líofa.

My Department intends to continue to work with local universities as the Líofo Initiative progresses to promote and achieve the Líofo 2015 campaign objectives.

World Police and Fire Games

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the preparations for the World Police and Fire Games in 2013.

(AQO 1001/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The World Police and Fire Games will be the biggest single sporting event ever hosted in Belfast.

It will attract in the region of 10,000 competitors supported by some 15,000 family and friends from approximately 60 countries.

It is estimated that the economic benefit to the north of Ireland will be £15.5m however this is a conservative estimate as it does not take into account visitors who may return to the north on future occasions.

Additional benefits are that the Games will:

- Impact positively on sport;
- Create a strong image of the north of Ireland internationally;
- Boost tourism;
- Enhance social cohesion;
- Create a legacy effect; and
- Promote the reputation of the police, prison service and fire and rescue services both at home and abroad.

A Company Limited by Guarantee known as 2013 World Police and Fire Games Limited was established by my Department to deliver the Games in 2013. The Company was registered in Companies House on 28 February 2011.

A Chairperson and Board of Directors have been appointed with responsibility for taking forward the delivery of the Games.

Following a competition a Chief Executive for 2013 WPGF Limited was appointed and took up post on the 21 June 2011. Work is underway to develop plans to deliver successful Games.

Professional Arts

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why the delivery and growth of professional arts was not identified as a specific priority in the draft Programme for Government.

(AQO 1002/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The draft Programme for Government recognises the potential of the arts sector as an instrument for positive change.

Many people make a distinction between different types of art – professional, high art versus community arts. I want all art forms to contribute to improving our society, particularly for those most in need, whether directly through community engagement or indirectly by encouraging excellence. I am committed to supporting the arts to achieve this priority.

Department of Education

School Closures

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education to detail the savings that were made as a result of school closures between 2009 and 2011.

(AQW 5278/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The table below details the running costs, in their year of closure, of the schools closed between 2009 and 2011. The table excludes the one-off costs arising as a result of the closures such as demolition, security or redundancy costs. This information has been sourced from the Education and Library Boards.

Year	Staffing £'000	Non Staffing £'000	Total £'000
2009/2010	4,229	682	4,911
2010/2011	1,302	236	1,538
2011 to Date	1,141	150	1,291

Vacant School Buildings

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education whether any of the vacant school buildings or unused land resulting from school closures between 2009 and 2011 have been sold.

(AQW 5279/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As part of the on-going active management of the controlled schools' estate the Education and Library Boards continually look for opportunities to sell surplus assets on the open market.

Surplus land and property are disposed of in line with guidance set out by Land and Property Services, at a price that represents value for the public purse.

There is however relatively limited demand of vacant school premises in the current financial climate, and none of the vacant school buildings or unused land resulting from school closures between 2009 and 2011 (as detailed in the answer to AQW 5277/11-15) has yet been sold.

Vacant School Places

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education to detail the process for monitoring vacant school places and the triggers for action.

(AQW 5280/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Sustainable Schools Policy (published in 2009), which is the Department's framework for assessing the viability and long term sustainability of schools, sets out a minimum enrolment for primary schools of 105 pupils in rural areas and 140 in urban, and of 500 pupils (exclusive of sixth forms) in post-primary schools. This policy will be the key driver for a move to a more strategic, area based approach to planning of education provision which I have commissioned the Education and Library Boards, working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate.

Area planning is necessary to develop the effective, sustainable and affordable pattern of sustainable schools needed to provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum. It aims to have the right type and size of schools in the right place to meet local needs, and through this process the level of enrolments in schools will be adjusted in line with demand. The existence of vacant places in a school does not of itself trigger any action by the Department. However, vacancies in schools will be a consideration in the area planning process, for example, in assessing existing capacity in an area and comparing with what is needed for the future.

Development of the Ulster-Scots Culture in Schools

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Education what discussions he has had with the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure in relation to the development of the Ulster-Scots culture in schools.

(AQW 5320/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have not as yet met with the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to discuss the development of the Ulster-Scots culture in schools, although I have met the Ministerial Advisory Group on Ulster Scots to discuss relevant matters

E-Schools Project

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the work of the e-Schools Project to date.

(AQW 5347/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The e-Schools data warehouse is a secure online store for student and teacher data collected electronically from a range of sources such as the management information systems of schools and Education and Library Board (ELB) systems.

It provides schools with access to current data to assist them with self-evaluation and school improvement, and supports the ELBs and the Department of Education in their business processes in relation to the delivery of education services. The work carried out by the e-School Project to date has resulted in the delivery of the following:

- Data is automatically extracted on a daily basis and is loaded into the data warehouse each month.
- The data warehouse contains over two years of data which is available to nominated Department of Education and ELB users for reporting and analysis.
- Schools receive Monthly Report Packs and weekly validation reports covering a range of areas including attendance/absence, enrolment, assessment and examinations.
- Schools can analyse the information provided in these reports, using key indicators which allow them to assess their own performance against similar types of schools.
- ELBs and DE can use analysis tools (40 standard reports) within the data warehouse to support school performance programmes.
- Data is also grouped at regional, ELB and school level.
- Data not held in existing systems can be collected using an online e-form mechanism.

The eSchools Project Team is currently progressing work to use eSchools as a mechanism to distribute monthly teacher absence and substitution information to schools to ensure that schools are more aware of this information on a regular basis. Initial work has also been undertaken with education stakeholders to enhance the analysis capability in relation to school examinations and performance.

Home To School Transport Scheme

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education to detail the annual cost of administering the Home To School Transport Scheme.

(AQW 5364/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I am informed by the Education and Library Boards that their annual cost of administering the operational arrangements of the home to school transport scheme for the last three years is as follows:

Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Cost	£1,918,465	£1,849,115	£1,799,899

Invoices for Construction Work

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Education what proportion of invoices for construction work have been paid on time by his Department and its arm's length bodies, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5376/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education (DE), Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS), Staff Commission for Education & Library Boards (SCELB), Youth Council (YCNI), Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG) and the General Teaching Council (GTCNI) have not paid construction invoices in any of the last 3 financial years.

The table below details the percentage of construction invoices paid on time by the Department's other Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) in each of the last three financial years. The Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) have not been responsible for the direct payment of construction invoices since mid 2008.

Organisation	2008/09 %	2009/10 %	2010/11 %
Belfast Education & Library Board	100	98	94
North Eastern Education & Library Board	100	97	98
South Eastern Education & Library Board	83	92	92
Southern Education & Library Board	95	99	99
Western Education & Library Board	73	82	86
Middletown Centre for Autism	100	100	100
NICIE	0	N/A	N/A

Department's Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education how many staff are employed in his Department's Information Service; and what is the annual cost of this service.

(AQW 5444/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education's Information Service is part of the Communications Team which comprises a total of 13 staff - 5 information officers, 4 administrative staff and a Desktop Publishing Unit comprising 4 graphic design staff. In addition to press and public relations work the Communications Team has responsibility for the Departmental website and intranet, managing webmail queries, updating the NI Direct website, design and print of documents, preparation of ministerial briefings relating to school visits and oversight of internal communications. Salary costs for the 2010/11 year, when there were 14 members of staff, were £387,522.

Gross salary details include gross pay received, and corresponding employer's national insurance contributions and superannuation costs.

Chancellor's Autumn 2011 Statement

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education, in light of the funding allocated to Northern Ireland as part of the Chancellor's Autumn 2011 Statement, whether he will follow up, without delay, on the promises of his predecessor to ensure that Bangor Central Integrated Primary School receives the funding it requires for a new school building.

(AQW 5479/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Neither the Department nor the South Eastern Education and Library Board has agreed funding for a new build for Bangor Central Integrated Primary School.

As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards, working with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic area planning process to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Schools previously identified as needing a new build will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed. I recognise that this school, along with others, is facing challenges in terms of accommodation. However until the area planning work is completed, I will not be in a position to comment on a possible new build for any school.

Careers Guidance

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education, in light of the increase in unemployment, whether he intends to offer more tailored careers guidance for children and young people to maximise their employment prospects.

(AQW 5498/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department has agreed a joint careers strategy "Preparing for Success" with the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). As part of the strategy's Implementation Plan, post primary schools are working in partnership with DEL's Careers Service to ensure that the careers education, information, advice and guidance needs of young people are met. This includes providing access to Labour Market Information which takes account of current and future employment trends.

Vacant School Places

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of vacant school places in each primary school in the North Antrim area.

(AQW 5540/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of vacant places in schools is derived from the difference between a school's approved enrolment number and the number of pupils enrolled at the school. According to this calculation, in the 2010-11 academic year - the last year for which enrolment statistics are available - there were 2,738 unfilled places in primary schools in the North Antrim constituency area distributed as follows:-

School	Unfilled Places
Tildarg Primary School	6
Longstone Primary School	31
Carrowreagh Primary School	31
Garryduff Primary School	2
Buick Memorial Primary School	147
Dunseverick Primary School	38
Kirkinriola Primary School	16
Harryville Primary School	183
Lislagan Primary School	9
Gracehill Primary School	1
Landhead Primary School	2
Eden Primary School	8
Straidbilly Primary School	2
Moorfields Primary School	16

School	Unfilled Places
Carnaghts Primary School	17
The Diamond Primary School	6
Clough Primary School	0
Kells and Connor Primary School	28
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Primary School	95
Bushmills Primary School	138
Ballymena Primary School	57
Kilmoyle Primary School	14
Fourtowns Primary School	45
Knockahollet Primary School	9
Broughshane Primary School	26
Ballykeel Primary School	116
Camphill Primary School	3
Leaney Primary School	32
Armoy Primary School	69
Dunclug Primary School	176
Rasharkin Primary School	104
Carniny Primary School	6
Cloughmills Primary School	110
Portglenone Primary School	88
Hazelbank Primary School	26
Balnamore Primary School	10
Bushvalley Primary School	28
Millquarter Primary School	4
St Marys Primary School	22
St Marys Primary School	23
St Marys Primary School, Glenravel	53
St Olcans Primary School	46
Barnish Primary School	42
Braid Primary School	24
St Brigid's Primary School	34
St Anne's Primary School	23
Glenravel Primary School	12
St Patrick's Primary School	104

School	Unfilled Places
St Brigid's Primary School	136
St Patrick's Primary School	69
St Joseph's Primary School	30
St Patrick's Primary School	111
St Colmcille's Primary School	7
St Brigid's Primary School	0
St Pauls Primary School	52
Gaelscoil an Chastil	25
Ballymoney Controlled Integrated Primary School	169
Ballycastle Integrated Primary School	36
Braidside Integrated Primary School	21

Source: NI School Census and School Access Team Data

The figures exclude the enrolments of 198 pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational needs as they are admitted over and above a school's approved enrolment number.

School Uniform Grants

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of successful applications for a school uniform grant; (ii) the average value of the individual grants awarded; and (iii) the total amount of the grants awarded, in the North Antrim area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5541/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested, as provided by the North-Eastern Education and Library Board, is set out below:

	Number of Successful Applications	Average Value of Each Grant	Total Amount of Grants Awarded
2007/08	673	£69.14	£46,533.00
2008/09	880	£70.46	£62,002.00
2009/10	2,551	£51.59	£131,607.00
2010/11	3,034	£52.56	£159,458.25
2011/12 (To Date)	3,546	£51.57	£182,858.50

The figures for 2009/10 onwards include the primary school uniform grant which was introduced by my predecessor in that year, the first time that such a measure had been taken here.

In addition, the eligibility criteria were extended in 2010/11, on a phased basis, to include Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils in primary schools whose parents were in receipt of Working Tax Credit and who had an annual taxable income not exceeding £16,190. Key Stage 2 pupils became eligible under this criterion from September 2011.

Free School Meals

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to detail the percentage of pupils who are entitled to free school meals and who achieved five GCSEs at Grade A*-C, including English and Maths, in each of

the last three years; and how this figure compares to the grades achieved by those pupils who are not entitled to free school meals.

(AQW 5542/11-15)

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

Percentage of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C (inc. equivalents) including GCSE English and maths by free school meal entitlement 2007/08 to 2009/10

2007/08		2008/09		2009/10	
Entitled to FSM	Not Entitled to FSM	Entitled to FSM	Not Entitled to FSM	Entitled to FSM	Not Entitled to FSM
27.7%	61.6%	29.7%	63.6%	31.3%	64.3%

Source: School Leavers Survey

Chancellor's Autumn Statement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what new builds for schools will commence as a result of the additional funding announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

(AQW 5559/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards, working with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic area planning process to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Schools previously identified as needing a new build will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed. Potential projects may re-emerge if identified as a priority to support the area plan. I would point out that future capital investment in education will be targeted at supporting area plans.

It is the responsibility of the Executive to decide on the allocation of the additional capital funding arising from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. I can assure you, however, that I will endeavour to secure a share of this funding for the education sector.

Bangor Central Integrated Primary School

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how he intends to fulfil his predecessor's commitment to a new build for Bangor Central Integrated Primary School; and to detail the timescale.

(AQW 5560/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Neither the Department nor the South Eastern Education and Library Board has agreed funding for a new build for Bangor Central Integrated Primary School.

As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards, working with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic area planning process based on Board areas to shape the future pattern of education provision.

Schools previously identified as needing a new build, including that for Bangor Central Integrated Primary School (IPS), will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed. I recognise that this school, along with others, is facing challenges in terms of accommodation. However until the area planning work is completed, I will not be in a position to comment on a possible new build for any school.

Chancellor's Autumn Statement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the implications of the additional funding announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement for new builds for schools.

(AQW 5561/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As I set out in my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards, working with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic area planning process to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Schools previously identified as needing a new build will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needed. Potential projects may re-emerge if identified as a priority to support the area plan. I would point out that future capital investment in education will be targeted at supporting area plans.

It is the responsibility of the Executive to decide on the allocation of the additional capital funding arising from the Chancellor's Autumn Statement. I can assure you, however, that I will endeavour to secure a share of this funding for the education sector.

School Closures

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the timescale from when a development proposal is recommended by an Education and Library Board for a school closure and a Ministerial decision being taken, including the consultation period.

(AQW 5562/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When an Education and Library Board publishes a Development Proposal, a statutory 2-month consultation period commences, during which objections and other responses to it can be made directly to my Department. After this period ends, I aim to make a timely decision on each proposal.

Other than this, there is no statutory timetable for any aspect of the Development Proposal process. It is, however, my Department's view that any school authority - Board, CCMS or other - bringing forward a Proposal for publication should do so well in advance of the proposed date of implementation. This is particularly important in the case of a proposed school closure, in order to allow parents, pupils and staff to make transitional arrangements should the proposal be approved.

Pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Education to detail the total number of pupils in the (i) controlled; (ii) maintained; (iii) integrated; and (iv) Irish-medium sectors with an autistic spectrum disorder, broken down by each school year group at (a) primary school; and (b) post-primary school.

(AQW 5569/11-15)

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

PUPILS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS RECORDED AS HAVING AN AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER, BY YEAR GROUP 2010/11

Year group	School Management type				Total
	Controlled ¹	Maintained ²	Irish Medium ³	Integrated ⁴	
Nursery	15	#	0	*	31
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
1	93	73	*	#	182

Year group	School Management type				Total
	Controlled ¹	Maintained ²	Irish Medium ³	Integrated ⁴	
2	118	108	*	#	249
3	129	99	9	25	262
4	96	103	*	#	239
5	118	112	5	34	269
6	129	116	*	#	272
7	144	#	*	35	296
Total	842	740	29	189	1,800

PUPILS IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS RECORDED AS HAVING AN AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER, BY YEAR GROUP 2010/11

Year group	School Management type				Total
	Controlled ¹	Maintained ²	Irish Medium ³	Integrated ⁴	
8	96	103	0	74	273
9	102	67	0	67	236
10	82	81	*	#	225
11	80	57	*	#	188
12	79	64	*	#	202
13	15	31	0	22	68
14	8	9	*	#	27
Total	462	412	6	339	1,219

Source: NI school census

Note:

- 1 Figures for controlled schools exclude controlled integrated and controlled Irish medium schools.
 - 2 Figures for maintained schools include Catholic Maintained and Other Maintained schools, but exclude Irish medium Catholic Maintained and Other Maintained schools.
 - 3 Figure for Irish Medium schools include controlled, Catholic Maintained and Other Maintained Irish medium schools. In the primary data this sector. It also contains pupils in Irish medium units in Catholic Maintained primary schools. There are no pupils recorded as having an Autistic Spectrum disorder in Irish medium units in Catholic Maintained post-primary schools.
 - 4 Figures for integrated schools include controlled integrated and grant maintained integrated schools.
 - 5 Autistic Spectrum disorders include those pupils at Stage 1- 5 on the SEN Code of Practice, with needs recorded as Autism or Aspergers.
- ‘*’ denotes fewer than 5 pupils
- ‘#’ denotes figure greater than or equal to 5, suppressed due to potential identification of individual pupils.

Pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Education what services and support his Department provides to pupils with an autistic spectrum disorder.

(AQW 5570/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Responsibility for the provision of services and support for children and young people with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) rests with the education and library boards.

Although there may be some variation between boards in relation to the specific detail of service support, the following general elements of service delivery apply.

1 Assessment and Diagnosis

Boards' autism services work in partnership with health colleagues in relation to the diagnosis of children and young people through local multi-disciplinary assessment arrangements. This facilitates effective partnership working between education and health practitioners.

2 Training

Boards provide a comprehensive training programme to staff in mainstream schools to build capacity to support children with ASD. Training is delivered in nursery, primary, post-primary and special schools across all key stages. The core content includes:

- knowledge and understanding of the range of ASD conditions;
- awareness of the effects of ASD on teaching and learning; and
- understanding and implementing core strategies on providing for an autism-friendly classroom and school environment, working in partnership with classroom assistants and developing individually targeted social and communication programmes.

In addition, specialist training is provided to teachers and classroom assistants who work directly with children who have ASD. Programmes cover developing social skills, promoting life skills or applying behaviour principles to help with the teaching and management of pupils with ASD in classroom and school settings. Cluster group training is also provided for teachers who work in specialist settings such as autism-specific learning support classes within mainstream schools.

3 Individual Pupil Support

This includes:-

- setting autism-specific targets in individual educational plans;
- planning for children and young people going through significant transitions (e.g. from home to school, from primary to post-primary, from school to further education or the work-place);
- follow up support for pupils or their teachers/assistants or parents to help sustain and monitor progress or revise strategies during periods when the child is experiencing increased difficulties;
- engagement with parents to increase the consistency between school and home in relation to appropriate strategies; and
- support and training for classroom assistants employed in schools to meet the needs of specific pupils.

4 Specialist provision in the primary and post-primary sectors

Although most children and young people access support and provision in mainstream school, more specialist provision can be accessed in autism specific classes attached to mainstream and special schools.

5 Links with other bodies

The Inter-board ASD Service links with the Middletown Centre for Autism in planning and delivery of specialist training to mainstream schools. Inter-board ASD Services also collaborate with Middletown outreach staff to provide intensive support for a small number of children with exceptionally complex

difficulties. The Middletown Centre delivers both a Research and Information Service and a Training and Advisory Service. Advice and guidance is delivered to children through support in their home, school and community, direct support in their school placements or through a whole school approach.

Chancellor's Autumn Statement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the funding, from both the current budget and the additional funding that was announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, that will be allocated to Bangor Central Integrated Primary School in the 2011-2015 period.

(AQW 5611/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: It will be for the Executive to decide on the allocation of the additional funding announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and I will continue to seek a fair and equitable settlement for Education.

With regard to Bangor Central Integrated Primary School; as you will be aware from my Statement to the Assembly on Monday 26 September 2011, I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards, working with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic area planning process to shape the future pattern of education delivery.

Until this area planning work is completed, I will not be in a position to comment on a possible new build for any school.

Schools: Viability Audit

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education when the schools viability audit will be complete and whether he plans to take decisions on school closures in advance of receiving the final report.

(AQO 1008/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have asked for the Viability Audit reports to be submitted to my Department by the Boards by 16 January 2012.

The initial completion date for the audit was the end of December 2011.

My Department issued the Aggregated School Budget (ASB) figures for the next 3 years to all schools in November and I agreed to extend the deadline for completion of the audit to 16 January 2012.

This extension will enable the Boards to include a more accurate assessment of the financial stability of schools following the recent budget adjustments directing more money to the ASB alongside the assessments of quality of provision and enrolment trends.

It is important to remember that the Viability Audit is to identify schools that are under stress in terms of viability now and in the future. It is the start of a process which will largely be taken forward through area planning. However

I have already indicated to this House that the audit will not be used to delay any necessary actions to protect the educational well-being of pupils. I will therefore continue to take decisions on Development Proposals already initiated, including those for school closures in the best interests of pupils.

Schools: Hollywood

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Education for an update on the Hollywood multi-schools new build project which had received departmental approval to proceed.

(AQO 1010/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The multi-schools capital build project for Hollywood was announced in 2006.

It included a new school for Priory College, a new primary school for an amalgamated Redburn and Hollywood Primary and a new nursery school.

As you are aware, I have commissioned the Boards and CCMS, in consultation with the other sectors, to carry out a strategic area planning process.

The Hollywood scheme will be assessed critically as part of this process alongside other potential projects to determine the infrastructure needed to deliver the area plan.

Until this work is completed I cannot comment on any individual project.

Green-Schools Travel Programme

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Education whether schools will be participating in the Green Schools Travel Programme, which is currently active in 43 countries worldwide.

(AQO 1011/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Green Travel Programme shares its aims and objectives with those of the proposed Active Travel and Safer Routes to Schools strategies sponsored by the Department of Regional Development (DRD). The Active Travel strategy will be available for public consultation via the DRD website in the very near future, while the Department of Education has assisted the aims of the Safer Routes to Schools strategy by providing cycle shelters and lockers, signage, bus turnarounds and pedestrian paths and ramps within the school grounds. I therefore have no plans at present to introduce the Programme across schools. It is for individual schools to decide whether to participate in the Programme.

DE: Budget

Mr Sheehan asked the Minister of Education what discussions he has had with the Minister of Finance and Personnel about the shortfall in the education budget.

(AQO 1012/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The shortfall in the Department's anticipated resource spending requirements is some £101m / £177m / £214m / £291m across the 4 year Budget 2011-15 period. I continue to have on-going discussions with the Finance Minister about the impact of this shortfall and also the impact that the reduced capital budget has for the delivery of education. The latest meeting was on Tuesday 29 November 2011. I will continue to raise the shortfall in funding both with the Finance Minister and Executive colleagues.

Shared Education: Advisory Group

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Education to detail the terms of reference for the Ministerial Advisory Group on Shared Education.

(AQO 1013/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The terms of reference have not yet been set. The draft Programme for Government includes a commitment for the group to report work recommendations before the end of 2012/13. I will establish the group by 1 April 2012.

Schools: GCSE Grades

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Education how many schools have pupils leaving them without five GCSE A* to C grades.

(AQO 1015/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In 2009/10, out of 215 post-primary schools, 203 had pupils leaving without having achieved five or more GCSEs at A* to C (or equivalent).

When we look at those 203 schools, the proportion of pupils not achieving at this level ranges from less than 10% to, in the case of 18 schools, 70% or more.

When we add in GCSE English and Maths, the total increases to 214 schools; again, the proportion of pupils not achieving at this level ranges from less than 10% to, in the case of 70 schools, 70% or more.

There are many schools in the north of Ireland achieving good outcomes for their pupils; however, we still have too many young people, in schools right across the north, leaving school without the literacy and numeracy skills that are so vital to their futures and to our economy. That is why I am stepping up implementation of the range of policies aimed at raising standards for all our young people.

Early Years (0-6) Strategy

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education for an update on the development of the Early Years Strategy. **(AQO 1016/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: Departmental officials are currently considering the responses to the consultation on the draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy. It is important that the views raised in the responses to the consultation are fully considered before establishing the way forward. Given the level of interest in the consultation it is taking longer than anticipated to examine the almost 2,000 responses received. I intend, however, to publish the Early Years (0-6) Strategy as soon as possible.

We will also need to ensure that the revised Strategy takes account of the commitment in the Programme for Government to ensure that at least one year of pre-school education is available to every family that wants it.

Grammar Schools: Pupils

Ms Boyle asked the Minister of Education if social background influences whether a pupil attends a grammar school. **(AQO 1017/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: A range of statistical data strongly suggests that social and economic background influences the enrolments of post-primary schools.

2010 data showed that, of those pupils who lived in the 10% most deprived wards in the north, 20.4% attended grammar schools. In the 10% least deprived wards, 68.9% of pupils attended grammar schools. 2010 data also shows that whilst children entitled to Free School Meals represent 7% of the grammar school pupil population, they represent 18% of the total post-primary school population.

Department for Employment and Learning

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he will consider imposing sanctions on St Mary's University College, Belfast in light of the under representation of Protestants who are employed there, despite the adoption of an Equal Opportunities Policy 13 years ago. **(AQW 5168/11-15)**

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): I will not be imposing sanctions on St. Mary's University College. I am aware, however, that the situation could be improved and will be encouraging the College to try and achieve such an improvement.

Vulnerable Students

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department is taking to help vulnerable students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. **(AQW 5174/11-15)**

Dr Farry: My Department addresses this issue through a number of policy initiatives and a range of specific funding mechanisms. My Department provides support to the Further Education Regional Colleges to encourage access to Further Education (FE), by delivering a wide and varied curriculum through their main campuses, and network of community outreach centres.

My Department has also developed and implemented the Learner Access and Engagement Programme. The programme, which is currently being piloted, allows all six FE Colleges to contract with third party organisations for the provision of learner support. This support is being targeted at those 'hard-to-reach' adults, who are economically inactive, and disengaged from the labour market, with few or no qualifications, to encourage them to enrol on, and complete FE courses.

Through the Additional Support Fund, the Department also provides a range of financial support to assist colleges in discharging their responsibilities towards students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

In higher education my Department provides the universities with a widening participation premium for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and a widening access premium for students with disabilities, as well as funding for special projects aimed at increasing participation in higher education by under-represented groups. In academic year 2011/12, my Department has allocated over £2.2m to the various widening participation funding mechanisms in higher education.

My Department provides funding, through Disabled Students Allowances, to help students pay for the extra costs they may incur when studying their higher education course, as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. The allowances can help with the cost of a non-medical support provider for example a note taker, items of specialist equipment, travel and other course related costs. In the 2009/10 financial year my Department paid approximately £1,592k in Disabled Student Allowance awards.

My Department is in the lead in the development and implementation of a Northern Ireland Regional Integrated Strategy to Widen Participation in Higher Education. Analysis indicates that young people leaving care in Northern Ireland are under-represented in higher education and they, along with students from the lowest socio-economic groups and students with disabilities, will be among the target groups for Departmental interventions.

In addition, two further education colleges, Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) and North West Regional College (NWRC), and the University of Ulster have attained the Buttle UK Quality Mark for Care Leavers. This has helped enhance the level of support and provision for young people from a care background. My Department encourages the remaining four colleges and Queen's University Belfast to apply for the quality mark.

Religious Imbalance in Students Attending the Six Regional Colleges

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department is taking to address the religious imbalance in students attending the six Regional Colleges.

(AQW 5175/11-15)

Dr Farry: All six further education colleges are recognised as statutory bodies for the purpose of Section 75 of the 1998 Northern Ireland Act. Consequently, colleges are legally required to seek a range of data from all students enrolling on further education courses, including their community background.

Based upon the statistical information available, participation in all six further education colleges, by religion, is in line with the relevant age cohort from the Northern Ireland Census of population. In 2010/11, of those professional and technical enrolments at the six further education colleges with known religion, 41% were Protestant, 51% Catholic and 8% were of 'Other/No Religion'. This reflects exactly the backgrounds recorded for the relevant age cohort from the 2001 Census - 41%, 51% and 7% respectively.

On this basis, my Department has no plans to take any action at this time. Notwithstanding this, I remain committed to ensuring that further education remains fully accessible to all, irrespective of background.

Note: Sources for figures are from the Further Education Statistical Record and NI Census of Population (age cohort 5-44 years). Figures may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the qualifying criteria for receiving the Education Maintenance Allowance.

(AQW 5209/11-15)

Dr Farry: I must advise that there are currently two Education Maintenance Allowances payable in Northern Ireland. One is a means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance payable to eligible students of post compulsory school leaving age attending a school or Further Education college. The other is a non means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance payable to participants on Government training programmes.

In order to be eligible to receive the means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance, a student must:

- be aged between 16 to 19 years old (his/her birthday must fall on or between 2 July and 1 July in the relevant academic year);
- be studying full-time at school or a minimum of 15 hours at a Further Education college in Northern Ireland on an eligible course and attending every lesson in conjunction with his/her course. Eligible courses include academic and vocational qualifications up to and including Level 3;
- meet the nationality and residency requirements of the scheme;
- live in a household that has an annual income of £33,590 or less in the current academic year 2011/12; and
- have not already received the maximum allowance for Education Maintenance Allowance of 117 paid weeks.

The non-means tested Education Maintenance Allowance of £40 per week is paid to participants on the Training for Success Programme, including the Programme Led Apprenticeships and a very small number of residual trainees on the Jobskills Programme which was the previous analogous provision. It is paid under the provisions of the Employment and Training Act (NI) 1950.

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail his Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5226/11-15)

Dr Farry: Details of expenditure by the Department for Employment and Learning and its arm's length bodies, including both national and European money, specifically relating to the West Belfast constituency is below.

Expenditure for each of the last three years is as follows:

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
£19,302,917	£21,901,080	£26,680,473

Forecast expenditure for the four years to 2014-15, assuming that training programme expenditure will remain broadly the same as in 2011-12 for the years 2012-13 onwards, is:

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
£27,857,699	£27,704,811	£27,767,578	£26,618,518 excluding European Social Fund (ESF) (note 1)

This expenditure is in relation to: ·

- projects delivered by the ESF until 2013/14;
- expenditure (excluding student finance) at St. Mary's University College;
- Department for Employment and Learning Jobs and Benefits Offices (JBO) ; and
- training programme costs

Note:

- (1) The current ESF programme ceases at the end of 2014 and therefore is excluded from the 2014/15 proposed expenditure figures.

In addition to the above there is expenditure on both Steps to Work (StW)/New Deal (ND) programmes and the Local Employment Intermediary Service (LEMIS) that is not specific to a parliamentary constituency. However, we have been able to estimate the expenditure on these programmes that will relate to the West Belfast constituency. This is as follows:

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15sc
StW		£4.38m	£6.70m	£8.46m	£8.00m	n/a new programme likely	n/a new programme likely
LEMIS	£0.55m	£0.55m	£0.50m	£0.40m	£0.40m	£0.40m	£0.40m

There are a number of other areas of expenditure which we are unable to allocate by parliamentary constituency, namely the Educational Guidance Service for Adults, and the Step-Up programme, which are available in a number of West Belfast schools and Further Education college/campus allocations.

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether St Mary's University College, Belfast has provided his Department with an assurance statement to confirm that it is complying with all relevant legislation, twice a year in each year since 1998.

(AQW 5228/11-15)

Dr Farry: As autonomous bodies and employers, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are responsible for ensuring that they comply with all relevant legislation.

Prior to financial year 2010/11, all HEIs in Northern Ireland were required to complete, and return, an Annual Assurance Statement to the Permanent Secretary in my Department. This covers a wide range of financial, governance and accountability issues. From financial year 2010/11 the HEIs have been required to submit Assurance Statements twice yearly.

In each return made since 2003/04, the Principal of St Mary's University College has confirmed that internal control was adequate to provide reasonable assurance of compliance with laws and regulations. Returns made by the College before 2003/04 are no longer held by my Department.

Steps to Work Programme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of referrals made to the Steps to Work Programme in each of the last twelve months.

(AQW 5234/11-15)

Dr Farry: As participants may be referred several times before starting different strands of provision within the Steps to Work programme, it is considered more meaningful to provide the overall numbers of those who have started the Programme.

The numbers starting the Steps to Work programme from 1 September 2010 to 31 August 2011 (the most recent period for which statistics are available) are:

Month	No of Starts
September 2010	3,258
October 2010	2,014
November 2010	2,504
December 2010	1,473
January 2011	2,312
February 2011	2,470
March 2011	3,759
April 2011	1,826
May 2011	2,400
June 2011	2,109
July 2011	1,643
August 2011	2,404

European Social Fund

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much funding has been drawn down from the European Social Fund in each of the last six years.

(AQW 5269/11-15)

Dr Farry: The table attached at Annex A sets out the draw down of European Social Funding over the past 6 financial years in respect of the following Programmes that fall under the general European Social Fund heading:

- BSP: Building Sustainable Partnership
- Employment
- EQUAL
- Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF)
- Peace I
- Peace II

There have been no draw downs to date from the Commission in the financial year 2011-2012 but the ESF Managing Authority has lodged one claim with the Commission for processing to be followed by additional claims before year end.

ANNEX A**AQW 5269/11-15 - DRAWDOWNS (RECEIPTS) FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND - 2006/07 TO 2011/12**

Programme	Financial Years						
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
BSP	£55,653,362.94	£45,688,974.20	-	-	-	-	£101,342,337.14
Employment	£1,597,561.75	-	-	-	-	-	£1,597,561.75
EQUAL	£1,302,102.55	-	£1,705,485.73	-	£991,829.78	-	£3,999,418.06
NIESF	-	£6,148,016.94	-	£13,946,829.32	£18,433,092.67	-	£38,527,938.93 *
Peace I	£3,264,264.59	-	-	-	-	-	£3,264,264.59
Peace II	£31,704,750.43	£2,586,106.16	-	-	-	-	£34,290,856.59
Total	£93,522,042.26	£54,423,097.30	£1,705,485.73	£13,946,829.32	£19,424,922.45	-	£183,022,377.06

* Total includes programme advance payments made at the initiative of the European Commission.

St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what are the anticipated costs of the viability audits to assess the long-term sustainability of St Mary's University College, Belfast and Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

(AQW 5287/11-15)

Dr Farry: The actual cost of this work is not known at present. The work is required to be competitively tendered under public procurement rules. This will be done by the Central Procurement Directorate of the Department of Finance and Personnel on behalf of my Department. To give any indication of estimated cost may prejudice the procurement exercise which will seek to obtain best value for money for my Department and the public.

Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much capital money his Department has allocated to Stranmillis University College, Belfast, in each of the last five financial years.

(AQW 5321/11-15)

Dr Farry: The capital funding the Department provided to Stranmillis University College, Belfast in each of the last five financial years is shown in the table below:

2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
£4,129,608	£444,448	£145,000	£605,519	£150,000	£5,474,575

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much capital money his Department has allocated to St Mary's University College, Belfast, in each of the last five financial years.

(AQW 5322/11-15)

Dr Farry: The capital funding the Department provided to St Mary's University College, Belfast in each of the last five financial years is shown in the table below:

2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Total
£157,847	£49,774	£145,000	£499,999	£148,243	£1,000,863

Capital Budget Commitments

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what are his Department's capital budget commitments in relation to new builds for further education colleges and higher education institutes in each of the next three financial years.

(AQW 5325/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department has a capital budget allocation for the three years from 2012-13 of £79.1m, of which £75.8m is relevant to the further and higher education sectors.

Further education has a capital allocation of £26.3m for the next three financial years. £18.3m of this is committed to projects already delivered or underway in Belfast Metropolitan College – at Titanic Quarter and Springvale. The remaining £8m has not been allocated at this stage, but is intended to address minor works and statutory compliance issues within colleges. Colleges will be asked to bid for this funding in due course.

Higher education has a capital allocation of £49.5m for the next three years. At the commencement of each budget review period, the Department informs the Northern Ireland higher education institutions

of the capital budget that is being made available to them. These institutions are invited to submit projects to be considered for this funding.

St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the funding awarded to (i) St Mary's University College, Belfast and; (ii) Stranmillis University College, Belfast in each of the last three years, including the amount awarded in each instance and stated use of the funding.

(AQW 5334/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department allocates funding to the University Colleges to support three main streams of activity; these are learning and teaching and capital activities at both University Colleges, and research at Stranmillis. Capital funding is allocated on a financial year basis (April to March), whereas the other two funding streams are allocated on an academic year basis (August to July). The amount allocated to each College, by funding stream, in each of the last three years is shown in the tables below:

Stranmillis	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	Total £'000
Learning and Teaching Funding	5,753	5,645	5,282	16,680
Research Funding	60	65	63	188
Capital Funding	145	606	150	901
Total	5,958	6,316	5,495	17,769

St Mary's	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	Total £'000
Learning and Teaching Funding	5,613	5,514	5,202	16,329
Research Funding	0	0	0	0
Capital Funding	145	500	148	793
Total	5,758	6,014	5,351	17,122

Creation of a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) to outline the measures he has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether he will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby his Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5362/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) I am strongly committed to the creation of a shared and integrated society in Northern Ireland. Every Minister has a duty to promote a shared future, both individually and through collective action by the Executive. To that end, since coming into office, as detailed in my statement to the Assembly on 28th November 2011, a key action has been the launch of a far-reaching study of teacher training provision in Northern Ireland. The first part of the study will carry out an objective analysis of the financial stability and sustainability of the two university colleges. The second strand of the study will set out options for a more shared and integrated system for the delivery and funding of teacher education.

The education of our children and young people is fundamental to how our society functions. If we are to achieve a shared, inclusive future then much of that work must take place in schools so that sharing rather than separation becomes the norm. Critical to the development of a fully

integrated education system are the views of others, particularly stakeholders. I will therefore remain open to all reasonable suggestions and recommendations to ensure success in this area.

- (ii) Officials within my Department are currently working on the development of a policy tool which will be broader than the current good relations aspect of equality proofing, with a view to creating a form of shared future policy proofing. In addition to current forms of policy proofing, it is intended that this mechanism will be applied to future Departmental policies to assess whether they contribute positively to a shared society or inadvertently reinforce divisions or provide services on a segregated basis.

I intend that policies that tend towards separation will be avoided, while those that are neutral or positively advance a shared future will be favoured. I believe that these proposed innovations represent a groundbreaking development in and improvement to the policymaking process, and will demonstrate a solid commitment to a shared future by my Department.

Tuition Fees Model for Funding Higher Education

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, given the unsustainability and unpopularity of the tuition fees model for funding higher education and the expense required for its administration, what consideration he has given to alternative university funding mechanisms, such as a Business Education Tax as proposed by the University and College Union; and for his assessment of whether the potential for the devolution of the necessary taxation powers to facilitate such an alternative arrangement exists.

(AQW 5506/11-15)

Dr Farry: I am satisfied that the current settlement for higher education and students is fair and sustainable and I have not therefore considered funding mechanisms such as a Business Education Tax. Such taxation powers are not a devolved matter.

Cost of Air Travel

Mr McLaughlin asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the total cost incurred by his Department on air travel (i) between Northern Ireland and Heathrow Airport from January to December 2010; and (ii) between Northern Ireland and all airports in Great Britain, excluding Heathrow Airport, from January to December 2010.

(AQW 5578/11-15)

Dr Farry:

Heathrow	All airports in Great Britain excluding Heathrow
£6,507	£42,227

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Enterprise NI's Performance

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of Enterprise NI's performance against its Key Performance Indicators over the last five years.

(AQW 4968/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): In the last five years Enterprise Northern Ireland has delivered contracts for Invest NI in respect of both the Start a Business Programme (SABP), the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) and the Social Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP).

ENI performance against the key performance indicators within these contracts has been satisfactory in the main although specific issues arose both in the SABP in 2006 and in the delivery of EDP within the contract period April 2009 – end September 2011.

Some key targets in EDP fell significantly short of the targets, most notably those relating to the Growth Pipeline (i.e. identifying and supporting those businesses that had the prospect of being pulled through to growth businesses supported by Invest NI).

Governance Arrangements within Enterprise NI

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any concerns existed in her Department regarding the governance arrangements within Enterprise NI over the last three years. **(AQW 4969/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: The Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI), with Invest NI, commissions an ongoing review of Third Party Organisations (TPOs) and External Delivery Organisations (EDOs).

An EDO Assurance report on Enterprise NI was received from DETI Internal Audit in February 2010. The report contained a limited opinion in respect of the control environment at ENI. Significant issues noted included weaknesses in corporate governance structures, limited segregation of duties in respect of financial transactions and limited procedures in place to address the risks associated with information security.

ENI accepted the issues noted and agreed an action plan for remedial action. Invest NI undertook an oversight role in relation to the implementation of the recommendations and reported progress to DETI in quarterly assurance reports until the implementation of recommendations was complete. This was completed in June 2011 with a final progress report to the Departmental Audit Committee.

A follow up review was underway but has been halted pending the outcome of the legal process.

It should be noted that the EDO Assurance report relating to ENI considered the risk of these issues leading to a failure to use programme funds in accordance with the purpose intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly. The report noted that this risk was mitigated by the fact that all programme funds received by ENI are subject to a monitoring and vouching programme, before being disbursed.

Inward Investment and Job Creation Projects

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what progress has been made on inward investment and job creation projects from (i) North America; (ii) South-East Asia; and (iii) the European Union.

(AQW 4976/11-15)

Mrs Foster: North America and Europe are key markets for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Invest NI's strategic focus in these markets has enabled it to exceed its key performance indicators across the three year Programme for Government (FY2008-09 to FY 2010-11).

During this timeframe Invest NI secured 120 employment-related FDI projects from North America and Europe, promoting 7,218 new jobs and safeguarding 1,271 jobs with planned investment of almost £1.1 billion.

In terms of FDI Business Development (i.e. assistance towards innovation & business improvement with no direct employment consequential), Invest NI issued 502 offers with planned investment of £190 million.

FDI levels from South East Asia into Northern Ireland have been historically low. However, Invest NI continually reevaluates its strategic focus in order to take advantage of emerging opportunities. Invest NI recently reviewed its presence in Asia and has established a part time FDI representative in China. While not part of the South East Asian region – the presence in China will maintain a watching brief to take advantage of any FDI opportunities in the greater Asian region.

- i) The table below details the number of Employment Related & Business Development projects, jobs promoted and safeguarded from the regions of Europe, North America and South-East Asia in the three year period from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Region	Employment-Related				Business Development	
	Offers	New Jobs	Safe Jobs	Planned Investment £m	Offers	Planned Investment £m
North America	36	3,208	4	735.50	161	115.02
EU	84	4,010	1,267	354.42	341	75.33
South-East Asia	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	120	7,218	1,271	1,089.92	502	190.35

- ii) The table below details the total number of projects (Employment Related & Business Development), jobs promoted and safeguarded from the regions of Europe, North America and South-East Asia in the three year period from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Region	Employment Related & Business Development Totals				
	Offers	New Jobs	Safe Jobs	Assistance Offered £m	Planned Investment £m
North America	197	3,208	4	93.36	850.52
EU	425	4,010	1,267	72.41	429.75
South-East Asia	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Total	622	7,218	1,271	165.77	1,280.27

Notes:

- 1 Planned investment includes assistance offered.
- 2 New Jobs represent the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- 3 Safe Jobs represent the number jobs that would have been lost if the project was not supported.
- 4 Business development/ improvement and innovation activities will underpin business competitiveness leading eventually to growth and employment opportunities.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given the controversy surrounding the process of hydraulic fracturing, the strong impacts of the process in specific geographic regions and the potential for burden shifting, why she will not require a full life cycle analysis of the costs and benefits of hydraulic fracturing.

(AQW 5109/11-15)

Mrs Foster: It would be unrealistic to attempt a full life cycle analysis of the costs and benefits of shale gas production at a stage when so many of the input variables cannot be accurately estimated – i.e. before a detailed methodology for any drilling and hydraulic fracturing has been described as part of a drilling application. As I have made clear on many occasions, a full Environmental Impact Assessment will also be undertaken at that stage.

Promoting Jobs

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what measures her Department takes to 'promote' jobs.

(AQW 5110/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department, through Invest NI, intends to undertake a wide range of measures to meet its Programme for Government commitments and promote over 25,000 new jobs across Northern Ireland by March 2015.

This will be achieved by winning new inward investments and helping our existing foreign-owned businesses to expand and develop further. We will also focus on the development of the local indigenous business base, encouraging new business starts and by helping our existing locally-owned companies to grow to the scale required for them to compete in international markets. In addition to these measures, the newly announced Jobs Fund will also promote over 6,000 new jobs which will contribute directly to the necessary rebuilding of our economy following the impact of the economic downturn.

In addition to the above, the wide range of support and assistance available in other key areas such as innovation, research and development, creativity and skills and employability are also likely to have an indirect but positive impact on job promotion over the next three and a half years.

Programme for Government

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what was the outcome of the pledge in the last Programme for Government that at least 75 percent of new jobs would attract salaries above the private sector average.

(AQW 5118/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In the last Programme for Government, Invest NI targeted the promotion of 6,500 new jobs through inward investment projects, with at least 5,500 (75%) attracting salaries above the Northern Ireland Private Sector Median. Final results show that Invest NI has promoted 5,609 new jobs with salaries above the NI Median, and therefore exceeded the target.

Foreign Direct Investment in Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how InvestNI plans to increase Foreign Direct Investment in Derry.

(AQW 5185/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI works closely with councils and other stakeholders to review the features and benefits of each local area in order to maximise opportunities for economic growth.

For example, as part of Invest NI's 2011 International Sales and Marketing conference, staff from all of Invest NI's overseas offices attended a two day conference in Londonderry. They met with local stakeholders and listened to several presentations from Derry City Council, Ilex Regeneration programme and C-TRIC.

In November 2011, Invest NI's London office hosted a dinner event for Derry City Council, targeted at the Shared Services Sector. At this event, funded by Invest NI, the Mayor of the City of Londonderry, representatives from the Economic Development team at the City Council and representatives from the business community met with guests who are looking for a new location for a shared services centre. Invest NI are supporting all follow up activities.

It should be noted that Invest NI sells Northern Ireland as a region capable of meeting the needs of a potential inward investor. It competes for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in a crowded marketplace and its competitors are generally larger country-states (e.g. Republic of Ireland, Scotland, France, etc). Competing at a sub-regional level would be challenging and this approach would potentially dilute the Northern Ireland proposition.

This is not to say that my Department, including Invest NI, is unaware of the challenges facing local areas in Northern Ireland and we will continue to work with local stakeholders to maximise economic growth for all areas.

Tourism Ireland

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans Tourism Ireland has to promote and market Northern Ireland in (i) Russia; (ii) Portugal; (iii) Luxembourg; (iv) Azerbaijan; and (v) Israel during the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign which begins on 7 September 2012.

(AQW 5203/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Tourism Ireland will maximise the marketing opportunities around Northern Ireland matches which take place in, or involve teams from, key markets for inbound tourism. The scale of the marketing activity around the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers will depend on the location of the match and availability of access links to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Potential activity could include leveraging media attendance at, and coverage of, the Northern Ireland leg of the matches as well as inviting sports and travel media to enjoy wider familiarisation tours of Northern Ireland.

Encouraging Young People to Become Entrepreneurs

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department is taking to encourage more young people to become entrepreneurs; and how much funding her Department has provided over the last five years to encourage young people to take this career path.

(AQW 5204/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI has developed a wide range of initiatives to assist people of all ages, including those currently out of work, to start their own business or find new employment.

A number of Invest NI programmes are targeted specifically at young people. The Youth Enterprise Programme for example, currently delivered by Advantage, provides tailored, enhanced enterprise support for 16-24 year olds. The core focus of the programme is to encourage and support young people to think about and to act on business start-up and business development opportunities. Key targets for the programme are to provide business capability support to 1,000 young people, to approve 350 business plans and to identify 30 young entrepreneurs with real growth potential by November 2011. The programme provides a route to market for Invest NI to outreach to young people throughout Northern Ireland with regards to enterprise, and includes on-line and 'youth friendly' support. There is a positive association between enterprise training and new business start-ups with evidence from previous programme evaluations to suggest that specific support to young entrepreneurs is helping to deliver 'additional' business start ups into the Northern Ireland marketplace.

Further support for youth enterprise is being provided through the recently developed Jobs Fund. The Jobs Fund is a £18.8m package of temporary measures specifically created to boost employment and improve employability and will promote 5,000 jobs by 2015 with 4,000 jobs to be created by end March 2014. Building on the existing support to young people who are thinking about starting a business, a specific measure has been developed within the Jobs Fund which provides a £1,500 incentive grant to young people not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) who complete a business plan with support from Invest NI and other stakeholders and take the new business forward.

Invest NI is also focused on fostering and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in universities and colleges. Along with Enterprise Ireland, Invest NI co sponsors the 'Think Outside the Box Awards'. These awards help to stimulate ideas in enterprise amongst third level education students across the Island of Ireland and to provide capability support to those students in the business planning process.

As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week Invest NI organised an Enterprise Zone Event targeting young people aged 11-13. Pupils took a journey through 5 zones in the business planning process, starting with ideas generation through to financial planning and marketing. The purpose of the event is to

introduce pupils to the idea of entrepreneurship and enterprise at a very young age and to show that self-employment is a viable career option. Over 900 pupils from 40 schools attended the event.

Invest has spent £4,085,099 over the last five years in the provision of enterprise awareness to young people.

Tourism Ireland

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans Tourism Ireland and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board have to promote Northern Ireland in (i) Russia; (ii) Portugal; (iii) Luxembourg; (iv) Azerbaijan; and (v) Israel during the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign which begins in September 2012.

(AQW 5212/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Tourism Ireland will maximise the marketing opportunities around Northern Ireland matches which take place in, or involve teams from, key markets for inbound tourism. The scale of the marketing activity around the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers will depend on the location of the match and availability of access links to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Potential activity could include leveraging media attendance at, and coverage of, the Northern Ireland leg of the matches as well as inviting sports and travel media to enjoy wider familiarisation tours of Northern Ireland.

NITB does not have responsibility for the promotion and marketing of Northern Ireland overseas.

Promoting a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) to outline the measures she has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether she will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby her Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5215/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI is fully committed to A Shared Future – the Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in NI. Since coming into office my Department has taken various measures to promote a shared future such as action to encourage ethnic minority enterprise and sponsorship of the Business in the Community Diversity Award. I will continue to ensure that the need to promote good relations is taken into account in the roll out of all departmental policies and programmes.

Consideration of good relations is central to DETI's Equality Scheme. We have screened and proofed all of our policies and spending decisions during the period when a shared future has been in place.

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail her Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', including InvestNI, spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5233/11-15)

Mrs Foster: It is not possible to disaggregate all expenditure, actual or planned, by the Department and its arm length bodies to individual parliamentary constituencies or other administrative geographic areas.

(i) Departmental Spend

Between April 2008 and March 2011 the Department has invested some £30million on telecom projects that cover all of Northern Ireland including West Belfast.

(ii) NITB**2009/2010**

- Tourism Investment Fund - £22,395

2010/2011

- Capital development grant - £300,000

2011-2012

- NITB Events Fund - £88,000

2012-2015

- One £15,000 capital development grant for a project which is part of Belfast City Council's Titanic Signage project.

(iii) Invest NI**2009/2010**

- £3.228m

This is made up of: -

- Grants £2.929m
- Supplies of goods and services £0.299m

2010/2011

- £3.226m

This is made up of: -

- Grants £3.086m
- Supplies of goods and services £0.14m

Proposed Spend 2011-2015

- £2.473m

The proposed spend relates to the forecast drawdown on existing committed projects, and on new projects that are currently being assessed for assistance.

The forecast does not include expenditure on small value goods and services.

Shale Gas Exploration in County Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether there is a need to restore public confidence in her Department following the information that has come to light that she did not declare that her husband owns a farm holding within one of two focus areas earmarked for shale gas exploration in County Fermanagh, within the Petroleum License PL2/10.

(AQW 5236/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There has been no loss in public confidence with my Department.

European Renewable Energy Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the status of the approved 15 million euro investment by Mutual Energy in the European Renewable Energy Fund.

(AQW 5249/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Mutual Energy is a private company and, as such, the information requested is not held by DETI.

European Renewable Energy Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the 15 million euro capital investment by Mutual Energy to the European Renewable Energy Fund, along with any profits generated from the investment, will be returned to customers by way of lower energy bills; and if so, when this will take effect.

(AQW 5250/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Mutual Energy is a private company and, as such, the information requested is not held by DETI.

European Renewable Energy Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what return has been generated from Mutual Energy's 15 million euro investment in the European Renewable Energy Fund.

(AQW 5251/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Mutual Energy is a private company and, as such, the information requested is not held by DETI.

Natural Gas Storage Project Near Larne Lough

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, given that Mutual Energy is involved in the initial phases of a natural gas storage project near Larne Lough' and that it is underwritten by energy customers through the mutual model, what measures and controls are in place to ensure that the company is not exposed to the costs or risks of the natural gas storage start-up project.

(AQW 5252/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Energy consumers' obligations to Mutual Energy are enshrined in transmission licences granted under Northern Ireland energy legislation and issued to Mutual Energy's subsidiary companies, Moyle Interconnector Limited, Premier Transmission Limited and Belfast Gas Transmission Limited. The various licences include measures and controls that restrict the costs and risks of the licence holder. Express regulatory approval and agreement is required for anything beyond the scope of the licences in these companies.

Tourist Board's Events Fund

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the funding that has been awarded to organisations in each district council area from the Tourist Board's events fund since it was established.

(AQW 5266/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland Tourist Board's first Tourism Events Fund launched in February 2011 and operates as an open call. For 2011-12 financial assistance was granted to event organisers in each of the following council areas:

NI Council Area	Funding Awarded	No. of Events Funded
Antrim	£13,000	1
Armagh	£12,000	2
Belfast	£899,000	23
Coleraine	£71,000	2
Cookstown	£20,000	1

NI Council Area	Funding Awarded	No. of EventsFunded
Craigavon	£6,000	1
Londonderry	£40,000	2
Down	£38,000	2
Fermanagh	£35,000	1
Larne	£35,000	1
Lisburn	£103,000	4
Magherafelt	£20,000	1
Moyle	£15,000	1
Newtownabbey	£10,000	1
Omagh	£30,000	2
NI wide (3 events that take place across Northern Ireland in more than 1 council area)	£34,000	3

Sustainable Energy Interdepartmental Working Group

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the role of the Sustainable Energy Interdepartmental Working Group; and whether it plans to take forward recommendations for the establishment of a single energy department.

(AQW 5283/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Sustainable Energy Inter-departmental Working Group (SE IDWG) was agreed by the Executive in December 2008, primarily to ensure a co-ordinated approach across Government to sustainable energy. In February 2011, the Executive agreed a number of recommendations from SE IDWG including consideration of the consolidation of energy vires to reduce fragmentation of responsibility for sustainable energy issues across departments.

My Department has completed a cost benefit analysis on options for bringing together energy vires and functions. The analysis will be considered by the SE IDWG on 9 January 2012 and options include the establishment of a single energy department.

InvestNI

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of potential investors that InvestNI has encouraged and facilitated to visit the (i) Omagh; and (ii) Strabane areas in each of the last four years; and to detail the number of jobs created as a result.

(AQW 5291/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Foreign Direct investment (FDI) plays a large part in the economic growth of Northern Ireland and Invest NI has a very successful track record of attracting high quality investment which will benefit the whole of the region. Invest NI is building on this success by working closely with local stakeholders to maximise investment and employment opportunities in all areas.

It is not possible to align individual visits with specific employment related FDI projects. A company may visit a number of times before making the decision to invest, in which case it could be said that each visit has resulted in job promotion. On the other hand, a company may visit once, make an initial investment and then follow this up with further investment. In this case the one visit would have resulted in more than one investment project.

Table 1 shows that in the last four financial years, 2007-08 to 2010-11, Invest Northern Ireland hosted (i) 3 FDI inward visits to the Omagh District Council Area (DCA) and (ii) none to the Strabane DCA.

Table 2 shows that in the same period, Invest NI promoted 445 new jobs in total across the Omagh and Strabane DCAs, 191 of which were promoted by externally owned clients.

Securing an inward investment may span a considerable period, 18 to 24 months, and is the result of many factors which may, or may not, include visits to different locations. There is often a further time lag between securing an investment and jobs ultimately being created. It should be noted that the number of jobs promoted in Table 2 includes all jobs promoted by Invest NI. This includes both new and repeat indigenous investors, new inward investors and reinvestments by existing inward investors. It is therefore not possible to directly link the number of visits in Table 1 to the number of jobs in Table 2.

TABLE 1: FDI INWARD VISITS (CREDIBLE1) IN OMAGH & STRABANE DCA (2007-08 TO 2010-11)

DCA	Financial Year				Total
	2007-08	2008-09 ²	2009-10	2010-11	
Omagh	1	2	0	0	3
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	2	0	0	3

Notes:

- 1) A credible visit is defined as one where Invest NI can claim to have promoted a DCA or PCA by bringing a potential inward investor, who has an identifiable project proposal, to that area.
- 2) Includes visits as a result of the USNI Conference in May 2008.
- 3) In addition to the above listed visits, Invest NI has also facilitated a number of visits by other organisations e.g. influencers, overseas governments and trade bodies, which serve to strengthen FDI & Trade links in overseas markets.

TABLE 2: ALL NEW JOBS PROMOTED IN OMAGH & STRABANE DCA (2007-08 TO 2010-11)

DCA	Financial Year				Total
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	
Omagh	134	36	35	61	266
Strabane	65	35	71	9	179
Total	199	71	106	70	445

Notes:

- 1) New jobs promoted are those jobs that are expected to be created by the project. .
- 2) Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.

Fuel Prices

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department intends to take to regulate fuel prices to address the increasing price of fuel which is placing a strain on households.

(AQW 5293/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Office of Fair Trading study of the off-grid energy market showed that the UK market is competitive and retail heating oil prices are lower in Northern Ireland than other parts of the UK. It concluded that regulation is unlikely to have a significant impact on overall fuel prices. Taxes on fuel

and retail prices, which respond to fluctuating international wholesale prices, are outside the control of my Department.

Internet Speed Greater Than 2 mbps Using a Fixed Line Telephony Service

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of (i) business premises; (ii) all public premises, such as schools and libraries; and (iii) domestic properties in each district council area that cannot connect to the internet at a speed greater than 2 mbps using a fixed line telephony service.

(AQW 5342/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The detailed information requested is not available. However a research report produced by Ofcom, the independent telecommunications regulator, in August 2011 ('Communications Infrastructure Report 2011'), estimates that 25.7% of premises in Northern Ireland are unable to get a 2Mbps service using fixed line. This report does not distinguish between households, business consumers or public premises and omits the significant investment made by DETI and BT in Fibre to the Cabinet technology. It does though provide information at council level and is available on Ofcom's website.

Internet services are provided via a range of technologies in addition to fixed line telephone wires including wireless, mobile and satellite technologies. Currently all premises can get services greater than 2Mbps if they wish.

Work commissioned by my Department estimates that some 80,000-100,000 premises are currently unable to 2Mbps service delivered via fixed line, radio or mobile broadband technologies and the range, as a percentage of properties in each council area, is shown below:

Council Area	From	To
Antrim	10%	16%
Ards	5%	9%
Armagh	21%	34%
Ballymena	15%	21%
Ballymoney	16%	25%
Banbridge	15%	25%
Belfast	0%	0%
Carrickfergus	1%	2%
Castlereagh	0%	1%
Coleraine	8%	12%
Cookstown	28%	41%
Craigavon	2%	4%
Londonderry	2%	3%
Down	20%	28%
Dungannon	20%	32%
Fermanagh	29%	42%
Larne	7%	11%
Limavady	13%	19%

Council Area	From	To
Lisburn	2%	6%
Magherafelt	27%	40%
Moyle	12%	20%
Newry and Mourne	18%	28%
Newtownabbey	0%	1%
North Down	0%	0%
Omagh	36%	47%
Strabane	22%	29%

Further work has commenced to refine this information further. This work is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

Telecommunications Trials Carried Out in Ballinamallard and Ballintoy

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what has been learnt from the telecommunications trials carried out in Ballinamallard and Ballintoy.

(AQW 5343/11-15)

Mrs Foster: This trial was conducted under the £1.9m Broadband Fund and examined if backhaul via satellite could be used to deliver reliable, mobile voice and data services in rural areas un-served by mobile infrastructure.

The trials showed that satellite provides a sufficiently robust platform for delivery of mobile services. Successful results were noted for voice calling (including an industry-accepted level of delay known as latency), internet browsing using mobile handsets, video streaming (eg Youtube), e-mail and messaging services.

Post-trial Avanti has continued its discussions with the mobile industry to examine opportunities for collaboration in delivery of wide-scale trials and commercialisation of services.

Telecommunications Infrastructure in Rural Border Areas

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what work is being carried out by her Department, with the Department of Communications Energy and National Resources, and other cross-border bodies, to improve telecommunications infrastructure in rural border areas.

(AQW 5344/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department is currently not involved in work with any cross-border bodies to improve telecommunications infrastructure in rural border areas, but continues to work in partnership with the ROI's Department of Communications, Energy and National Resources to monitor Hibernia Atlantic's performance against its obligations under the Project Kelvin contract.

In addition, last week I met with the promoters of a proposed cross-border telecommunications infrastructure project, recently rejected by the Special EU Programmes Body, to consider how any revised proposal could provide enhanced benefits to Northern Ireland.

Satellite Broadband

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the average download speed for customers connecting via satellite broadband; and (ii) the average monthly charge for satellite broadband under the Broadband Fund.

(AQW 5345/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The information requested with regard to the average download speed for customers connecting to the internet via satellite broadband technology is not available. DETI does not gather such information and, while the telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, produces reports on broadband speeds across the UK, these are based on access via fixed-line technologies and do not include services delivered using satellite, wireless or mobile technologies.

As I have advised in response to previous Assembly Questions, my Department has a contract in place with Avanti Communications under which satellite broadband services are available to all premises across Northern Ireland where, due to distance of premises from the telephone exchange, a fixed-line service is not currently economically or technically viable.

Through this contract, which is not supported through the Broadband Fund but is funded under DETI's main provisions, Avanti is offering six specific products (four residential and two business) providing broadband services with headline download speeds of between 512Kbps and 3Mbps. The prices for these products are fixed and details can be found at www.avantiplc.com/products/consumers/northern-ireland-broadband.

Department's Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the current (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in her Department's Information Service.

(AQW 5350/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There are 5 information officers and 2 administrative staff working in Departments information service.

The total cost for staff in 2010/11 was £251,845.

Invoices for Construction Work

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what proportion of invoices for construction work have been paid on time by her Department and its arm's length bodies, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5378/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The table below gives the proportion of invoices for construction work paid on time for each of the last three years.

Body	2011/12 (8 months)	2010/11	2009/10
DETI*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Invest NI	98%	96%	92%
NITB*	N/A	97%	N/A
CCNI*	N/A	95%	94%
HSENI*	N/A	N/A	N/A

*N/A – the body did not pay any construction related invoices in the year.

Rugby World Cup

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, following the positive statement from the Irish Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Leo Varadkar, whether she will meet with Irish Rugby Football Union officials to discuss the potential for the Rugby World Cup to be held in the island of Ireland in 2023; and whether she will work to support games taking place here.

(AQW 5707/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I welcome the statement of interest from the Republic of Ireland's Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in bidding for the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board is currently developing a Tourism Events Plan for Northern Ireland that will identify opportunities to bid for major events in partnership with other host countries and organisations. Consideration will be given in due course to the most appropriate event opportunities that will deliver a lasting legacy for Northern Ireland, with Tourism Ireland providing worldwide promotion of these opportunities.

Department of the Environment

Staff: Third Level Education Courses

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of staff in his Department who have undertaken a third level education course paid for (a) in whole; or (b) in part by his Department in each of the last three years; (ii) the (a) titles; (b) fees or costs of the courses of study undertaken; (iii) if the course was full-time or part-time; and (iv) the educational institute which provided the course.

(AQW 3758/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): Details of the number of staff who have undertaken a third level education funded in part or in total by the Department in each of the last three years are enclosed in the attached table.

2008/09 AQW 3758/11-15 RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
BTEC (Business & Technology Education Council)	Countryside and Fisheries Management	Part Time	Full	£350.00	North West Regional College	1
CIPFA Diploma (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy)	Level 2 Professional Qualification	Part Time	Full	£1,407.80	CIPFA	1
Accounting Technician	Association of Accounting Technicians	Part Time	Partial	£753.84	Association of Accounting Technicians – London	1
Associate Membership	IEMA Associate Environmental Management	Part Time	Partial	£552.00	University of Bath	1
BA (Bachelor of Arts)	Management & Business Studies	Part Time	Partial	£531.20	Queen's Belfast	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSc Honours in Business	Part Time	Partial	£1,429.30	UUJ Jordanstown	2
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	Environmental Studies	Part Time	Partial	£488.00	Open University	1
BTEC HNC (Business & Technology Education Council) (Higher National Diploma)	Planning	Part Time	Partial	£1,124.86	Belfast Metropolitan College	2
BTEC National Certificate (Business & Technology Education Council)	BTEC Nat Cert in Vehicle Repair	Part Time	Partial	£852.80	Lisburn Technical College	4
BTEC National Certificate (Business & Technology Education Council)	BTEC Nat Cert in Vehicle Repair & Technology, City & Guilds Level 4.	Part Time	Partial	£276.80	Lisburn Technical College	1
BTEC National Diploma (Business & Technology Education Council)	Countryside and Fisheries Management	Part Time	Partial	£275.00	North West Regional College	2

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
CIM Pro Cert (Chartered Institute of Marketing)	Marketing	Part Time	Partial	£841.60	Belfast Metropolitan College	1
CIMA Professional Accountancy Qualification (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)	Chartered Management Accountant	Part Time	Partial	£544.75	CIMA	1
City & Guilds	Computer Aided Design	Part Time	Partial	£145.60	South Eastern Regional College, Bangor	1
Degree in Understanding Law	LLB W200- Understanding Law.	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Open University	1
Foundation Degree	Information Communication and Technology	Part Time	Partial	£272.00	Open University	11
HNC in Business (Higher National Certificate)	HNC in Business	Part Time	Partial	£200.00	South Eastern Regional College, Bangor	1
IATI (Accounting Technician Ireland)	Accounting Technicians in Ireland	Part Time	Partial	£962.40	ATI	1
HNC Level 2	Environment	Part Time	Partial	£1,093.00	Open University	1
MA (Master of Arts)	Town & Country Planning	Part Time	Partial	£3,499.75	Uni of West of England, Bristol	3
Member of Association of Chartered Certified	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	Part Time	Partial	£213.60	UUJ Jordanstown	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Management	Part Time	Partial	£5,448.00	University of Ulster	6
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Toxicology & Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£912.00	University of Ulster	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Geographic Information Science	Part Time	Partial	£864.00	University of Ulster	1

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
MSc (Master of Science)	Human Resource Management	Part Time	Partial	£912.00	UUJ Jordanstown	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Science	Part Time	Partial	£912.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Post Graduate Diploma)	Geographical Information Systems	Part Time	Partial	£1,184.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Analytical Chemistry	Part Time	Partial	£660.00	Swansea University	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Cultural Management	Part Time	Partial	£912.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Environmental Toxicology & Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£1,840.00	University of Ulster	2
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Town & Country Planning	Part Time	Partial	£1,421.20	Queen's University	1
PgDip/MSc (Postgraduate Diploma/ Master of Science)	Aquatic Ecosystem Management	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Edinburgh University	1
Total Cost	£32,879.50					

2009/10 AQW 3758/11-15 RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	Environmental Planning	Full Time	Full	£16,580.00	Queen's University	1
CIPFA Diploma (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy)	CIPFA Diploma	Part Time	Full	£1,981.00	CIPFA	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Urban Planning & Property Development	Full Time	Full	£31,090.00	UUJ Jordanstown	2
Access Diploma	Access Diploma in Social Sciences & Humanities.	Part Time	Partial	£206.00	NRC Coleraine	1

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSc Hons in Business Studies	Part Time	Partial	£884.00	UUJ Jordanstown	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSc Hons in Business Studies.	Part Time	Partial	£355.20	Magee College, Londonderry.	1
BTEC National Certificate (Business & Technology Education Council)	BTEC Nat Cert in Vehicle Repair & Technology	Part Time	Partial	£299.20	Lisburn Technical College	1
BTEC National Certificate (Business & Technology Education Council)	BTEC National Certificate in Motor Vehicle Engineering	Part Time	Partial	£240.00	Lisburn Technical College	1
Degree in Understanding Law	LLB W200- Understanding Law.	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Open University	1
Diploma	Administrative Management	Part Time	Partial	£800.00	Belfast Metropolitan College	1
Diploma	LCCI Private Secretary Diploma	Part Time	Partial	£535.00	Belfast Metropolitan College	1
Diploma	LOCI (London Chamber of Commerce and Industry) Private Secretary's Diploma	Part Time	Partial	£316.80	LOCI	1
Foundation Degree	ICT	Part Time	Partial	£320.00	Open University	1
HNC - Administration & IT Management (Higher National Certificate)	HNC - Administration & IT Management.	Part Time	Partial	£288.00	UUJ Jordanstown	1
HNC - Higher National Certificate	Estate Management	Part Time	Partial	£864.00	Belfast Metropolitan College	2
M Phil (Master of Philosophy)	Setting Standards for the Marine Environment	Part Time	Partial	£912.00	University of Ulster	1

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
MA (Master of Arts)	Town & Country Planning	Part Time	Partial	£3,000.00	Uni of West of England, Bristol	3
MBA (Master of Business Administration)	Business Administration	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	University of Ulster	1
Member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	Part Time	Partial	£644.40	UUJ Jordanstown	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Aquatic Ecosystem Management	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Edinburgh University	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Management	Part Time	Partial	£6,972.00	University of Ulster	8
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£936.00	Open University	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£3,744.00	University of Ulster	4
MSc (Master of Science)	Science	Part Time	Partial	£944.00	Open University	1
Nebosh Level 3 certificate in Occupational H&S	Nebosh Level 3 certificate in Occupational Health & Safety.	Part Time	Partial	£100.00	UUJ Jordanstown	1
PgDip (Post Graduate Diploma)	Geographical Information Systems	Part Time	Partial	£480.00	Uni of Ulster	11
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Cultural Management	Part Time	Partial	£992.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Environmental Management	Part Time	Partial	£912.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Environmental Protection	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£1,848.00	University of Ulster	2
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Geography	Part Time	Partial	£880.00	Queen's University	1

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
Total Cost				£81,123.60		

2010/11 AQW 3758/11-15 RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	Environmental Planning	Full Time	Full	£16,880.00	Queen's	1
CIPFA Diploma (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy)	CIPFA Diploma -	Part Time	Full	£3,416.00	CIPFA	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Urban Planning & Property Development	Full Time	Full	£16,880.00	UUJ Jordanstown	1
NEBOSH (National Examination Board in Occupational Safety & Health)	NEBOSH General Certificate	Full Time	Full	£1,024.00	Safety Advice Centre	1
Access Diploma	Access Diploma in Social Sciences & Humanities.	Part Time	Partial	£297.00	NRC Coleraine	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSc (Hons) Business Studies	Part Time	Partial	£932.00	University of Ulster Coleraine	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSC Hons in Business Studies	Part Time	Partial	£726.40	UUJ Jordanstown	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSC Hons in Business Studies.	Part Time	Partial	£1075.60	Magee College	2
BTEC National Certificate (Business & Technology Education Council)	BTEC Nat Cert in Vehicle Repair & Technology	Part Time	Partial	£284.24	Lisburn Technical College	1
Degree in Understanding Law	LLB W200- Understanding Law.	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Open University	1

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
HNC - Administration & IT Management. (Higher National Certificate)	HNC - Administration & IT Management.	Part Time	Partial	£288.00	UUJ Jordanstown	1
MA (Master of Arts)	Cultural Management	Part Time	Partial	£955.20	University of Ulster	1
MA (Master of Arts)	Town & Country Planning	Part Time	Partial	£2000.00	University of England, Bristol.	2
Member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	Part Time	Partial	£644.40	UUJ Jordanstown	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Earth Science	Part Time	Partial	£288.00	Open University	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Management	Part Time	Partial	£7540.80	University of Ulster	8
MSc (Master of Science)	Geographic Information Systems	Part Time	Partial	£256.80	University of Ulster	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Science	Part Time	Partial	£972.00	Open University	1
National Diploma in Advance Driving Instruction	Rospa Diploma in Advanced Motorcycle Instruction	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	ROSPA Head Office Birmingham	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Analytical Chemistry	Part Time	Partial	£838.00	Swansea University	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Environmental Protection	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£1432.80	University of Ulster	2
Total Cost				£59,731.24		

2011/12 AQW 3758/11-15 RESPONSE TEMPLATE

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
CIPFA Professional Qualification (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy)	CIPFA Professional Qualification	Part Time	Full	£551.00	CIPFA	1
National Diploma	NEBOSH	Part Time	Full	£4,150.00	Health & Safety Services	1
NVQ (National Vocational Qualifications)	Level 4 AAT	Part Time	Full	£1,639.00	CIPFA	1
PgDip (Post Graduate Diploma)	Postgrad Diploma in GIS	Part Time	Full	£1,350.00	University of Ulster, Coleraine.	1
The City and Guilds of London Institute - Essential Skills	C&G Certificate Essential Skills - ICT (Level 2)	Part Time	Full	£298.40	SE Regional College, Lisburn	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	BSc (Hons) Business Studies	Part Time	Partial	£932.00	University of Ulster	1
BSc (Bachelor of Science)	Open Degree: Geology Environmental Modelling and Control, The Environmental Web	Part Time	Partial	£725.20	Open University	1
Certificate in Business Studies	An Introduction to Business Studies	Part Time	Partial	£450.00	Open University	1
Certified Technician	Comp TIA A+	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Home Learning College	1
Degree in Understanding Law	LLB W200- Understanding Law.	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	Open University	1
LLM (Master of Law)	LLM Environmental Law and Sustainable Development	Part Time	Partial	£457.45	Queen's Belfast	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Management	Part Time	Partial	£2097.55	University of Ulster	4

Qualification	Course Title	Full/Part Time	Fully Funded/ Partially Funded	Total Costs Paid by DOE	Institution	No. of Staff
MSc (Master of Science)	Environmental Toxicology & Pollution Monitoring	Part Time	Partial	£2884.90	University of Ulster	4
MSc (Master of Science)	Geographic Information Systems	Part Time	Partial	£725.20	University of Ulster	1
MSc (Master of Science)	Law in Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development	Part Time	Partial	£3,600.00	Queen's, Belfast	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Analytical Chemistry	Part Time	Partial	£985.00	Swansea University	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Archaeology	Part Time	Partial	£825.20	University of Ulster	1
PgDip (Postgraduate Diploma)	Geographic Information Systems	Part Time	Partial	£274.47	University of Ulster	1
PhD in Business Process Improvement	PhD in Business Process Improvement	Part Time	Partial	£1,000.00	University of Ulster	1
Total Cost				£24,945.37		

£10,000 Fee for Environmental Impact Assessments on Farms

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the suitability of the £10,000 fee for Environmental Impact Assessments on farms, given that environmental impact information is already gathered under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control regulations. (AQW 3841/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I am advised that the environmental impact information provided for Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licensing cannot be used as an alternative to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for farms as they are separate regulatory processes. I have requested further advice as to why information for an IPPC cannot be used for an EIA. However, in recognition that there may be a degree of overlap between the two processes, the Department intends to consider how the work carried out in support of an IPPC application would need to be supplemented to satisfy EIA requirements. Any re-assessment of the additional EIA application fee for farms will be subject to the outcome of this work. I have also asked when will the consideration by my Department next be concluded and shall update the member further in due course.

Leasing of Council Property

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to list the councils that have a policy on the leasing of council property. (AQW 4424/11-15)

Mr Attwood: My officials have contacted each district council and have been advised that none operates a formal policy on the leasing of council property. Each case is dealt with on its own merits against the background of the council's wider policies on the acquisition and disposal, and with the benefit of legal advice.

I have been impressed by the actions of some councils – Newry and Mourne in particular – where opportunities to “lease” land or property to local organisations, with my approval has worked well. Finally, I instructed officials a number of months ago to share this best practice with other councils in an effort, in these difficult times, to create new opportunities for leasing, letting and renting of property to local organisations to enable communities to be better served.

EU Environmental Infraction Fines

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment what EU environmental infraction fines could be imposed, based on the current state of the environment. (AQW 4479/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In my view the current risk of EU environmental fines being imposed on Northern Ireland because of the state of the environment is low. That is because officials in the Department, often in conjunction with the other UK administrations, seek to ensure that all European environmental legislation is fully transposed into our national legislation in a timely and effective manner. Where the European Commission instigates infraction proceedings, our approach is to engage with the Commission to either defend our position or to identify the necessary action to fulfil our obligations. In the case of the latter this may be through introducing revised policy, legislation or enforcement activity within an agreed timescale. The Commission's objective is usually to achieve compliance rather than impose a fine and to date our approach has worked well with no fines having been imposed. We will continue to work closely with the Commission to ensure that this remains the position in the future.

The Department is currently dealing with six live infractions where it is the Commission's view that either transposition or implementation issues exist. These relate to the Public Participation Directive, the Wild Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the End of Life Vehicles Directive and the Driving Licences Directive.

I also understand that, while there is no current infraction case relating to the protection and restoration of Modiolus in Strangford Lough, the Commission has received a letter of complaint from

the Ulster Wildlife Trust. Should the Commission contact us in relation to this complaint, I will work closely with the DARD Minister on practical measures to try to ensure that infraction proceedings are not instigated against both Departments.

MOT Tests

Mr Dickson asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the proposed changes to MOT tests, whether any financial support will be made available for small automobile repair shops to invest in the technology necessary to prepare vehicles for the proposed revised MOT test.

(AQW 4554/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The proposed changes to MOT tests are required by European Commission Roadworthiness Directive 2009/40/EC (as amended). The Department must implement such Directives to avoid possible infraction proceedings and resultant fines.

The MOT test changes include checks of malfunction indicator lights. The majority of established repair shops have the diagnostic equipment and systems required to ensure that they can deal with auto-electronic system failures or have arrangements for diagnostic equipment to be accessed. The Department has no plans at present to make financial support available for small repair businesses to assist in purchase of such equipment.

The new tests do not apply to all vehicles. Those that do so relate to electronic safety and warning systems and vehicle construction and use. However, a number of new test items apply only to goods vehicles, buses and trailers, such as additional braking devices. At the same time, a number of test items are being upgraded to ensure that vehicles are properly maintained and tested. This will make a significant contribution to road safety and environmental protection.

Cost of Answering Assembly Questions

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of the Environment for an estimate of the average cost to his Department to respond to written, oral and urgent oral Assembly Questions tabled by Jim Allister MLA, since May 2011.

(AQW 4597/11-15)

Mr Attwood: OFMDFM have provided central guidance on answering this AQ. The Department does not routinely estimate the cost of answering Assembly Questions and therefore the information requested is not available.

Development and Promotion of Sports

Mr Swann asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the funding his Department has provided for the development and promotion of (i) rugby; (ii) soccer; (iii) Gaelic games; and (iv) motor sports in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4738/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department has provided no funding in each of the last three years for the development and promotion of (i) rugby; (ii) soccer; (iii) Gaelic games; and (iv) motor sports.

Road Safety for Motorists

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment what plans his Department has to improve road safety for motorists.

(AQW 4746/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department is currently taking forward a number of plans to improve road safety for motorists.

Road Safety Strategy

The Department has lead responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland and works with partners in DRD's Road Service, the Department of Education, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Ambulance Service to deliver measures that will save lives on our roads.

The Strategy contains 199 education, engineering and enforcement measures and considers roads, vehicles and road users together to ensure that each takes account of limitations or potential weakness in the other two. There are measures under each of these three areas to address the safety of motorists.

The measures that fall to the Department for delivery mainly focus on improving and supporting positive changes to driver behaviour and attitudes. These aim to improve the training and preparation given to novice drivers, provide for continuing learning throughout their driving life, including remedial education and training for errant drivers, and promotion of messages to raise awareness of poor or dangerous driver behaviours and attitudes that lead to deaths and serious injuries. For those who drive for work, the Department will highlight the risks of 'at work' road collisions and promote with employers the importance of managing occupational road risk and their legal responsibilities in this area.

For more detail on any of these measures I would refer you to the Road Safety Strategy to 2020.

Road safety awareness campaigns

Through its ongoing programme of road safety awareness campaigns the Department continues to deliver messages to motorists and other road users, with particular emphasis on those responsible for causing casualties and those most at risk.

MOT testing

Roadworthiness Directive 2009/40/EC (as amended) has introduced a number of changes to MOT testing to keep pace with advances in motor vehicle technology. A public consultation on the changes was issued by the Department on 14 November and, following its close on 2 January 2012, it is planned to apply the changes to cars, heavy goods vehicles and buses from 1 February 2012. This will ensure such vehicles are properly maintained and tested and make a significant contribution to road safety for motorists.

Marine Conservation Designation Programme

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) what process will be used to determine the Marine Conservation Designation Programme; and (ii) how he will ensure that other Departments, with a responsibility to protect the marine environment, contribute to this process.

(AQW 4779/11-15)

Mr Attwood:

- (i) As part of my commitment to marine biodiversity, I intend to take forward legislative provisions for creating a network of national protected areas, known as Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in our territorial waters.

The approach to identify MCZs will be based upon the use of best available scientific evidence. It is intended that MCZs will complement the existing site designation and protection measures for European marine sites, and contribute to an ecologically coherent UK network.

- (ii). Stakeholder participation, including taking account of other Departments interests, will be a crucial element in the designation of MCZs. Social and economic considerations will be fully explored, in parallel with environmental objectives. A duty will be placed on Departments and other public bodies to ensure that the conservation objectives of a designated site are not adversely affected when undertaking their activities.

Guidance on MCZs will be developed in tandem with draft Marine legislation and will be consulted upon. While this guidance material will not be statutory, the Department will follow these procedures when designating sites.

Ulster Wildlife Trust

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment how much funding his Department, or its arm's-length bodies, have allocated to the Ulster Wildlife Trust in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4817/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department, through the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Natural Heritage Grant Programme, has provided funding to the Ulster Wildlife Trust over the last 5 years as follows:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Ulster Wildlife Trust Funding	£202,859	£285,314	£199,021	£318,402	£213,593

Public Appointments

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of the Environment to list the public appointments both he and his predecessor have made since May 2007.

(AQW 4822/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As Minister of the Environment I have responsibility for appointing individuals to the following public bodies:

- The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC);
- The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (LGSC);
- The Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC);
- The Historic Buildings Council (HBC) and
- The Historic Monuments Council (HMC).

Since May 2007, there have been a total of 49 appointments made to these bodies. The number of appointments made to each of the bodies, as well as the names of the individuals appointed is detailed in the table below.

Public Body	Number of Appointments Made Since May 2007	Names of Individuals Appointed
NILGOSC	11	Trevor Salmon Julie Erskine Joe Donaghy Celine McCartan Colin O'Hare Bumper Graham Linda Neilan David Jackson Ciaran Quigley Peter Caldwell Peter McMurray

Public Body	Number of Appointments Made Since May 2007	Names of Individuals Appointed
LGSC	7	Mervyn Rankin Ashley Boreland Celine Connolly William Francey MBE Ald Nigel Hamilton Ald Geraldine Rice MBE Seamus Shields
CNCC	10	Patrick Casement Peter Archdale Dr Tony Bazley Patrick Dorrian Dr Richard Horton Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick Elizabeth McCullough Samuel McGregor Prof Bernard Smith Andrew Upton
HBC	11	Brian Banks Kenneth Boston Cathal Crimmins Joe Diamond Noelle Houston Hannah Kenny Alistair Lindsay Robert Martin Patrick McGuigan Robert Miles Dr Patricia Warke

Public Body	Number of Appointments Made Since May 2007	Names of Individuals Appointed
HMC	10	Prof Gabriel Cooney Henry Bell Michael Conway Tim Cunningham Marga Foley Suzanne Lyle Phillip Macdonald John McGillan Anne-Marie McStocker Stephen Russell

Review of PPS 21

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the review of PPS 21.
(AQW 4869/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The review of the operation of PPS21 is nearing completion. My intention is to ensure consistency of application of the PPS and appropriate flexibility in its operation, consistent with its content and substance.

Draft PPS 16

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on draft PPS 16.
(AQW 4870/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Following public consultation on draft PPS 16, there was close engagement with the Northern Ireland Tourist Board over the summer.

The Environment Committee considered the outcome of the consultation on 24th November and I will take account of the Committee's comments in finalising PPS16 for submission to the Executive in the near future.

Individual Planning Applications

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many meetings he has attended in relation to individual planning applications since coming to office.
(AQW 4988/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As Minister of the Environment I have had 28 meeting with officials and 48 meetings with external individuals on planning applications since coming to office.

Marine Conservation Zones

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment whether Marine Conservation Zones will be introduced as part of the Marine Bill; and what targets will be set.
(AQW 5026/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Marine Bill will provide for a new national designation process for the establishment of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in Northern Ireland's territorial waters to enhance protection for nationally important marine wildlife and habitats.

This new flexible designation process will complement the existing site designation and protection measures for European marine sites.

The Department is committed to having a network of effectively managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in place by 2020, comprising European marine sites and MCZs.

MPAs will be an important contribution to the achievement of Good Environmental Status. This is required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive by 2020 and will ensure that marine ecosystems continue to provide economic and social benefits.

Waterways in the North Down Area

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of discharge consents in operation for waterways in the North Down area.

(AQW 5034/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, it is an offence to discharge trade or sewage effluent to waterways or to water in underground strata without the consent of the Department of the Environment.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) administers a system of discharge consents which lay down conditions relating to the quality and quantity of effluent that may be discharged. The conditions are formulated using scientific protocols which ensure that the discharge can be sustained by the receiving waterway without damage to the aquatic environment and without breaching national or EU Directive standards.

Consents have been issued for 10 waste water treatment works (WWTWs) and 78 for sewer systems which discharge to waterway in the North Down area.

NIEA has consented 27 industrial and commercial premises for discharges to waterway in the North Down area.

NIEA also issue consents for discharges from single domestic dwellings. There are approximately 554 consented discharges from single domestic dwellings in the North Down area. It is not possible to give an accurate number which discharge to waterway as the current domestic consents database does not record information regarding discharge destination.

Maximum Speed Limit

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the maximum speed limit vehicles can travel at on (i) roads; (ii) dual carriage ways; (iii) motorways, broken down by type of vehicle.

(AQW 5122/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Comprehensive information on speed limits is made available in the Official Highway Code for Northern Ireland.

This information includes a table which details the maximum speed limits applicable on each category of road - broken down by type of vehicle. A copy of this table is provided.

Speed Limits	Built-up areas	Single carriage-ways	Dual carriage-ways	Motorways
Type of vehicle	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)
Cars and motorcycles (including car-derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)

Speed Limits	Built-up areas	Single carriage-ways	Dual carriage-ways	Motorways
Type of vehicle	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)	mph (km/h)
Cars towing caravans or trailers (including car-derived vans and motorcycles)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not exceeding 12 metres in overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Goods vehicles (not exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70† (112)
Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30 (48)	40 (64)	50 (80)	60 (96)

* The 30 mph limit usually applies to all traffic on all roads with street lighting unless signs show otherwise.

† 60mph (96 km/h) if articulated or towing a trailer

Councils: Borrowed Money from Banks or Other Lending Institutions

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment how much money each council has borrowed from banks or other lending institutions, excluding the Consolidated Fund and the National Loans Fund, in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) council; (ii) the amount borrowed each year; (iii) the loan provider; and (iv) the total outstanding debt.

(AQW 5157/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In answer to AQW 2971/11-15 the department had recorded the council borrowing from the Consolidated Fund. The table below displays council borrowing from sources external to the Consolidated Fund from 2008/2009 onwards plus a breakdown of providers.

COUNCIL BORROWING TABLE FROM NON CONSOLIDATED FUND

Council	Borrowing 2008/2009	Borrowing 2009/2010	Borrowing 2010/2011	Borrowing 2011/2012 (as of 29/11/11)	Total Outstanding Debt (as of 31/3/11)	Provider (£)
Ard's	0	0	0	0	7,775,000	Barclays Bank plc (5,275,000) Bank of Scotland (1,000,000) Dresdner Bank AG (1,000,000) Chase Nominees Ltd (500,000)
Ballymena	1,000,000	0	0	0		South Lanarkshire Council
	1,000,000	0	0	0		South Ayrshire Council
	1,000,000	0	0	0		City of Edinburgh
					0	
Carrickfergus	143,588	142,266	281,385	82,126	1,652,939	Northern Bank
Coleraine	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	0		Northern Bank (5,000,000)
	0	3,000,000	0	0		Barclays Bank PLC (3,000,000)
					7,591,503	

Council	Borrowing 2008/2009	Borrowing 2009/2010	Borrowing 2010/2011	Borrowing 2011/2012 (as of 29/11/11)	Total Outstanding Debt (as of 31/3/11)	Provider (£)
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	6,500,000	Dresdner Bank AG (1,500,000) Lancashire County Council (2,000,000) Bank of Scotland (1,000,000) Stroud and Swindon (1,000,000) Saffron Walden Hertz (1,000,000)

Learner Drivers

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment what provision has been made to ensure that learner drivers who drive scooters with an engine capacity of under 125cc (i) are made aware of the forthcoming change to the law which will require them to pass a compulsory basic training test; and (ii) will be able to secure a test date within a reasonable time once the change in the law has been enacted.

(AQW 5235/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Compulsory basic training (CBT) consists of a mandatory training course which is delivered by approved motorcycle instructors (AMIs). The training is delivered over three modules and on completion of training a CBT certificate is issued by the AMI, provided the rider has demonstrated that they can ride safely on the roads.

From 21 February 2011 legislation introduced a requirement for all new moped and motorcycle riders to complete CBT training before being permitted to ride unaccompanied on a public road. Riders who had provisional entitlement before the legislation came into effect are not initially affected by the change, but will have to comply by 21 February 2012.

DVA has striven to ensure that all motorcycle enthusiasts have been made fully aware of the new legislation through:

- letters sent in November 2010 to registered keepers of motorcycles with a cylinder capacity of 125cc and below;
- press releases issued in November 2010 and February 2011;
- CBT leaflets, which have been included with all provisional licences issued since 21 February 2011;
- editorials in Irish Road Racer magazine;
- leaflets distributed during 2010-11 at provincial motorcycle shows;
- leaflets distributed to Education and Library Boards, theory test centres, motor tax offices and motorcycle accessory shops;
- social media channels; and
- the NI Direct website, which provides information relating to CBT training and how to book a test once a CBT certificate has been obtained.

DVA also has established measures in place to raise awareness amongst those affected by the new legislation and to accommodate testing demand within key targets.

Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment what progress has been made in implementing the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010; and when the Act will be fully implemented.

(AQW 5286/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There has been considerable progress made in implementing the Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Six sets of subordinate regulations are required and work on the regulations is well advanced with four sets already drafted and public consultations on the last two sets of regulations recently issued. The Department plans to bring forward the six sets of regulations to the Assembly Environment Committee in March 2012, with the Goods Vehicle Act commencing operationally in April 2012.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment whether the revised Code of Practice being issued to councils in relation to the new powers contained in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 clarify the issue of seaweed removal from beaches.

(AQW 5326/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The revised draft Code of Practice on Litter provides guidance to Crown Authorities and district councils concerning their duty to keep amenity beaches, for which they are responsible, clear of litter between the traditional bathing season of 1 May to 30 September. The draft Code makes clear that the duty does not apply to seaweed.

Paragraph 11.10.5 of the draft Code expressly states that “The duty applies only to items or materials originating from discharges directly to the marine environment as well as discarded items from beach users. As a guide, only litter comprising manufactured or processed items of material that have been discarded, disposed of or abandoned, by intent or accident, should be removed. Litter should include processed food items but it does not include seaweed or twigs, which contribute to maintaining the local ecosystem”.

Northern Ireland Ireland’s Bathing Waters

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to 4426/11-15, whether he will ensure that ongoing consultation occurs with the Welsh authorities to improve the percentage of Northern Ireland Ireland’s bathing waters meeting the ‘Excellent’ standard.

(AQW 5337/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) work closely with counterparts in the environment agencies of the other devolved administration. There are several active technical groups that lead the development of and sharing of best practice across the UK. The current Chair of the Bathing Waters Technical Advisory Group is from the Environment Agency Wales.

By participating fully in UK Technical Groups, NIEA is well positioned to take full advantage of all pollution prevention and regulatory advances to protect our bathing waters that prove beneficial in other areas of the UK.

Invoices for Construction Work

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment what proportion of invoices for construction work have been paid on time by his Department and its arm’s length bodies, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5375/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In addition to construction related work, payments to construction companies may also include lower value maintenance work. It is not possible to separately identify the lower value maintenance work without manually reviewing each individual invoice. Therefore all invoices paid to construction companies have been included.

The table below shows the proportion of invoices paid to construction companies over the last three years which have been paid on time for the Department and its agencies (excluding the Driver and Vehicle Agency).

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total invoices paid	440	458	665
Number paid on time	385	403	635
% paid on time	87.5%	88.0%	95.5%

Prior to April 2011, the accounting system used by the DVA did not separately hold the requested information. However, from April 2011, the DVA migrated onto a new accounting system, Account NI, and during the first six months of 2011-12, paid 95% of construction invoices within 30 days.

In light of the Executive commitment to prompt payment of invoices within 10 days to assist businesses with cash flow in the current economic environment. In the latest quarter (July to September 2011) the Department paid 96% of construction invoices within 10 days and 98% within 30 days.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Civil and Public Servant Salaries

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 2566-11/15, to detail the total number of civil or public servants whose annual final salary, including additional payments and plus expenses received, was in excess of (i) £100,000; (ii) £150,000; and (iii) £200,000 in each of the last four years.

(AQW 4666/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The information requested is not readily available and can only be obtained and compiled at disproportionate costs.

GDP Growth

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what proportion of GDP growth over the last 10 years went to the poorest 10 percent in society.

(AQW 5045/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Annual estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA) are produced by the Office for National Statistics for the countries and regions of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland. GVA is an estimate of the value of output of goods and services produced by a country or region in a given time period. GVA is not a measure of income or living standards and gives no indication of the distribution of wealth across a society. Further, it is not possible to attribute GVA to parts of the population, such as the poorest 10 percent in society.

Reform of the Management of Apartments

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on any discussions or progress with the Law Commission regarding the reform of the management of apartments.

(AQW 5081/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I met with the Law Commission on 4 October 2011 to discuss multi-unit developments and, during the course of that meeting, the Commission indicated that it had sought, and was analysing, further information with regard to mixed-use developments. I took the opportunity to re-emphasise the importance attaching to this strand of work and the Commission agreed to issue its consultation paper in June 2012.

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail his Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5264/11-15)

Mr Wilson: My Department's spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years, and the proposed spend for each year until 2015 is set out in the table overleaf.

Financial Year	Resource £'000s	Capital £'000s
2008-09	136	2,127
2009-10	145	5,794
2010-11	390	-
2011-12	300	420
2012-13	300	-
2013-14	300	-
2014-15	300	-

No expenditure in my Department's arm's length bodies was spent or is expected to be spent in the West Belfast constituency in this period.

Rates: Empty Homes

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of empty homes for which his Department currently receives rates.

(AQW 5274/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The rating of empty homes was introduced on 1st October 2011. As at 27th November 2011 the number of empty homes for which the Land & Property Services has received rates payments, is 7,325.

Rates for the Dwelling at 15 Hopefield Park, Portrush

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether rates for the dwelling at 15 Hopefield Park, Portrush are being paid, given that it has been vacant for several years and has been the subject of ongoing complaints from neighbours.

(AQW 5336/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In line with the terms of the Data Protection Act (1998) Land & Property Services cannot comment on the rating status of individual properties. However, following the introduction of the Rating of Empty Homes initiative on 1st October 2011, I can confirm that rates bills were issued to all properties listed as vacant.

Department's Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the current (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in his Department's Information Service.

(AQW 5352/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The current number of staff employed in the Department's Information Service is 6.4 (FTE) and the annual cost of these staff is £211,044.80.

Members of the Legal Profession

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what independent mechanism is in place to investigate complaints against, or the conduct of, members of the legal profession.

(AQW 5395/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Complaints against solicitors are the responsibility of complaints committees of the Law Society. There is no direct independent mechanism at present although the Lay Observer for Northern Ireland can investigate how complaints have been handled by the Law Society. Conduct matters can be investigated by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal which operates independently of the Law Society.

Complaints against barristers are heard in the first instance by Disciplinary Committees set up by the Executive Council of the Bar of Northern Ireland. There is no independent mechanism in relation to complaints against barristers, and the Lay Observer has no remit.

Cost to the Block Grant of abolishing Air Passenger Duty

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the potential cost to the Block Grant of abolishing Air Passenger Duty for (i) all flights departing from Northern Ireland airports; and (ii) all flights departing from Northern Ireland airports which are currently charged at the Band B tax rate.
(AQW 5487/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The scope of Air Passenger Duty (APD) powers to be devolved and the precise arrangements for this have yet to be finalised and discussions with the Treasury are ongoing in this regard. However, the draft Programme for Government commits the Executive to eliminating APD on direct long haul flights

While the precise costs in terms of the block adjustment required going forward have yet to be established, we do know that EU rules mean that Northern Ireland will have to bear the full fiscal consequences of reducing the duty. The latest estimates provided by Treasury indicate that approximately £60m will be raised in APD from passengers departing Northern Ireland airports in 2012-13. Of this, it is estimated that £20m will be raised from all long haul passengers – including those who connect through other airports outside Northern Ireland. One quarter of this revenue, approximately £5m, will come from those departing on direct long haul flights leaving Northern Ireland airports. These estimates have not been updated for the latest Autumn Statement APD forecast.

Ministerial Vehicles

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) whether a policy of insurance or a bond exists for the vehicles that are used by Ministers; (ii) those indemnified by such a policy or bond (iii) the exact wording of the indemnity; and (iv) what class or classes of drivers are indemnified by such a policy or bond.
(AQW 5572/11-15)

Mr Wilson: A Motor Fleet policy of Insurance is in place with Zurich Insurance plc, Policy number 090/1C01/LY704943/6 in the name of the various NI Public Service Bodies who are the “Policyholder”. If a motor vehicle “used by a Minister” is the property of or in the custody or control of the Policyholder—i.e. a NI Public Service – then it is insured for the business of the Policyholder. Cover also extends to include use for social, domestic and pleasure purposes if required by the Policyholder.

The policy covers the following (as per the policy document):

- The Policy holder.
- The Driver.
- At the Policyholder’s request:
 - any of your principals, directors or employees
 - any passenger
 - the owner of a vehicle on hire or loan or leased to you
 - any member or committee member of your Sports or Social Club
 - the hirer of any agricultural tractor or self-propelled agricultural or forestry machine provided that such hire is permitted by the terms of the certificate
- Any person with the Policyholder’s permission is using (but not driving) the vehicle for social domestic and pleasure purposes.

The exact wording of the indemnity is included in the attached annex extracted from the Motor Fleet policy of Insurance.

The Persons or classes of persons entitled to drive are any person on the order or with the permission of the policyholder (NI Public Service). Provided that the person driving holds a licence to drive the vehicle or has held and is not disqualified from holding or obtaining such a licence.

Annex

Section 1 – liability to third parties

We will indemnify the persons detailed in 1, 2 and 3 below in respect of their legal liability for death of or body injury to any person and damage to property.

Type of Cover		
Third party indemnity	1.	The insured person will be indemnified when liability arises out of an accident caused by, or in connection with, the vehicle, or the loading or unloading of the vehicle.
Third Party Contingency Cover	2.	<p>You alone will be indemnified when the liability arises out of an accident caused by, or in connection with, any motor vehicle whilst being used in connection with your business or trade.</p> <p>Provided that:</p> <p>a such vehicle is not your property or held by you under a hire purchase agreement or hired by or leased to you.</p> <p>b you have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that there is in force in respect of such vehicle an insurance that is valid for such use.</p> <p>c if any claim covered by this sub-section 2 is also covered by any other insurance then notwithstanding condition number 4 in section 12 we shall not be liable to make any contribution to such claim.</p>
Unauthorised Movement	3.	You or any of your principals, directors or employees will be indemnified when liability arises out of an accident caused by, or arising out of, the driving or movement of any vehicle without the authority of the owner of such vehicle when the vehicle is parked in such a position as to obstruct the legitimate passage or the loading or unloading of the vehicle. In these circumstances the obstructing vehicle shall not be regarded as property held in your trust or in your custody or control.
Third Party Property Limited		Provided always that in respect of any commercial vehicle indemnity under sub-sections 1, 2 and 3 above for damage to property is limited to the amount shown in the schedule (or such greater sum as may be required by the compulsory motor insurance legislation in the country in which the insured event occurs) in respect of any one accident or a series of accidents arising out of one event.
	4.	Following the death of any person entitled to indemnity we will in respect of the liability incurred indemnify such person's legal personnel representatives in the terms of this section.

Type of Cover		
Legal Costs	5.	<p>In respect of any event which may be the subject of indemnity under this section we will also pay:</p> <p>a solicitor's fees for representation at any Court of summary jurisdiction or at any Coroner's Inquest or Fatal Inquiry.</p> <p>b the cost of legal services arranged by us for defending a charge of manslaughter, causing death by dangerous driving or causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs (or any equivalent local charge in a country specified in sub-section 1 of section 5).</p> <p>c all other costs and expenses incurred with our written consent.</p>

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Private Medical Insurance Companies

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the private medical insurance companies in Britain and Ireland whose policies are accepted by the (i) Health Service; and (ii) Erne Hospital, Enniskillen

(AQW 5126/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):

- (i) The five Health and Social Care Trusts have contracts that include the following medical insurance companies:
- AVIVA;
 - AXA;
 - CIGNA;
 - Groupama Healthcare;
 - Simply Health;
 - Standard Life/PRU Health;
 - WPA;
 - BUPA;
 - Prudential Health Insurance Ltd;
 - Universal Provident; and
 - BENEDEN.
- (ii) BUPA is the only private medical insurance company with which the Western Trust has a contract and which lists the Erne Hospital as an approved hospital.

Kinship Care Arrangements

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children, currently in kinship care arrangements that are supervised by his Department, have siblings in (i) residential care; and (ii) foster care.

(AQW 5148/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of children in kinship foster care who have siblings in residential care and/or foster care is set out in the table below.

CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN KINSHIP FOSTER CARE WHO HAVE SIBLINGS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE AND/OR FOSTER CARE

Trust	Residential Care	Foster Care
Northern	2	12
Southern	1	8
Belfast*	-	-
South Eastern	5	21
Western	20	17

* Belfast Trust has indicated that this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost within the timeframe requested.

Kinship Care Arrangements

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children, currently in kinship care arrangements that are supervised by his Department, and who are not subject to Care or Residence Orders, are currently receiving social work support.

(AQW 5149/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below reflects the number of children, currently in kinship care arrangements, who are not subject to Care or Residence Orders, and who are currently receiving social work support from Health and Social Care Trusts.

Trust	Northern*	Southern	Belfast	South Eastern	Western
Voluntary Accommodated under Article 21 of Children Order	-	14	90	66	39

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

* The Northern HSC Trust has indicated that this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost within the timeframe requested.

2001 Munby Judgement

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans are in place to ensure that his Department complies with the terms of the 2001 Munby judgement.

(AQW 5165/11-15)

Mr Poots: My replies to AQW 4095/11-15 and AQW 4607/11-15 refer. Department officials are meeting with colleagues in the Health and Social Care Board before Christmas to discuss this and other issues in relation to Kinship Care

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5265/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department does not routinely capture financial information by constituency and as such the information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Health Service Dental Care

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people registered to receive Health Service dental care in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5268/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of people registered to receive Health Service dental care in each of the last five years is shown in table 1 below. Figures shown are as at November of each year.

Prior to August 2009 the duration of a dental registration was 15 months. In August 2009 the duration was increased to 24 months for claims submitted after that date. This increased duration of registrations has contributed to the increase in dental registration figures in 2011.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF PATIENTS REGISTERED TO RECEIVE HEALTH SERVICE DENTAL CARE.

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Dental registrations	873,569	861,705	887,772	931,101	1,104,832

Source: Family Practitioner Services, Information and Registration Unit - HSC Business Services Organisation.

Funding Allocated for Respite Care and Facilities

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the level of funding allocated for respite care and facilities in each of the last five years, broken down by each Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 5272/11-15)

Mr Poots: The level of funding allocated for respite care and facilities in each of the last five years, broken down by each Health and Social Care Trust area, is not readily available and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Tender for Construction Work within the Health Estate

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the rationale behind the criteria that are used to determine the companies which are eligible to tender for construction work within the Health Estate.

(AQW 5296/11-15)

Mr Poots: The rationale behind the criteria that are used to determine the companies which are eligible to tender for construction work within the Health Estate is to allow the Client to select a limited number of firms (usually 6 firms) that are best suited to deliver the particular project in an efficient and effective manner.

When setting the criteria used for selection, there is a requirement on the part of Contracting Authorities (such as DHSSPS arm's length bodies) to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended), Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy and best practice guidance.

Tendering for New Building Contracts Within the Health Estate

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) why companies which have a long record of completing public building contracts to a high standard can be excluded from tendering for new building contracts within the Health Estate; and (ii) how these companies can become eligible for tendering.

(AQW 5299/11-15)

Mr Poots:

(i) No company is per se excluded from tendering.

A pre-qualification process is used in connection with all new building contracts within the Health Estate in order to allow the Client to select a limited number of firms (usually 6 firms) who are best suited to deliver the particular project in an efficient and effective manner.

DHSSPS arm's length bodies have a number of pre-qualification methodologies that can be used to determine a select list of firms, viz.

- Constructionline Database with a random selection function;
- DHSSPS Register of Contractors with a rotation system;
- DHSSPS random selection process; and
- Scored selection criteria (used on major projects).

The following is a summary of the reasons why companies may be excluded from the opportunity to tender for a particular project:

- Fails to meet the minimum requirements;
- Not on the DHSSPS Register on Contractors;
- On the DHSSPS Register of Contractors, but does not have the required facility/ work categories;
- On the DHSSPS Register of Contractors, with the required facility/ work categories, but not in the top six companies by rota order;
- Not on the list produced by random selection; and
- Overall score against selection criteria is outside the scores of the top six companies (used on major projects).

The fact that a company is excluded from an opportunity to tender for a particular project does not mean that the company does not have the technical and professional ability to enable it to deliver a successful outcome.

(ii) Companies, including those which have a long record of completing public building contracts to a high standard, can become eligible or enhance their eligibility for tendering for new building contracts within the Health Estate by any of the following methods:

- Obtaining registration on Constructionline with work categories that match the company's experience;
- Obtaining registration on the DHSSPS Register of Contractors with facility and work categories that match the company's experience;
- Obtaining experience in building contracts with complex engineering services and/or that are multi-functional;
- Obtaining experience in building health sector projects through, for example, forming joint ventures with other companies; and
- Ensuring that all information requested in pre-qualification documentation is submitted and providing relevant previous experience in response to the selection criteria.

Road Accidents

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of (a) cyclists; and (b) pedestrians who have been admitted to hospital as a result of an injury caused by a road accident in each of the last 10 years; and (ii) the total number of cyclists and pedestrians who have been killed as a result of road accidents in each of the last 10 years.

(AQW 5331/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information is not available on the number of cyclists and pedestrians who have been admitted to hospital as a result of an injury caused by a road accident.

The number of cyclists and pedestrians who have been killed as a result of road accidents in each of the last 10 years is published by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and can be found at the following address;

http://www.psnl.police.uk/index/updates/updates_statistics/updates_road_traffic_statistics.htm

Department's Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in his Department's Information Service.

(AQW 5353/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is shown in the table.

TABLE: DHSSPS INFORMATION OFFICE STAFFING AND COST

Number of Information Office Staff	Annual Cost (2010/11)
11	£370,907

Supporting People Programme Trust

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 4281/11-15, (i) whether the Western Health and Social Care Trust has allocated funding to all of the projects jointly funded by the Supporting People Programme Trust; and (ii) to detail the level of funding allocated to each project.

(AQW 5357/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The Western Health and Social Care Trust has contracts with 26 external organisations to provide care to clients who are supported by the Supporting People programme. Of the 61 schemes notified by DSD under AQW 4281/11-15, there will be a number of schemes that provide only a housing element without any associated HSC care package. Furthermore, and as highlighted in the table below, certain organisations provide multiple schemes.
- (ii) In 2011/12, the trust allocated funding of £2.6m to these organisations, as detailed in the following table:

Name of External Providers	Value
ACTION FOR CHILDREN - NCH	£14,500
APEX HOUSING - MULLAGH HOUSE	£23,889
APEX VARIOUS SHELTERED SCHEMES - Abbey House, Beechwood Court, Fr Mulvey Park, Glenbrook House & Mulvey House (Strabane)	£7,057
BALLYOAN HOUSE Apex HOUSING	£131,202

Name of External Providers	Value
CAMPHILL COMMUNITY	£200,337
CASTLEHILL PRAXIS CHALLENGE	£46,231
CHESHIRE HOUSE LEONARD CHESHIRE	£151,810
CLONDERMOTT HOUSE Apex HOUSING	£115,446
DALEVIEW Apex HOUSING	£8,725
DAMIEN HOUSE FIRST HOUSING AID	£73,027
DUNVALE HOUSE Apex HOUSING	£128,172
FIRST HOUSING AID & SUPPORT-VARIOUS SCHEMES DERRY - Hawkins St, City Court, Old School Lane, John St Rivercourts	£38,930
FOLD - GNANGARA	£172,918
FRANCIS ST HOSTEL FIRST HOUSING AID	£31,686
METHODISTS MISSIONS	£71,719
NORTHLANDS	£126,591
POSITIVE FUTURES	£598,676
POTENSIAL LIMITED	£141,548
PRAXIS NORTHLAND ROAD	£60,190
PRAXIS SUPPORTED - 6 & 8 Brewsters Close, 4 Bonds Street, 36 Roulston Avenue, 36 Glenbank Road, 19 Wellington Street, 103 Marlborough Road & 34 Grafton Street	£75,348
RAILWAY COURT Apex HOUSING	£83,505
RAMONA HOUSE FIRST HOUSING AID	£102,232
SEVEN OAKS	£12,986
ST COLUMBS HOUSE IN THE WELLS Apex HOUSING	£15,026
THE WILLOWS PRAXIS	£41,460
WOODBANK HOUSE Apex HOUSING	£132,265
Total	£2,605,476

Nurse Specialising in Parkinson's Disease in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department intends to accept the offer by the Parkinson's Disease Society to finance a nurse specialising in Parkinson's Disease in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area for two financial years.
(AQW 5365/11-15)

Mr Poots: Responsibility for the commissioning of specialist nurse services in Northern Ireland rests with the Public Health Agency. I would encourage the Parkinson's Disease Society to engage with the Agency to discuss their offer of funding.

Private Dermatological Treatment

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many patients have been referred for private dermatological treatment; and (ii) the cost of this treatment, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5379/11-15)

Mr Poots: Private dermatological treatment is taken to refer to treatment that takes place in the Independent Sector, which is commissioned and paid for by the Health Service.

The table below details (i) the number of patients that received an outpatient assessment or inpatient treatment in the Dermatology specialty in the Independent Sector, commissioned by the Health Service, and (ii) the total expenditure on Independent Sector dermatological treatment, for each of the last five financial years.

Financial Year	Outpatient ¹		Inpatient ²	
	Total No. of Appointments	Expenditure (£)	Total No. of Appointments	Expenditure (£)
2011/12 ³	986	208,456	0	320,011
2010/11	3,288	1,148,925	1,125	563,422
2009/10	13,063	2,682,878	553	2,137,438
2008/09 ⁴	7,855	997,886	673	145,971
2007/08 ⁴	3,666	380,865	818	101,440

Source: Departmental Returns IS1 (Parts 1 & 2) and HSCB

- 1 Figures relate to first and review consultant-led appointments
- 2 Figures relate to daycase and ordinary admissions
- 3 For appointments that took place in the quarters ending June and September 2011
- 4 The South Eastern HSC Trust has been unable to provide expenditure figures for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

The Health and Social Care Board have advised that the timing of expenditure does not match directly with activity.

HIV

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given the growing number of people diagnosed with HIV, what action his Department is taking to (i) reduce the stigma associated with the disease; and (ii) promote sexual health.

(AQW 5381/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department's Sexual Health Promotion Strategy and Action Plan aims to improve protect and promote the sexual health and well-being of the population. The Strategy adopts a specific approach to deliver education and information programmes to promote openness about sexual health issues, including tackling discrimination associated with HIV.

The multi-agency Sexual Health Improvement Network, chaired by the Public Health Agency, is taking forward a number of actions in support of the Strategy which will contribute to reducing the stigma associated with HIV. These include: raising awareness of HIV; provision of community based and outreach preventative programmes, particularly for those most at risk; provision of training in sexual health skills; and the improvement of sexual health services.

In addition my Department funds a number of voluntary organisations that provide information and support on sexual health matters including HIV/AIDS.

Autism Bill

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he intends to develop and contribute to a cross-departmental budget to achieve the objectives of the Autism Bill; and if so, to provide a timescale of when this budget will be in place.

(AQW 5387/11-15)

Mr Poots: All Departments and stakeholders are currently engaged in the development of the Autism Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to improve services and support for people with autism and their families and carers throughout their lives. Departments will be mindful of budgetary implications, and the potential for pooling resources, throughout the development process.

Prisoners Addicted to Drugs

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of prisoners addicted to drugs; (ii) the number of prisoners undertaking a drug rehabilitation programme; and (iii) the current number of places on drug rehabilitation programmes that are available to prisoners..

(AQW 5388/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is set out below

- i) Figures from the Drug Misuse Database in 2010/11 show that 247 prisoners presented for treatment for drug misuse. The Drug Misuse Database holds information on problem drug users, who present to services for the first time, or for the first time in six months or more and who will receive treatment at a drug treatment agency.

A problem drug user is defined as a person who experiences social, psychological, physical or legal problems (related to intoxication and/or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence) as a consequence of their own use of drugs or chemical substances. Drugs are defined as any drug, whether prescribed or not, including solvents and tranquilisers, but excluding alcohol and tobacco.

- ii) There are currently 28 prisoners on a substitute prescribing programme.
- iii) There is no limit to the number of places on drug rehabilitation programmes in prisons. To date in 2011, 126 prisoners have been treated.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidelines

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans to carry out an assessment of the effectiveness of the revised process for the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines introduced in September 2011.

(AQW 5390/11-15)

Mr Poots: As with all new policies, my officials will be evaluating the effectiveness of this revised process on an ongoing basis and making any revisions necessary as experience accrues.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidelines

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the revised process for the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines introduced in September 2011, will apply to medicines issued before 28 September 2011.

(AQW 5391/11-15)

Mr Poots: In developing the new process, the endorsement of a number of Technology Appraisals was delayed. Whilst the details of the revised process will not be applied retrospectively to medicines issued before 28 September 2011, their implementation will be based on the same principles.

My officials have been working with colleagues in the Health and Social Care Board to expedite their implementation. My securing of £5million in the recent October monitoring round will hasten this process.

People with Addictions to Legal or Illegal Drugs or Alcohol

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his Department's policy on the in-patient care of people with addictions to legal or illegal drugs or alcohol.

(AQW 5410/11-15)

Mr Poots: DHSSPS leads on the cross-departmental strategy to reduce the harm related to alcohol and drug misuse on Northern Ireland, known as the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs (NSD). Approximately £8 million is allocated to its implementation each year, and additional funding is provided through the mental health budget for the provision of treatment and support services. The NSD seeks to direct action across five pillars: prevention and early intervention; harm reduction; treatment and support; law and criminal justice; and monitoring, evaluation and research.

The NSD commits the health service to providing a four-tier model of prevention, early intervention and treatment and support – including, where necessary, in-patient treatment. The NSD is currently being revised and updated, and following on from the Review of Public Administration, is seeking to bring greater consistency to the services available across Northern Ireland. The Department has therefore tasked the Health and Social Services Board and the Public Health Agency with developing a regional commissioning framework for addiction services across Northern Ireland.

This work is looking at delivering the best possible outcomes for those suffering from addiction, and will consider all drug and alcohol 'treatment' services, within both community and in-patient settings and taking account of both the statutory and non-statutory/independent sectors.

The HSCB and the PHA have advised that the work is likely to be completed by the end of this year – the exact timescale will depend on the nature of any decision and the need for consultation. Following this, it is envisaged that, subject to the Department's agreement on the proposed way forward, implementation could begin in late 2011/early 2012.

Dermatology Department of the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why patients are being advised that they must wait 70 weeks for an appointment with a consultant at the Dermatology Department of the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine.

(AQW 5430/11-15)

Mr Poots: The longest wait for patients to see a Consultant Dermatologist at Causeway Hospital at 30th September 2011, the most recent quarter for which official statistics are available, was 55 weeks. Patients joining the waiting list are advised of the waiting time and are given a date indicating when they can expect their appointment to be carried out. The high number of red flag referrals, (suspected cancer) to this specialty means that more patients need to be given priority and has led to an increase in waiting times for patients accessing this service.

Residential Care and Foster Care

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 4091/11-15, to outline the reasons for the disparity in the spend within each Health and Social Care Trust on Residential Care and Foster Care, including kinship costs; and what is his Department doing to encourage a method of care that improves outcomes for children

(AQW 5431/11-15)

Mr Poots: All Health and Social Care Trusts have a range of for looked after children, which is required to meet the distinct needs of those children. Some require to be looked after in residential settings, for others, foster care, either kinship or non-kinship, is more suited to their needs. The majority of children are looked after in foster care settings care. Residential care by its nature is more costly to provide.

Cost of provision is different across Trusts for a number of reasons. For example, the numbers of children in care in each Trust is different as is care provision in each Trust to reflect the needs of children in the Trust's area. Some care packages are provided to children and young people with very

complex needs. Also, some Trusts provide specialist placements to other Trusts, including secure and intensive support placements.

Through the Regional Adoption and Fostering Taskforce, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and Trusts are actively involved in the promotion of a model of foster care, which matches the needs of children entering the care system. A strategy for residential care is also being developed by the HSCB.

The cross-departmental strategy for children in care, Care Matters in Northern Ireland, continues to be implemented. The strategy outlines the Executive's vision for wide ranging improvements in services to children and young people in and on the edge of care.

New Hospital in Enniskillen

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the level of public consultation that has taken place in relation to choosing a name for the new hospital in Enniskillen; (ii) when a decision on the name will be made; (iii) what names are currently under consideration; and (iv) who will make the final decision.

(AQW 5469/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) Consultation was undertaken in relation to choosing a name for the hospital by means of a naming competition organized by the Western Trust. As well as staff involved in the development of the new hospital, members of established forums, made up of staff and community representatives, were invited to submit entries for the new name.
- (ii) I will make the final decision on the name for the new hospital in the near future.
- (iii) The names provided by the Trust as a result of competition are currently under consideration.
- (iv) I will make the final decision.

Men's Health and Well-Being Policy

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he intends to develop a men's health and well-being policy, to include healthcare targets, the promotion of mental health, human rights awareness, parenting education and family support services.

(AQW 5497/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have no plans at present to develop a specific men's health and well-being policy.

My Department's health promotion strategies are designed to address lifestyle issues rather than gender-specific conditions or specific diseases. However, a number of health promotion strategies are in place, or in development, which, whilst not gender-specific, contain strategic actions aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of men. This includes strategies to tackle smoking, suicide and self harm, mental health, sexual health and obesity.

In addition, there are a wide range of programmes and initiatives in place in the statutory and voluntary/community sectors which address specific lifestyle and health risks for men. These include: the Men's Health Forum Ireland, which seeks to identify the key concerns relating to men's health and to increase understanding of these issues; the "Man Van" which brings health checks and life-saving messages to men in rural areas; and local men's groups which address physical and mental health issues.

The vital role fathers play in ensuring their children meet their full potential and the positive benefits to children and society of involved fathers is recognised in my Department's strategy – Families Matter. Kick Start is a specific initiative supported under Families Matter which provides training, support, networking and practical actions to organisations to enable them to engage and work with fathers in supporting them in the role they play in their child's life.

Suitability of People Seeking to Adopt Children

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the criteria used by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to determine the suitability of people seeking to adopt children.

(AQW 5558/11-15)

Mr Poots: All Health and Social Care Trusts are required to comply with the duties under Regulation 8 of The Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989 (the 1989 Regulation) when considering whether a person may be suitable to be an adoptive parent. In making determinations about suitability, the Trust is also guided by the Adoption and Permanence Form, developed by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering.

In addition to the requirements of the 1989 Regulations, the Trust will obtain: a written reference from a member of the extended family; employer(s) references if the prospective adopter is or has been employed in a child care capacity or with vulnerable adults; and enhanced disclosure certificates in respect of the prospective adopter(s) and each member of the household aged 10 and over.

Pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Adoption Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1989, the Trust makes a decision on the applicant's/applicants' suitability, having taken into account the recommendation of the Adoption Panel.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current number of children and adults who are registered as having an autistic spectrum disorder, broken down by those aged (i) up to 10; (ii) 11 - 20; (iii) 21 to 30; (iv) 31 to 40; and (v) 41 to 50.

(AQW 5571/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information you have requested is not available centrally within my Department, or from Health and Social Care Trusts. I believe my Ministerial colleague in the Department of Education is providing you with figures relating to the numbers of pupils recorded by their schools as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder (AQW 5569/11-15).

The Autism Act which took effect from 9 August 2011 requires that the DHSSPS leads on a cross Departmental Autism Strategy, to be published within two years and reported on to the Assembly every three years, with other Departments statutorily obliged to cooperate. The Act also requires the DHSSPS to request every HSC Trust to provide data on the prevalence of Autism in its area in order that the Strategy can be published and updated, and that Northern Ireland Departments can effectively implement the Strategy.

In order to take forward this work a cross Departmental Prevalence of Autism Sub-Group has recently been established to research and explore existing data sources, with Health and Social Care and Education to determine whether and how these sources can be deployed for the purposes of the Autism Strategy. The Sub-Group will also determine what additional arrangements may need to be put in place to capture data on the prevalence of Autism in the Adult population.

Women's and Children's Hospital at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the proposed Women's and Children's Hospital at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

(AQW 5573/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following a recent review of the usage of the top three floors of the new Critical Care building on the Royal hospitals site, the top 3 floors of that building will house post natal beds and maternity outpatients. Together with a new maternity building, linked to the Critical Care building, this will be the new Women's hospital. Construction of the Critical Care building is currently ongoing and is due to be completed in 2012 and the new Maternity building will be completed in 2014.

The Children's hospital will be delivered as a separate project and, as a first step in the process, I have asked the Belfast Trust to complete a Strategic Outline Case, outlining the options for delivery of this much needed project.

Payment of Invoices to Small Businesses

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the target time for the payment of invoices to small businesses by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust; (ii) whether he is aware of any delays in meeting these targets; and (iii) what action has been taken to ensure that delays do not occur.

(AQW 5626/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The target time for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) is the same as that for all HSC bodies. To comply with the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulations 2002, all invoices are required to be paid within agreed terms or if no terms have been agreed, within 30 days of the receipt of goods or a valid invoice (whichever is later). This is the requirement for paying invoices to all businesses, not just small businesses. There is a best practice target of ensuring that 95% of invoices are paid within these terms.

In addition, DFP has issued guidance seeking as many payments as possible to be made within 10 days. The Department and all its arms length bodies are aware of this commitment and make every effort to comply with this additional target.

- (ii) Details of payment performance for the NHSCT is as follows:

NORTHERN HSC TRUST – PERCENTAGE OF PAYMENTS MADE WITHIN 30 DAYS

2010-11 financial year	1 April 2011 to 30 October 2011
95.6%	94.3%

- (iii) DHSSPS has issued guidance to all of its Arms Length Bodies advising of the requirement to pay invoices within 30 days or agreed payment terms and prompt payment performance is reported to my Department on a monthly basis. The Northern HSC Trust also seeks to ensure compliance by:
- (a) circulating the DHSSPS prompt payment guidance to Trust staff;
 - (b) monitoring prompt payment performance;
 - (c) proactively resolving payment queries/disputes; and
 - (d) Internal audit reviewing Trust compliance with the guidance.

Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy will require clearance from the Executive before it comes into force.

(AQW 5663/11-15)

Mr Poots: I can confirm that it is my intention to bring my Department's Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy before my Executive colleagues prior to it being issued to health professionals.

Winter Fuel Payment Helpline

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why cancer patients calling the Winter Fuel Payment Helpline cannot establish their eligibility for February's top-up payment by giving their name and National Insurance number.

(AQW 5728/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Winter Fuel Payment scheme is a scheme administered by the Department of Social Development to help older people keep warm during winter. This is separate to the recent

announcement by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of a one-off NI Executive funded Fuel Allowance Initiative under the Social Protection Fund.

All cancer patients who are eligible to receive the Fuel Allowance Initiative will be identified and contacted on an individual basis by the relevant HSC Trust treating them. No application is necessary. My officials are currently liaising with Trusts on the arrangements necessary to enable this payment to be made to eligible patients by 28 February 2012.

Department of Justice

Transporting Robert Black

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the rationale for chartering a private plane to transport Robert Black to and from trial; and whether this is the normal mode of transporting prisoners into this jurisdiction.

(AQW 5161/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) was responsible for the transportation of Robert Black for trial and as such the rationale for chartering a private plane on this occasion is a matter for NOMS. The normal mode of transporting prisoners into this jurisdiction is escort by prison staff on ordinary scheduled flights or sea ferries.

Payment of Prisoners' Drug Debts

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether prison funds have been spent on the payment of prisoners' drug debts; and if so, how much has been paid out in each of the last 10 years; and (ii) to how many individuals' debt these payments relate.

(AQW 5315/11-15)

Mr Ford: A claim that money earned by a prisoner was used to pay off an alleged drug debt in 2008 emerged during an internal Northern Ireland Prison Service investigation into the Prisoner Assessment Unit. The allegation was thoroughly investigated.

The report found that in respect of one prisoner a case management discussion concluded that an outstanding £300 debt, allegedly relating to drugs, was a stumbling block to the prisoner's successful rehabilitation. The prisoner undertook to save £40.00 per week from his weekly earnings. £300 was then passed on to a relative.

The report concluded that at no time were NIPS staff in contact with anyone connected with the debt. It also concluded that NIPS staff who had agreed this arrangement with the prisoner had acted inappropriately. These members of staff have since been subject to disciplinary procedures.

Other than this single event NIPS is not aware of any other occasions when prisoners have used their weekly earnings to pay off a drug debt.

Promoting a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice (i) to outline the measures he has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether he will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby his Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5363/11-15)

Mr Ford: The promotion of a shared future is a fundamental priority for me, and building safer, shared communities is at the heart of my reform agenda for the justice system. The Community Safety Strategy, which will be published in the New Year, will set out my vision for justice in a shared future,

with an ambitious set of proposals around improving community safety at interfaces, working with communities to remove or reconfigure interfaces and tackling hate crime.

Interface barriers are an obstacle to a shared society. My Department is engaging with community groups and statutory agencies to identify opportunities for changing, or removing, interface barriers, and, where support exists, assisting in making change possible.

The Executive's draft Programme for Government has, as a key commitment, the need to "actively seek local agreement to reduce the number of peace walls". As part of this work I will be establishing an inter agency group to deal with issues of safety and security around interfaces, and identify funding opportunities that can be used to support communities who want see change and build a shared future.

In addition the Justice Act 2011 was designed to enhance community and public safety and provide beneficial impacts for all in Northern Ireland, including all "Section 75" groups. The community engagement, public safety and sports law provisions of the Bill tackle problems with behaviour, violence and sectarianism.

My Department also has an active Diversity Steering Group which is chaired by a Board Level Champion and has representation from across the Department and its Agencies. The Group has put in place a Diversity Framework and Action Plan, creating strong links between diversity and DOJ business priorities. The plan also has a significant emphasis on internal and external engagement, which is evidenced through a series of staff events and the Department having stands at both Belfast Pride and Mela festivals in 2011.

Four Staff Network Groups have been established within the Department and they also play a key role in progressing the Diversity Agenda:

- Black & Ethnic Minority (BEM);
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT);
- Carers; and
- Disability.

They also assist policy makers within the Department to develop equitable policies and procedures as well as providing confidential advice and support to colleagues and line managers. The network groups have supported other Departments in establishing similar structures and have strong relationships in place with external organisations such as Rainbow and Artsekta.

I commissioned a comprehensive review of prisons in Northern Ireland, the report of which identified differentials in outcomes for various groups of prisoners within the prison system. In response to this finding new procedures have been introduced to ensure more effective monitoring, reporting and where necessary, corrective action.

Under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to fulfil the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. In this regard, my Department is required to consider how all policy development and spending decisions contribute to promoting good relations.

In addition to its statutory duty the Department has introduced a number of initiatives to further promote good relations. This includes the appointment of an Equality and Good Relations Champion at Senior Civil Service level and the establishment of an Equality and Good Relations Forum to lead and drive the Department's equality agenda.

An Equality Action Plan has been developed which includes a commitment to develop a Statement of Commitment to Good Relations.

My Department has also submitted an Equality Scheme to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) for its approval and has introduced a new screening template, as recommended by

ECNI's guidance, which includes a specific section on how policies are likely to impact on good relations.

I am currently discussing with the Minister for Employment and Learning options to strengthen this aspect of policy screening to ensure that all policies and spending decisions are examined for their potential impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

Invoices for Construction Work

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Justice what proportion of invoices for construction work have been paid on time by his Department and its arm's length bodies, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5377/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice came into existence on 12th April 2010. Details of expenditure before that date are a matter for the previous department.

The Department and its arm's length bodies record payment performance statistics based on the total number of invoices processed, and not by the expenditure type.

In the 2010/11 financial year, 89% of all invoices processed were paid within the target time of 10 working days.

Interpreter Services: Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how much has been spent from the legal aid budget on interpreter services in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.

(AQW 5446/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information cannot be provided in the format requested as the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission does not record details of interpreters' payments by court division and interpreters' fees are not recorded separately in cases that are assessed by the Taxing Master. The table below sets out the available information by court tier. The information provided includes fees paid in respect of language, deafness and Braille interpreters.

SUMMARY OF INTERPRETERS EXPENSES

Legal Aid Scheme	Court Tier	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
LAA	Advice Only	£27,557.32	£22,444.66	£20,029.95
ABWOR	Magistrates' Court	£1,270.64	£1,945.56	£1,469.84
Children Order	Family Proceedings Court	£560.86	£3,847.07	£5,655.19
Civil	County Court	£323.50	£185.73	£226.50
	Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland	£4,728.68	£4,871.23	£10,014.01
	Family Care Centre	£2,060.04	£861.60	£5,278.16
	Magistrates' Court	-	-	£3,634.74
Civil	Nationality, Immigration & Asylum	£13,173.06	£11,464.35	£10,281.88

Legal Aid Scheme	Court Tier	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Criminal	County Court Appeals	£132.19	£2,390.51	£7,256.78
	Crown Court	£9,658.49	£52,676.65	£86,831.47
	Magistrates' Court	£8,864.55	£47,941.63	£87,225.00
	Total	£68,329.33	£148,628.99	£237,903.52

First Trial of Eamon Coyle

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what caused the collapse of the first trial of Eamon Coyle; and to detail the cost of each of his trials, including legal aid.

(AQW 5448/11-15)

Mr Ford: The first Crown Court trial of Eamon Coyle was aborted because an issue arose in relation to the CCTV evidence.

A second Crown Court trial was held between 9 and 15 September 2010.

It is not possible to detail the costs associated with each trial separately. The table below sets out the total estimated costs associated with both Crown Court trials where those costs can be identified.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
PSNI Prosecution	Not Available ¹
PPS Prosecution	Not Available ²
Defence (Legal Aid Costs)	£109,217.37
Court: Judiciary, Staff	£17,995.50
Jury Costs	£4,036.05
Facilities (eg Courtroom Accommodation)	£1,885.00
Total	£133,133.92

- 1 PSNI have advised that it is not possible to attribute costs to this investigation accurately without incurring disproportionate costs.
- 2 No payments have been paid to date to prosecuting counsel for both trials, however counsel's fee note is under active consideration.

Prisoners Transported Outside Northern Ireland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many times prisoners have been transported outside Northern Ireland to receive specialist medical or psychological assessments, prior to being considered for parole or release, in the last ten years.

(AQW 5449/11-15)

Mr Ford: None.

Stand-By Search Teams in Prisons

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how many stand-by search teams exist in each prison; and how this compares with each of the last five years.

(AQW 5456/11-15)

Mr Ford: Currently there is only one stand-by search team; this is in operation within Maghaberry Prison and has been in place for the last five years.

Magilligan Prison has not had a stand-by search team in the past five years and Hydebank Wood Prison and Young Offenders Centre only had a search team between 2006 and 2008.

Bullying and Abuse on Social Networks

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice what legislation his Department can introduce to protect children from bullying and abuse on social networks.

(AQW 5478/11-15)

Mr Ford: Harassment is already an offence under Northern Ireland law. The Protection of Harassment (NI) Order 1997 allows prosecutions to be brought for the general offence of harassment; for putting someone in fear of violence; and for the breach of an injunction or restraining order. Maximum penalties are two years; 7 years; and five years respectively.

My officials are exploring with officials within the Scottish Government their recent experience of introducing an offence that included use of the internet, email, or electronic communication. They are also exploring with PSNI and PPS how modern forms of bullying might be dealt with either legislatively or operationally.

Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Prison Service staff are waiting to be placed on special duties for medical reasons.

(AQW 5511/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are currently no Prison Service staff who are waiting to be placed on special duties for medical reasons.

Warrants for Unpaid Fines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many money warrants are currently outstanding for unpaid fines in each court division.

(AQW 5512/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below sets out the number of outstanding money warrants¹ as at 2 December 2011, broken down by County Court Division.

Division	Number Outstanding
Antrim	3517
Ards	3258
Armagh And South Down	2667
Belfast	17126
Craigavon	3221
Fermanagh And Tyrone	5539
Londonderry	3617
Total	38945

¹ Money warrants includes warrants that may also have been issued against unpaid compensation or costs.

The Department of Justice, Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland continue to work together to develop mechanisms to reduce the number of

outstanding warrants. In terms of wider work on fine enforcement for the future, a consultation exercise on fine enforcement concluded on 14 November 2011. Consultee responses are currently being analysed and my officials are due to report to the Justice Committee about proposals for the way forward in the New Year.

Benefits Appeals Tribunals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4729/11-15, whether he will make a statement on this matter.

(AQW 5521/11-15)

Mr Ford: My response to AQW4729/11-15 advised that the final report of the Access to Justice Review was published for public consultation on 13 September. When I have received and considered all the responses to the consultation I will make a statement to the Assembly setting out my formal response to the Review.

Legal Aid Dispute

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice, following the end of the legal aid dispute, what he expects the legal aid budget to be for 2012/13.

(AQW 5527/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits budget of the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission for 2012/13 is £83.1m. (This is the ringfenced or “cash” element of the budget).

In addition, the Department of Justice intends to access additional funding made available from HM Treasury's Reserve as part of the financial package agreed on the devolution of justice.

Any unfunded pressure arising in 2012/13 will be accommodated from within the Department's ringfenced budget settlement and managed through the in-year monitoring process.

Ratio of Prison Officer to Prisoner

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to detail the ratio of prison officer to prisoner, excluding class officers, on duty on a wing during a shift at each prison.

(AQW 5532/11-15)

Mr Ford: Excluding Class Officers a snapshot of staff to prisoner ratios on 7/8 December 2011 is:

Maghaberry	Hydebank Wood	Magilligan
Ratio 1:18.9	Ratio 1:13.8	Ratio 1:23.8

Historical Enquiries Team

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice, when the Historical Enquiries Team reports that the security forces were justified in their action in response to the IRA attack on Loughgall Police Station in 1987, as has been reported in the media, whether he will liaise with the Northern Ireland Office to ensure that the families of the IRA personnel who engaged in the attack pay back any compensation they received.

(AQW 5536/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Historical Enquiries Team report that the question refers to has not yet been published. I will only consider what, if any, action would appropriately fall to me once it has been published.

Youth Magistrates' Courts

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of (i) males; and (ii) females who were convicted in youth magistrates' courts in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.
(AQW 5587/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below gives the number of males and females convicted at youth court for the calendar years 2006 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

NUMBER OF MALES AND FEMALES CONVICTED AT YOUTH COURT BY COURT DIVISION 2006

Court division	Males	Females
Antrim	161	23
Ards	175	23
Armagh and South Down	43	16
Belfast	341	31
Craigavon and Lisburn	122	32
Fermanagh and Tyrone	112	15
Londonderry	163	31
Total	1117	171

NUMBER OF MALES AND FEMALES CONVICTED AT YOUTH COURT BY COURT DIVISION 2007

Court division	Males	Females
Antrim	223	43
Ards	189	40
Armagh and South Down	75	18
Belfast	338	34
Craigavon and Lisburn	170	29
Fermanagh and Tyrone	135	13
Londonderry	146	20
Total	1276	197

NUMBER OF MALES AND FEMALES CONVICTED AT YOUTH COURT BY COURT DIVISION 2008

Court division	Males	Females
Antrim	121	16
Ards	178	34
Armagh and South Down	115	15
Belfast	294	35
Craigavon and Lisburn	142	20
Fermanagh and Tyrone	150	11
Londonderry	93	13

Court division	Males	Females
Total	1093	144

Data for 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Enniskillen Court House, East Bridge Street, Enniskillen: Double Yellow Lines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how much it cost to have double yellow lines painted and then removed from outside Enniskillen Court House, East Bridge Street, Enniskillen.

(AQW 5589/11-15)

Mr Ford: The cost of painting double yellow lines outside Enniskillen Courthouse and their subsequent removal is estimated at £4,300.

Convictions for the Possession and Sale of Counterfeit Goods

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for the possession and sale of counterfeit goods in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.

(AQW 5594/11-15)

Mr Ford: Possession and sale of counterfeit goods may be prosecuted under the Trade Marks Act 1994 or the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988.

The table below gives the number of convictions for the sale and possession of counterfeit goods for the calendar years 2006 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available). This does not cover currency forgery offences.

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS FOR SALE OR POSSESSION OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS BY COURT DIVISION, 2006-2008

Court division	2006	2007	2008
Antrim	5	3	3
Ards	6	11	3
Armagh and South Down	7	6	4
Belfast	9	20	8
Craigavon and Lisburn	2	3	5
Fermanagh and Tyrone	6	13	5
Londonderry	2	10	6
Total	37	66	47

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Data for 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Small Claims Application Forms

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what grade of civil servants check small claims application forms.

(AQW 5619/11-15)

Mr Ford: All small claims applications, entered online or completed manually, are processed by an Administrative Officer (AO) and checked by an Executive Officer (EO).

Any query raised during this initial checking process may be dealt with by the EO, if it relates to an administrative issue, or referred to the Chief Clerk or the District Judge (Civil) for consideration and direction as appropriate. Administrative staff do not make any assessment of the facts of the claim as this is a judicial matter.

Further management monitoring arrangements are in place at various stages in the application process to ensure that documentation is prepared accurately and sent to the parties; that returned documents are correctly allocated to applications; and that time-limits and targets are adhered to.

All decrees are quality assured by an EO before issue.

In addition, approximately 20% of all applications are subject to random review by an EO during the stages of the small claims process.

Small Claims Applications

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what quality control or monitoring arrangements are in place for the processing of small claims applications to ensure that these claims are properly processed.

(AQW 5620/11-15)

Mr Ford: All small claims applications, entered online or completed manually, are processed by an Administrative Officer (AO) and checked by an Executive Officer (EO).

Any query raised during this initial checking process may be dealt with by the EO, if it relates to an administrative issue, or referred to the Chief Clerk or the District Judge (Civil) for consideration and direction as appropriate. Administrative staff do not make any assessment of the facts of the claim as this is a judicial matter.

Further management monitoring arrangements are in place at various stages in the application process to ensure that documentation is prepared accurately and sent to the parties; that returned documents are correctly allocated to applications; and that time-limits and targets are adhered to.

All decrees are quality assured by an EO before issue.

In addition, approximately 20% of all applications are subject to random review by an EO during the stages of the small claims process.

Criminal Justice Delivery Group

Mr B McCreagh asked the Minister of Justice what action he intends to take to facilitate increased cooperation between the criminal justice agencies, through initiatives similar to the Criminal Justice Delivery Group.

(AQW 5627/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are a number of arrangements already in place to strengthen and maintain co-operation across the criminal justice system. In addition to the Criminal Justice Delivery Group, which I chair, the Criminal Justice Board meets monthly to consider the strategic priorities for the criminal justice system. The Criminal Justice Issues Group also meets several times a year - chaired by Lord Justice Higgins, this group is representative of all sectors of the criminal justice system and the various tiers of the judiciary, and works to provide an inter-agency contribution to the operational effectiveness of the system. It includes representatives from the voluntary and community sector.

There are, too, a number of sub-groups of the Criminal Justice Board which meet periodically to examine particular issues such as victims and witnesses, mental health and fine enforcement which are further examples of collaborative working. I also meet regularly with the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Lord Chief Justice and the Attorney General; when necessary, additional meetings are arranged to discuss significant issues.

In addition to these various fora, I have in place a number of initiatives to promote joined up working, including a multi agency programme of work to speed up the progress of criminal cases.

The introduction of the Causeway information system has also facilitated cooperation between the criminal justice agencies, by allowing the main organisations to share information electronically. This has significantly improved the joining-up of the system at an operational level.

Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the current situation with regard to (i) Independent Domestic Violence Advisors; and (ii) Domestic Violence Protection Orders; and what action his Department is taking on these areas.

(AQW 5628/11-15)

Mr Ford: The provision of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) service is being taken forward by way of a procurement exercise by the funding agencies (Department of Justice, Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety, and the Police Service for Northern Ireland).

The Home Office is currently piloting Domestic Violence Protection Orders. The pilot will be evaluated in summer 2012. Thereafter, my Department will assess the appropriateness of introducing DVPOs in Northern Ireland taking account of any necessary legislative changes required.

Convictions for Cruelty or Neglect of Children

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for cruelty to or neglect of children in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.

(AQW 5649/11-15)

Mr Ford: Cruelty to and neglect of children may be prosecuted under the Children and Young Persons Act (Northern Ireland) 1968, the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or Section 9(1) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act 1908.

The table below gives the number of convictions for cruelty to and neglect of children for the calendar years 2006 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS CRUELTY TO AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN BY COURT DIVISION, 2006-2008

Court division	2006	2007	2008
Antrim	1	1	5
Ards		2	4
Armagh and South Down			3
Belfast	3	5	3
Craigavon and Lisburn		1	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone		1	2
Londonderry		1	
Total	4	11	18

Data for 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Seized Counterfeit Clothing

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether seized counterfeit clothing, which has resulted in prosecution and conviction, can be donated to charities for non-sale and distribution to people in need, in this jurisdiction and abroad.

(AQW 5650/11-15)

Mr Ford: The donation of seized counterfeit clothing to charities is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Firearms Licences

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how many firearms licences are valid at present; and how this figures compares to that of five years ago.

(AQW 5668/11-15)

Mr Ford: The operation of firearms licensing is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Termination of a Firearms Licence

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline the process following the termination of a firearms licence, including whether the firearms are disposed of, or valued and re-sold through a single dealer or a variety of dealers; and whether this process has changed in the last ten years, and if so, when.

(AQW 5669/11-15)

Mr Ford: Article 10 of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (2004 No. 702 (NI 3)) deals with the consequences of the revocation of a firearm certificate. The process is also referred to in the Guidance on Northern Ireland Firearms Controls which supports the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004. The relevant extract is set out below.

The practical application of this part of the legislation is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

EXTRACT FROM THE GUIDANCE ON NORTHERN IRELAND FIREARMS CONTROLS

Article 10

Consequences of revocation

- 1 When the Chief Constable revokes or partially revokes a certificate he must send the holder notice in writing requiring him to surrender his certificate and the relevant firearms and ammunition either –
 - (a) within 21 days of the date of the notice in the case of revocation or partial revocation under Article 9; or
 - (b) such period as may be specified in the notice in the case of revocation or partial revocation under Article 12(2) (prohibited weapons).

A certificate holder who fails to comply with such a notice is guilty of an offence.

- 2 Normally, a notice will be served by means of the recorded delivery system, although there may be occasions when personal service is more practicable. Should the person wish to discuss the matter, he should contact the local firearms enquiry officer.
- 3 Where a certificate is revoked or partially revoked the Chief Constable may by written notice require the holder to dispose of the relevant firearm and ammunition within the period specified in the notice.
- 4 If the certificate holder appeals under Article 74 against the revocation or partial revocation the disposal notice shall not apply unless the appeal is abandoned or dismissed. In that event the notice will have effect with the date of the abandonment or dismissal of the appeal substituted for the original date of the notice.
- 5 If the holder does not comply with the disposal notice within the period specified in it, or modified period as described in paragraph 4, or within whatever further time as the Chief Constable may, in special circumstances, allow, the Chief Constable may order the destruction or disposal of the relevant firearms or ammunition. Wherever possible he will do so in a manner agreed with the owner.
- 6 If the appeal is successful the relevant firearms and ammunition should be returned to the owner as soon as possible after the decision is made.

Peace Walls

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice whether he is seeking local agreement to reduce the number of peace walls.

(AQW 5754/11-15)

Mr Ford: As I explained to the Assembly on 13 December (AQO 1020/11-15) community views are critical to discussions to reduce the number of interface structures across Northern Ireland. The commitment in the Executive's draft Programme for Government is to "actively seek local agreement to reduce the number of peace walls". We are witnessing constructive engagement between local communities, Government and a number of organisations in addressing this issue in a number of areas and I am determined that will continue.

Youth Convictions

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many youth convictions of (i) males; and (ii) females progressed to Crown Court hearings in each of the last three years, broken down by court division.

(AQW 5774/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below gives the number of youth (17 years and under) convictions at Crown Court for the calendar years 2006 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

No females aged 17 years or under were prosecuted at Crown Court during this period.

NUMBER OF YOUTH (MALES AGED 17 YEARS AND UNDER) CONVICTIONS AT CROWN COURT BY COURT DIVISION, 2006-2008

Court division	2006	2007	2008
Antrim	0	5	3
Ards	1	2	3
Armagh and South Down	0	1	0
Belfast	12	8	7
Craigavon and Lisburn	2	2	4
Fermanagh and Tyrone	1	1	2

Court division	2006	2007	2008
Londonderry	5	1	1
Total	21	20	20

Data for 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Police: Retired Officers

Mr Molloy asked the Minister of Justice to comment on the pattern of retired police officers being rehired.

(AQO 1019/11-15)

Mr Ford: The recruitment of staff to the Police Service of Northern Ireland is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Board. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment on this issue.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of Justice what work his Department has done to establish an accurate record of the number of people affected by anti-social behaviour each year.

(AQO 1025/11-15)

Mr Ford: Building safer communities by preventing anti-social behaviour and reducing the harm it causes to communities is a top priority for my Department and the wider Executive, as set out in the draft Programme for Government.

I will publish a new Community Safety Strategy early in the New Year, setting out proposals to address anti-social behaviour through working in greater partnership regionally and locally. These proposals will build on our approach to date of a graduated response of prevention, intervention and enforcement where necessary.

Members will be aware that this approach has contributed to a reduction of over 20% in anti-social behaviour incidents since 2008, and long term trends as measured by the Northern Ireland Crime Survey show that fewer people think that anti-social behaviour is a big problem in their area.

It is worth noting that the preventative approach was endorsed during the public consultation on the Strategy, with enforcement seen as a last resort; indeed there were no compelling arguments in support of additional powers, including dispersal powers. I can therefore confirm that at this time I have no plans to extend the PSNI's powers of dispersal.

Measuring our success in preventing anti-social behaviour, given the subjective nature and quality of life impact that it has, requires us to look beyond the number of incidents and consider the impact on people's quality of life and confidence in the justice agencies. The new Community Safety Strategy will include a range of indicators to measure the impact of our actions to address anti-social behaviour and the outcomes we wish to achieve.

Finally the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland has commenced an inspection of the criminal justice system's approach to addressing anti-social behaviour with a view to publishing a final report in Spring 2012.

I will await the outcome of the inspection and consider any recommendations arising from it.

Prisons: Retired Officers

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Justice what safeguards he will put in place to prevent retiring prison officers from being rehired under the proposed prison reforms.

(AQO 1028/11-15)

Mr Ford: Recruitment to the Northern Ireland Prison Service is governed by the Civil Service Commissioner's Recruitment Code and all appointments are made strictly on merit following open competition. It would not be legal to prevent any individual or grouping from seeking employment because of a previous occupation. However, should a former member of staff be appointed on merit, normal rules of abatement would be applicable.

Prison Review

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the progress being made in response to the recommendations made by the Prisons Review Team.

(AQO 1031/11-15)

Mr Ford: I recognise the pressing need for reform and the urgent need to make swift progress against implementation of the recommendations made by the Prison Review Team.

Work to implement these recommendations has started, and my officials are in the process of developing a detailed implementation plan. Good progress is being made across a number of fronts, for example:

- I have met with the First Minister and deputy First Minister to discuss how best the Executive as a whole can work together to oversee and implement cross-Departmental recommendations;
- I have met with the Health Minister in relation to the report and my officials are working closely with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in response to those recommendations in the report that relate to Healthcare;
- the NIPS staff Exit Scheme was launched on 8 November, paving the way for further structural and cultural reforms; all eligible staff have now replied, and personal illustrations of benefits payable, will be issued by 20 January. Staff will be asked to register their intent to apply for the scheme by 17 February 2012.
- in November, I opened the Donard Day Centre at Maghaberry which is transforming how NIPS manages, supports and cares for the most vulnerable of prisoners;
- work on radical changes to Healthcare is well advanced, including the transfer of Healthcare staff to the South Eastern Trust by April 2012;
- a number of reviews of the provision of non-core functions, such as Learning and Skills, Catering and Estate Management are either underway or have been completed;
- work on a revised Prison Estate Strategy which will set out how the Prison Estate will be developed, taking account of the recommendations within the Review Team's report is well underway; and
- detailed work is continuing with regard to the development of a new Business Operating Model which will radically transform how prisons operate on a day to day basis.

I share the view of the Prison Review Team that this work needs to be overseen at the highest level. Work is underway to establish an oversight committee, to be chaired by me, to monitor progress against the Review Team's recommendations. I expect to make an announcement about the role and make-up of this committee later this month.

Crime: Older and Vulnerable People

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice following the recent debate and vote on crimes against older and vulnerable people will he seek Executive approval for a sentencing framework that reflects the will of the Assembly.

(AQO 1032/11-15)

Mr Ford: Sentencing in the individual case is a matter for the judiciary. In making sentencing decisions, the judiciary are guided by sentencing guidelines, which indicate that courts should treat the age and vulnerability of the victim as an aggravating factor when assessing the appropriate sentence to be imposed. I consider it important that the discretion of the judiciary in such cases should be maintained.

The Lord Chief Justice has recently announced a priority list of areas where sentencing guidance for the judiciary will be developed. The principles underlying sentencing, expressed in this guidance, will include attacks on vulnerable people, including older people, as an aggravating factor in sentencing decisions.

Under the Programme for Government my Department is committed to tackling crime and fear of crime against older and vulnerable people, which will be part of the Community Safety Strategy to be published in the New Year. Alongside this work, I am currently considering a range of potential mechanisms by which greater transparency, consistency and understanding of sentencing practice might be delivered in a manner that will promote public confidence. I hope to announce proposals on the way forward in the near future.

Department for Regional Development

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail his Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', spend in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5227/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): Neither my Department nor its arm's-length bodies, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) and Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company (NITHC), maintain detailed analysis of spend on a parliamentary constituency basis. However, where reasonable and without disproportionate cost, business areas have reviewed expenditure records to identify any key areas of spend in the West Belfast constituency. This information is set out below.

Roads Service

Roads Service maintains an analysis of its expenditure on a financial year basis by Council Area. The tables below detail the resource and capital expenditure in the financial years 2008-2009 to 2010-2011 in the Belfast City Council and Lisburn City Council areas.

Period	Resource Expenditure (£'000)		
	Belfast City Council	Lisburn City Council	Total
April 2008 – March 2009	13,976	7,704	21,680
April 2009 – March 2010	11,849	4,338	16,187
April 2010 – March 2011	12,862	4,726	17,588
Total	38,687	16,768	55,455

Period	Capital Expenditure (£'000)		
	Belfast City Council	Lisburn City Council	Total
April 2008 – March 2009	11,503	2,345	13,848
April 2009 – March 2010	10,475	5,228	15,703
April 2010 – March 2011	6,206	4,062	10,268
Total	28,184	11,635	39,819

Roads Service capital expenditure includes major capital schemes, minor capital schemes, street lighting renewal, land, capital structural maintenance and other capital activities.

Roads Service does not allocate resource or capital budgets for future years on either a District Council or Parliamentary constituency basis.

Roads Service maintenance expenditure is allocated on the basis of need using a range of weighted indicators tailored to each maintenance activity (i.e. resurfacing, patching, gully emptying, grass cutting etc). Divisions use these indicators when apportioning funding across council areas to ensure, as far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds across the whole of Northern Ireland.

The priority and advancement of the schemes within the major roads programme is determined by the Minister taking into account a broad range of criteria. Other capital works are prioritised on assessed need taking into account a range of criteria.

Northern Ireland Water (NIW)

Over the past 3 financial years NIW has invested around £79.3 million on major capital schemes which impact on the West Belfast constituency. Investment for each of the years is set out in the table below. Expenditure on minor capital projects and operating costs (resource expenditure) are not included as it could only be provided at disproportionate cost. These figures are approximate:

Period	Major Capital Expenditure (£'000)
April 2008 – March 2009	51,000
April 2009 – March 2010	23,000
April 2010 – March 2011	5,300
Total	79,300

The above figures include expenditure on the Belfast Sewers Project and Dunmurry Wastewater Treatment Works modifications.

As the annual plans for future years have not yet been finalised it is not possible to provide specific details of proposals for the West Belfast constituency area. However, subject to the availability of funds, work to the value of £18.2 million is currently planned. The proposed investment for each of these years is set out in the table below.

Period	Major Capital Expenditure (£'000)
April 2011 – March 2012	4,700
April 2012 – March 2013	9,000
April 2013 – March 2014	1,000
April 2014 – March 2015	3,500

Period	Major Capital Expenditure (£'000)
Total	18,200

Transport – NITHC / Translink

The tables below detail the capital investment spent by Translink in the West Belfast constituency in each of the last three years and the proposed spend for each year until 2015. All the projects relate to the Falls Road Depot. These projects included spend on CCTV refurbishment and other security measures, improvements to the building conditions and other equipment.

Period	Capital Expenditure (£'000)
April 2008 – March 2009	143.5
April 2009 – March 2010	131.7
April 2010 – March 2011	7.0
Total	282.2

Period	Proposed Capital Expenditure (£'000)
April 2011 – March 2012	138.0
April 2012 – March 2013	6.0
April 2013 – March 2014	18.0
April 2014 – March 2015	274.0
Total	436.0

My Department has also invested in the purchase of new modern buses, some of which have been deployed in the West Belfast constituency. It is not possible to assign a specific sum to this investment.

Similarly, it is not possible to identify resource expenditure for public transport, as expenditure does not relate to an individual constituency.

Transport – Rapid Transit

As you are aware my Department is currently developing proposals for a pilot Belfast Rapid Transit system which will link West Belfast, East Belfast and Titanic Quarter with and through the city centre. The expenditure on the development of this project in the last three years and the budget for the development and initial commencement of the implementation of the project up to 2015 is set out in the tables below. These monies relate to the Belfast Rapid Transit project as a whole and it is not possible to identify specific spend in the West Belfast constituency. However, as the West Belfast rapid transit route (WWay) represents approximately 40% of the overall pilot network, it is reasonable to assume that approximately 40% of the total budget up to 2014/15 relates to the rapid transit project in West Belfast.

Period	Expenditure (£'000)
April 2008 – March 2009	60
April 2009 – March 2010	520
April 2010 – March 2011	110
Total	690

Period	Proposed Expenditure (£'000)
April 2011 – March 2012	390
April 2012 – March 2013	880
April 2013 – March 2014	1,560
April 2014 – March 2015	10,080
Total	12,910

Transport – Other

The Department has provided and will continue to provide funding for other public transport services and initiatives, including transport services for People with Disabilities, throughout Belfast, which although used by residents in the West Belfast constituency, are not specific to that constituency.

Unadopted Sewers and Pumping Stations

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the unadopted sewers and pumping stations, with outstanding agreements with NI Water, in the North Down constituency which are under the control of receivers or administrators.

(AQW 5237/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that that there are currently some 322 existing agreements in place with persons constructing or proposing to construct a sewerage system which may be adopted at a future date provided the terms of the agreement have been met. This includes agreements formerly with its predecessor Water Service which transferred to NIW on 1 April 2007. NIW works closely with my Department's Road Service, which administers Departmental Bond procedures, in taking forward the adoption of streets and sewers for Water Service cases where a developer is no longer trading.

NIW has not been advised of any developments within the North Down Constituency which are subject to its enforcement procedures under the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. NIW is aware of two development sites in the North Down area, reportedly in the hands of an administrator, that are being taken forward by Roads Service under the Private Streets (Northern Ireland) Order 1980 enforcement procedures. NIW is working with Roads Service to resolve any outstanding issues.

Unused Money from the A5 Road Scheme

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to redirect unused money from the A5 road scheme to other road and footpath schemes.

(AQW 5242/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: You may be aware that the A5WTC project has been taken forward as a result of an agreement between the Executive and the Irish Government and, since the Irish Government has indicated it is unable to part fund the A5 and A8 projects as originally envisaged, this will undoubtedly affect the funding available to my Department.

Following receipt of the Inspector's report and comments from Roads Service, I intend to consider all issues, including the availability of funding, before making decisions in relation to the A5 project and the wider Strategic Roads Programme.

Promoting a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to outline the measures he has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether he will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby his Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5243/11-15)

Mr Kennedy:

- (i) Under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, all departments are required to fulfil the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

My Department's work on the Regional Development Strategy and Regional Transportation Strategy will connect and support communities, strengthen community cohesion and promote city and town centres as shared spaces. In addition, Roads Service assists other agencies and communities to deal with flags, graffiti and illegal monuments in ways designed to best promote good relations.

- (ii) As part of their obligations under the Act all departments are required to consider how all policy development and spending decisions contribute to promoting good relations. The approach to maintaining good relations considerations into policy development and resource allocation will also be considered as part of the development of the final Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

Chief Executive of NI Water

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the criteria that will be used to judge the performance of the Chief Executive of NI Water over the winter period.

(AQW 5255/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: While I will wish to be kept informed, it is a matter for the Northern Ireland Water Board's Remuneration Committee to develop the criteria that will be used to judge the performance of the Chief Executive over the winter period.

Chief Executive of NI Water

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development on what date an announcement will be made regarding the assessment of the performance of the Chief Executive of NI Water's over the winter period.

(AQW 5256/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: It is a matter for the Northern Ireland Water Board's Remuneration Committee to develop the criteria that will be used to judge the performance of the Chief Executive over the winter period. Therefore any decisions on the outcome of the Committee's assessment (including when and how to communicate the Committee's findings to stakeholders) will be a matter for the Board and will not be taken before March 2012.

Chief Executive of NI Water

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development why he indicated that he would require a satisfactory performance from the Chief Executive of NI Water over the winter period, rather than an exceptional performance.

(AQW 5257/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The reference to a satisfactory performance in the approved Northern Ireland Water (NIW) Board's proposed salary increase for the Chief Executive of NIW, related to the role of the Board's Remuneration Committee in deciding whether or not to back-date the increase in salary from 1 November 2011, subject to the satisfactory performance of the Company and the Chief Executive over the 2011/12 winter period. It is a matter for the Remuneration Committee to develop the criteria that will be used to judge the performance of the Chief Executive over the winter period and to justify their decision. I have asked to be kept informed.

Safe Maintenance of Land

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister for Regional Development who is responsible for (i) the safe maintenance of land, owned by his Department, that is immediately adjacent to motorways and others types of roads which are not used by adjacent landowners; and (ii) liability for any civil action resulting from injury as a result of falling trees from land, owned by his Department, that is immediately adjacent to motorways and others types of roads which are not used by adjacent landowners.

(AQW 5281/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I assume the Member is referring to the land/verge that lies between the edge of the carriageway or footway and the boundary fence/hedge.

My Department's Roads Service has confirmed that it is responsible for the maintenance of such lands in respect of both motorways and other types of roads. Any boundary fence/hedge is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner, except in the case of motorways, where the boundary fence is the responsibility of Roads Service.

In relation to motorways, liability in respect of falling trees that were growing in these areas, or which formed part of the boundary hedge bounding the motorway, rests with Roads Service.

In the case of other types of roads, liability in respect of falling trees that were growing in the area between the edge of the carriageway and the boundary fence/hedge, also rests with Roads Service. However, liability in respect of falling trees that formed part of the boundary hedge, adjacent to the road, rests with the adjacent landowner.

A5 Road Project

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail how the new offer of £50 million for the A5 road project by the Government of the Republic of Ireland differs from the previous offer of £400 million.

(AQW 5289/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Member will be aware that the A5 and A8 dual carriageway schemes are being taken forward as a result of an agreement between the Executive and the Irish Government.

At the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary Meeting on Friday 18 November 2011, it was noted that provision of further funding by the Irish Government, for the progression of both projects, is being deferred, with the Irish Government now providing £25 million per annum towards the project in 2015 and 2016.

It had previously been agreed at the NSMC that payments by the Irish Government were to be made against development milestones within the A5 project. The financial profile of the Irish Government's contribution associated with those milestones is set out below:

Financial Year	Anticipated Irish Gov. Contribution (£M)	Payment Milestones
2009/10	8 (received)	Preferred Route Stage
2010/11	0	
2011/12	14	End of Public Inquiry
2012/13	0	
2013/14	10	Commencement of Construction
2014/15	250	2/3 Completion
2015/16	118	Open to Traffic

Thus far, two payments to the value of £19 million have been made by the Irish Government to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund. It is anticipated that a further payment of £3 million, which was agreed at the NSMC Plenary Meeting on 18 November 2011, will be made later this financial year. This payment, when made, will honour the Irish Government's financial commitments to the project so far.

A new funding and implementation plan for the projects will now be prepared for agreement at the next NSMC Transport Meeting, with endorsement at the next North South Ministerial Council Plenary Meeting.

When funding is confirmed, I will review the spending priorities across my Department, including the impact on the Strategic Roads Programme.

Unadopted Roads in the North Down Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the unadopted roads in the North Down constituency with an outstanding road bond on which houses have been occupied for more than a year. **(AQW 5327/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: Details of the unadopted roads in the North Down constituency with an outstanding road bond on which houses have been occupied for more than one year are provided below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Beechfield Avenue, Bangor; | ■ Rathgill Avenue, Bangor (Helm Housing Site); |
| ■ Ballycrochan Road Development; | ■ Riverwood Vale, Bangor; |
| ■ Ballycrochan Park/Crescent/Grove(Part); | ■ Rockfield Glen, Bangor – Stage 5; |
| ■ Abbingdon Manor, Bangor – Stage 1; | ■ Seapark Lane, Holywood; |
| ■ Clifton Manor, Bangor; | ■ Shaftsbury, Belfast Road, Bangor; |
| ■ Downshire Lane, Bangor; | ■ Stonebridge Avenue, Bangor (Part); |
| ■ Dellmount Crescent, Bangor; | ■ Stonebridge Row, Bangor; |
| ■ Hanover Chase/Hill, Bangor; | ■ Upritchard Court, Bangor; |
| ■ Myrtle Grove, The Beeches, Bangor; | ■ Victoria Mill, Bangor; |
| ■ Linen Crescent, Rathgill Parade, Bangor-Stage 1; | ■ Woodcroft Lane, Holywood; and |
| | ■ Woodvale Gardens, Bangor. |

Unadopted Roads in the North Down Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the unadopted roads in the North Down constituency with an outstanding road bond. **(AQW 5328/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: Details of the unadopted roads in the North Down constituency with an outstanding road bond are provided below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Beechfield Avenue, Bangor; | ■ Linen Crescent, Rathgill Parade, Bangor-Stage 1; |
| ■ Ballycrochan Road Development; | ■ Rathgill Avenue, Bangor (Helm Housing Site); |
| ■ Ballycrochan Park/Crescent/Grove(Part); | ■ Riverwood Vale, Bangor; |
| ■ Abbingdon Manor, Bangor – Stage 1; | ■ Rockfield Glen, Bangor – Stage 5; |
| ■ Clifton Manor, Bangor; | ■ Seapark Lane, Holywood; |
| ■ Downshire Lane, Bangor; | ■ Shaftsbury, Belfast Road, Bangor; |
| ■ Dellmount Crescent, Bangor; | ■ Stonebridge Avenue, Bangor (Part); |
| ■ Hanover Chase/Hill, Bangor; | ■ Stonebridge Row, Bangor; |
| ■ Myrtle Grove, The Beeches, Bangor; | |

- Upritchard Court, Bangor;
- Victoria Mill, Bangor;
- Woodcroft Lane, Holywood;
- Woodvale Gardens, Bangor;
- Abbingdon Manor, Bangor – Stages 2 & 3;
- Bridgelea Development, Green Road, Conlig;
- Gibsons Lane, Bangor (Oaklee Housing Site);
- Linen Crescent, Rathgill Parade – Stages 2, 3 & 4;
- Main Street, Conlig – Footway only at No. 103;
- Primacy Road, Bangor – Footway only at No. 3;
- Rossinver Gardens/Glendowan Way, Bangor; and
- Woodgate Development, Rathgael Road, Bangor.

Unadopted Sewers with Outstanding Agreements with NI Water

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the unadopted sewers with an outstanding agreements with NI Water, or its predecessor, in the North Down constituency.

(AQW 5329/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that there are currently some 176 development sites in the North Down constituency where persons have constructed, are constructing or proposing to construct a sewerage system. These may be adopted at a future date provided the terms of the agreement have been met. This figure includes agreements with NIW's predecessor, DRD Water Service, which were entered into prior to 1 April 2007.

NIW's records indicate that the developments are at various stages of the process, including pre-assessment, appraisal, approval, preliminary adoption or final adoption stages. Of the 176 developments, 26 are currently at pre-assessment stage. It is the responsibility of the persons constructing the sewerage system to advise NIW when they consider it is completed to a satisfactory standard, to enable the system to be inspected and a Certificate of Completion to be issued with a view to future adoption.

The information requested about unadopted sewers is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Sewers in the North Down Constituency

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many sewers in the North Down constituency have been adopted in the last (i) twelve months; (ii) three years; and (iii) five years.

(AQW 5330/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the sewerage system within 13 developments in the North Down constituency have been adopted in the past five years as detailed in the table below.

Date	Development Name
2007	Cove Bay Phase 1, Groomsport
	Cove Bay Phase 3a
	Church Hill, Spencer Street, Holywood
2008	Cove Bay Phase 2a, Groomsport
	Cove Bay Phase 2b, Groomsport
	Beechfield, Conlig
2009	Beechfield, Conlig

Date	Development Name
2010	Kestrel Park
	Gibson's Green, Bangor
	Willowbrook Park, Bangor
2011	Brook Lane Phase 1, Rathgael Road, Bangor
	Brook Lane Phase 2, Rathgael Road, Bangor
	Balmoral Square, Bangor

Electronic Passenger Information Systems

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to introduce electronic passenger information systems at all bus stops and park and ride facilities.

(AQW 5332/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service, in conjunction with Translink, has worked to provide real time passenger information at 188 of the busiest bus stops in Belfast. This facility, which is part of an overall contract costing in the region of £4m over 8 years, provides priority at traffic signals for 305 of Translink's Metro buses and an associated fleet management system.

Translink has in excess of 14,000 bus stops in Northern Ireland and electronic passenger information is currently provided at just over 1% of them. Unfortunately, it would not be realistic to provide electronic passenger information at all of these bus stops. However, the system has the facility to be expanded, should sufficient funding become available in the future.

In addition, my Department, in partnership with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Translink, has just completed an audio visual pilot on bus services on the 5A Metro route in east Belfast. The audio visual systems were installed on buses and at three strategic bus stops along the route.

The pilot project is intended to assess the benefits of audio visual systems for all passengers and, in particular, for those passengers with visual impairments, hearing impairments and older people. A full evaluation of the project is now being carried out by the Department. Future decisions about the extension of audio visual passenger information systems will take account of the evaluation findings and the availability of resources at the time.

20 mph Speed Limit Outside Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department is considering the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit outside schools.

(AQW 5340/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has invested considerable resources in trying to make it as safe as possible for children travelling to and from their schools. Measures installed include warning signs and road markings, advising motorists of the presence of children and additional electronic warning signs installed as part of the Safer Routes to School Initiative.

Schools in residential areas frequently have traffic calming measures such as road humps installed as part of an overall scheme for the surrounding area. Roads Service's speed management policy encourages the further roll out of 20 mph limits and zones in residential and other areas, where there is a high proportion of vulnerable road users present. However, these are only effective when they are backed up with physical traffic calming measures, or where the existing average speed of vehicles is close to 20 mph. Research has shown that erecting permanent 20 mph signs will usually only result in a 1 mph reduction in speeds and will quickly fall into disrepute, whenever drivers see that there is no activity at schools for the vast majority of time.

Roads Service recently piloted part time 20 mph speed limits at two schools, where the national speed limit applies. These have been very successful at keeping speeds down during those periods when there was activity at the school entrance, such as, at opening and closing time. There was a less marked reduction in speeds during an urban school pilot.

The part-time 20 mph speed limits are now approved for use outside schools and have been incorporated into Roads Service policy on speed management. At an approximate cost of £64,000 per rural site, the system seems very expensive, although it is considered that further savings could be made with amendments to the equipment and greater economies of scale, should a major capital programme be launched. Road Service is currently developing more cost effective measures, however, given the major constraints on public service budgets that all Departments are having to deal with, I don't expect to be able to announce the go-ahead for a comprehensive programme for some time unless additional funding is made available.

Roads Service is also currently developing a new all embracing policy that will focus on rationalising all the current Road Safety Engineering Measures at Schools. This will look at all engineering measures available to improve safety outside schools.

Southern By-pass at Enniskillen

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the proposals for a southern by-pass at Enniskillen will link in with the future development of a ring-road for the town.

(AQW 5341/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass involves the provision of a single carriageway extending from the A4 Belfast Road to the A4 Sligo Road, crossing the A509 Derrylin Road.

The preferred corridor has been identified and work is currently progressing towards the identification of a preferred route. The scheme remains the highest priority strategic road improvement proposal for the town of Enniskillen.

At present, there are no plans for a ring road around Enniskillen. However, if such a proposal were to be considered for the town at some stage in the future, then the bypass would most likely form an integral element of it.

A4 Dual Carriageway from Stangmore to Ballygawley

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the 11 known incidents of vehicles travelling against the flow of traffic along the A4 Dual Carriageway from Stangmore to Ballygawley, whether he will introduce signage of a motorway standard to prevent a major traffic collision; and if he will make a statement on this matter.

(AQW 5396/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is aware of reported incidents of motorists travelling against the flow of traffic on the A4 Dual Carriageway. Following the first reported incident, Roads Service and the PSNI undertook a safety review of all the junctions on the new dual carriageway. The review concluded that enhanced signage at all the junctions should be provided. However, I understand that three of the most recent incidents occurred after the enhanced signage was provided.

Roads Service has also advised that a Stage 4 Road Safety Audit was undertaken on 8 December 2011 and it will report in due course, giving particular consideration to the need for further safety improvements at junctions along the new dual carriageway.

I assume that the motorway standard signage to which the Member refers is "wig-wag" red lights that flash alternatively below "No Entry" signs on motorway off slip junctions. These particular features are not currently used on dual carriageways. However, given the number of incidents that have been

reported of vehicles travelling against the normal flow of traffic, their use on this route, together with other measures, will be specifically considered as part of the safety audit.

Translink Buses with Cameras Fitted

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the percentage of Translink buses with cameras fitted, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5451/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The percentage of the Translink fleet fitted with CCTV equipment in each of the last five years is as follows:

Company	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ulsterbus	15%	27%	34%	44%	47%
Metro (Citybus)	3%	25%	28%	28%	29%

Audio-Visual Information on Buses and Coaches

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to extend the provision of audio-visual information to buses and coaches.

(AQW 5463/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department, in partnership with the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Translink, has recently completed an audio visual pilot on bus services on the 5A Metro route in East Belfast. The audio visual systems were installed on buses and at three strategic bus stops along the route. The pilot project was intended to assess the benefits of audio visual systems for all passengers and in particular for those with visual impairments, hearing impairments and older people. A full evaluation of the pilot project will be carried out by my Department. Future decisions about the extension of audio visual passenger information systems will be taken in light of the evaluation and the resources available at the time.

People who are Blind or Partially Sighted Using Public Transport

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to assist further people who are blind or partially sighted using public transport.

(AQW 5464/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is implementing an Accessible Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland which seeks to address a wide range of barriers that impede the use of the transport system by older people and people with disabilities. This Strategy includes the piloting of Audio Visual systems on buses and I have provided greater detail on this in my answer to AQW 5463/11-15.

Roads Service works closely with local access committees when developing schemes and uses the guidance provided in the Department for Transport's 'Inclusive Mobility' when designing new works in urban environments. Tactile paving is included in all new work and has been widely provided elsewhere. Audible or tactile devices are provided at all traffic controlled crossings.

In conjunction with Royal National Institute of Blind People, Translink instructors have recently completed a "train the trainers" session with staff from Lisburn in Focus. This will enable Translink instructors to provide visual awareness training to other staff.

Translink is currently working with Royal National Institute of Blind People and Guide Dogs for the Blind Association to achieve a centre of excellence accreditation for the bus and rail stations in Lisburn. If successful, it is hoped that this will set a benchmark for services throughout Translink.

I will be meeting shortly with the Director for the Royal National Institute of Blind People, to discuss my Department's ongoing contribution to the UK Vision Strategy which aims to enhance the inclusion, participation and independence for people with sight loss.

Shared Surface Pavement Scheme in Belfast City Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans there are to introduce a shared surface pavement scheme in Belfast city centre.

(AQW 5465/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it currently has no plans to introduce a shared surface pavement scheme in Belfast city centre.

Shared space/public realm schemes in Northern Ireland are generally promoted by the Department for Social Development and Roads Service is a consultee in this process.

Groups Representing People who are Blind or Partially Sighted

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what consultation his Department has had with groups representing people who are blind or partially sighted on any potential shared surface pavement schemes.

(AQW 5466/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has had no consultation with groups representing people who are blind or partially sighted on any potential shared surface pavement schemes.

Disabled Parking Bays

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the measures taken by his Department to ensure that disabled parking bays are not used by non disabled people.

(AQW 5476/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that parking in a disabled person's parking space without clearly displaying a valid Blue Badge is a parking contravention for which a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) can be issued by a Traffic Attendant.

From 1 January 2011 to 30 November 2011, 6,779 PCNs were issued to vehicles parked in a disabled person's space without clearly displaying a valid Blue Badge.

PCNs can be issued to vehicles which are illegally parked on the public road or in a Roads Service car-park. Roads Service has no authority or responsibility for parking enforcement on private land.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Regional Development, following the November North-South Ministerial Council Meeting, whether the terms of reference between his Department and transport officials in Dublin have been agreed in relation to the A5 road scheme; and, if so, to outline those terms of reference.

(AQW 5499/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member is aware, the A5 and A8 dual carriageway schemes have been taken forward as a result of an agreement between the Executive and the Irish Government.

At the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary meeting held on Friday 18 November 2011, it was noted that provision of further funding by the Irish Government, for progression of the A5 and A8 projects, is being deferred and that in this regard, the Irish Government will provide £25 million per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards the projects.

It was also agreed at this meeting that the relevant Departments will prepare a new funding and implementation plan for the projects, for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting, with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the outcome of the November North South Ministerial Council meeting in relation to any decisions taken on the A5 road scheme.

(AQW 5500/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member is aware, the A5 and A8 dual carriageway schemes have been taken forward as a result of an agreement between the Executive and the Irish Government.

At the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary meeting held on Friday 18 November 2011, it was noted that provision of further funding by the Irish Government, for progression of the A5 and A8 projects, is being deferred and that in this regard, the Irish Government will provide £25 million per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards the projects.

It was also agreed at the Plenary meeting that the relevant Departments will prepare a new funding and implementation plan for the projects, for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting, with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Regional Development whether officials from any other Department, other than his own, will attend the proposed meeting in Dublin with officials from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to discuss the A5 road scheme.

(AQW 5502/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member that my officials will engage with officials from the Irish Government, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, along with officials from the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland, to discuss a new funding and implementation plan for the A5 and A8 projects, for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting, with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Regional Development for a breakdown of the money spent by his Department to date on the A5 road scheme.

(AQW 5503/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, to date, approximately £40 million has been spent on development of the A5 dual carriageway project. In addition to professional fees in the preliminary development and design of 85km of dual carriageways, this cost includes topographical and environmental surveys, and ground investigation.

This has enabled the progression of the scheme through the preliminary options stage, to identify the preferred corridor, the preferred options stage, to identify the preferred route, and on to the statutory procedures stage. I am currently awaiting the Inspector's Report from the Public Inquiry into the draft statutory orders. I anticipate receipt of this report early in the New Year.

Thus far two payments, to the value of £19m, have been made by the Irish Government to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund. It is anticipated that a further payment of £3m, which was agreed at the North South Ministerial Council Plenary meeting on 18 November 2011, will be made later this financial year.

Roads Service officials further advise that, due to the overlap in activities, it is not practicable to accurately breakdown the expenditure between stages.

Derry to Dublin Route

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development why bus services have been reduced on the Derry to Dublin route, meaning that there is no service on this route between 16.30 and 23.00; and what pressure he can apply to have more frequent services on this route.

(AQW 5513/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has advised that it has to plan and deploy its resources on this particular service taking due account of the varying level of demand in order that the route remains economically viable. The level of patronage on Ulsterbus Service 274, operated in partnership with Bus Éireann, shows a significant variation between the summer and winter months. The winter timetable operating from November 2011 until March 2012 has been designed to ensure that those journeys, which have all year round patronage and are profitable, have been retained. These changes were agreed in discussion with Bus Éireann.

Timetabling issues such as frequency are operational matters for Translink and for the other transport providers on this route. I understand that between 1630 and 2300 hours there are opportunities to use the Ulsterbus service 273 from Londonderry both to Strabane and Omagh to interline with either of two Bus Éireann services which operate during this period between Letterkenny and Dublin. In addition, there is a privately operated coach service which leaves Londonderry at 1700 hours every day from Monday to Saturday and travels to Dublin Airport and Dublin O'Connell Street.

Schedule of Works Planned for the West Belfast Constituency

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the schedule of works planned for the West Belfast constituency for the 2011-15 budgetary period.

(AQW 5529/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

I can advise that the detailed budget for subsequent years has not yet been finalised and it is therefore not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

Traffic Calming Measures in West Belfast

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the traffic calming measures which have been implemented in West Belfast over the last two years; and the measures that will be introduced in the next twelve months.

(AQW 5530/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils

I can advise that the detailed budget for subsequent years has not yet been finalised and it is therefore not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

Cost of Air Travel

Mr McLaughlin asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total cost incurred by his Department on air travel (i) between Northern Ireland and Heathrow Airport from January to December

2010; and (ii) between Northern Ireland and all airports in Great Britain, excluding Heathrow Airport, from January to December 2010.

(AQW 5531/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The following table sets out the costs of air travel between Northern Ireland and airports in Great Britain in the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

Air Travel to Great Britain in 2010	Total Cost
(i) Between Northern Ireland and Heathrow Airport	£ 26,088.66
(ii) Between Northern Ireland and All Airports in Great Britain (excluding Heathrow Airport)	£ 28,854.79

There were also a small number of flights to European destinations from Northern Ireland airports that required connection flights through Heathrow Airport. The costs of the Northern Ireland to Heathrow Airport legs of these journeys are not included in the above figures. The costs of the journeys from Northern Ireland to Heathrow Airport in these instances are not separately identifiable.

Adoption Proceeding on the Section of Cotterhill Road, Downpatrick

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will initiate an adoption proceeding on the section of Cotterhill Road, Downpatrick which was abandoned by the former Downpatrick and Rural District Council.

(AQW 5630/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the short cul-de-sac leading to private property at the junction of the Cotterhill Road and the main A7 Downpatrick to Belfast Road appears to have been abandoned at the time of the construction of the A7.

This is now a private lane which does not meet the standards required for a public road and there would be no benefit in Roads Service adopting this lane into the public road network.

Roads: North Antrim

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQO 921/11-15, why there were more claims made in 2009/10 than in 2008/09 and 2010/11; and why the average compensation paid out in 2009/10 was £131.43 compared with £69.27 in 2010/11.

(AQW 5635/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that more claims, arising out of uneven road surfaces, were made in 2009/10 than in 2008/09 and 2010/11 due to the impact of the cold winter of 2009/10, which caused repeated freeze/thaw cycles on the road network. Although the winter weather of 2010/11 was considered to be more severe than 2009/10, the snow that lay on the unsalted road network last winter prevented the ingress of water, thereby resulting in less damage to the road surface.

I also note that the average compensation figures quoted appear to have been calculated by dividing "the total compensation paid" by the "number of claims received" for the same year. However, this calculation does not take account of the claims where liability was denied by Roads Service and no compensation paid, or claims where a decision has not yet been made. Roads Service has advised that of the 191 claims received in 2009/10, 61 were rejected and 2 are still under investigation. Similarly, of the 175 claims received in 2010/11, 101 claims were rejected and 2 are still under investigation. The average compensation payment is calculated by dividing the "settlement amount" by the "number of claims settled". Therefore, the average amount paid per compensation claim in 2009/10 and 2010/11 was £196 and £192 respectively.

Roads in the Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon Districts

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development which roads in the (i) Magherafelt; (ii) Cookstown; and (iii) Dungannon districts are served by asbestos water mains pipes.

(AQW 5691/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the roads listed in the attached table are served by asbestos cement water mains:

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Cahore Road	Templereagh Road	Agharan Road
Cahore Terrace	Killycanavan Road	Altaveedan Road
Iniscarn Road	Lower Kildress Road	Altmore Drive
Grange Road	Littlebridge Road	Annaghilla Road
Longfield Lane	Ballygruby Road	Annaghroe Road
Glenmaquill Road	Kinnagillian Road	Ardmore Terrace
Wood Road	Dunnamore Road	Ballagh Road
Ballynagown Road	Broughderg Road	Ballygawley Roundabout
Kilcronaghan Road	Camlough Road	Ballygittle Road
Sixtowns Road	Killeenan Road	Ballynany Road
Tobermore Road	Keerin Road	Battleford Road
Desertmartin Road	Murnells Road	Bernagh Gardens
Lissadell Drive	Blackrock Road	Black Lane
Derrynoyd Road	Cavanoneill Road	Bleachfield Park
Drumard Road	Tulnacross Road	Bovean Road
Magherafelt Road	Limehill Road	Brackaville Road
Draperstown Road	Drum Road	Broom Drive
Duntibryan Road	Upper Kildress Road	Carnteel Road
Clooney Road	Keenaghan Road	Castle Lane
Roshure Road	Corvanaghan Road	Castletown Road
Moneyneany Road	Baladoogh Lane	Cavan Road
Gortinari	Beltonanean Road	Cedar Ridge
Mulnavoo Road	Cloughfin Road	Clontyclevin Road
St. Patricks Street	Ballynasolus Road	Corkhill Road
Moykeeran Crescent	Gortreagh Road	Craigavon Crescent
Glenshane Park	Knockaleery Road	Cullenramer Road
Slieve Gallion Drive	Tamnaskeeney Road	Cunninghams Lane
Slieve Gallion Park	Pomeroy Road	Derrycourtney Road
Moydamlaght Road	Magheraglass Road	Derrygally Road

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Five Mile Straight	Rectory Road	Derrygally Way
Moykeeran Drive	Wellbrook Road	Dreemore Road
Moneyneany Lane	Killymoon Street	Drumconnor Road
Gortahurk Road	Orritor Road	Drumcoo Green
Forgetown Road	Corkill Road	Drumcullion Lane
Coolshinney Road	Flo Road	Drumflugh Road
Carraloan Road	Esker Road	Drumglass Way
Main Street	Feegarron Lane	Dunore Avenue
Longfield Road	Creevagh Road	Edfield Way
Drumsamney Road	Creevagh Lane	Espey Park
Gulladuff Road	Lough Fea Road	Farriter Road
Gulladuff Hill	Killycurragh Road	Favour Royal Road
Ballymoghna Lane	Lissan Road	Feroy Lane
Killyfaddy Road	Feegarron Road	Garvagh Road
Ballymulligan Road	Drumgrass Road	Glasdrummond Road
Ballyronan Road	Drumearn Road	Glencon Road
Mulderg Road	Meenanea Road	Glenmont Park
Letteran Road	Drumnamalta Road	Gorey Road
Tirgan Road	Davagh Road	Gortavale Road
Carncoose Road	Turnaface Road	Gortnagola Road
Ballymoghna Road	Claggan Road	Grange Park
Ballymaguigan Road	Muntober Road	Grange Road
Waterfoot Road	Ballybriest Road	Grove Way
Gracefield Road	Tullynure Road	Halftown Road
Aughrim Road	Corby Road	Hillcrest
Barrack Road	Dirnan Road	Hillcrest Park
Piney Hill	Letteran Road	Jacksonville Road
Moneymore Road	Tullyveagh Road	Kedew Road
Queens Avenue	Killymoon Road	Kilcoole Drive
Meadowbank Drive	Birchgrove	Killyman Road
Beechland Road	Tullyboy Road	Killymeal Road
Beechland Drive	Coltrim Lane	Killyneill Road
Westland Road	Ardboe Road	Knockaginny Road
Sperrin View	Kinrush Road	Leany Road

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Crocknamohil Road	Windsor Terrace	Legane Road
Mayogall Road	Drumad Road	Lisdoart Road
Coleraine Road	Ballinderry Bridge Road	Lisduff Lane
O'hara Road	Spring Road	Lisginny Road
Station Road	Shore Road	Lismore Road
Crewe Drive	Belagherty Road	Lisnagowan Road
Mckenna Rise	Brookmount Road	Lisnamonaghan Road
Crawfordsburn Drive	Aghaveagh Road	Lisnawery Road
Crew Road	Urbal Lane	Listamlet Road
Ballymacilcurr Road	Main Street	Main Road
Tirgarvil Road	Ballygillen Road	Main Street
Carnaman Road	Killymuck Road	Maydown Terrace
Innishrush Road	Loup Road	Milltown
Tonagh Heights	Knockadoo Road	Minterburn Road
Culnady Road	Maghadone Lane	Mourne Avenue
Tirnageeragh Cottages	Dunronan Road	Mourne Crescent
Mckennas Lane	Tamlaght Road	Moygashel Court
Macknagh Road	Ruskey Road	Moygashel Lane
Ballynease Road	Springhill Road	Moygashel Park
Quarry Road	Drumrot Road	Mullaghanagh Lane
Drumbolg Road	Ballymaguire Road	Mullaghmore Road
Killycon Road	Cloverhill Road	Mullaghmoyle Road
Beechland Gardens	Drumenny Road	Mullybrannon Road
Ford Road	Rock Road	Northland Place
Glenone Road	Ballymoyle Road	Northland Way
Creagh Road	Lawford Street	Oaks Road
Clady Road	Circular Road	Old Caulfield Road
Riverview Lane	Market Street	Old Eglis Road
New Ferry Road	Smith Street	Orpheus Drive
Glenone Villas	Station Road	Parkanaur Road
Dunronan Road	Desertmartin Road	Platers Hill
Castledawson Road	Bridger Street	Pomeroy Road
Sandy Grove	Conyngham Street	Prince Andrew Crescent
Pound Road	Rockbrook Road	Quarry Lane

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Annaghmore Road	Ballyneill Road	Ranaghan Road
Moyola Avenue	Ballynagilly Road	Remeen
Chichester Avenue	Moneyhaw Road	Remeen Drive
Orr Road	Scotts Road	Riverview Bungalows
Shore Road	Tullyreavy Road	Roskeen Road
Garden Street	Shivey Road	Roughan Road
Hospital Road	Kiltyclay Road	Screeby Road
Derramore Park	Aghafad Road	Seyloran Lane
Ballyheifer Road	Bardahessiagh Road	Springfield Crescent
Moyola Road	Tanderagee Road	Syerla Road
Bowmans Road	Sessiagh Scott Road	Tamnamore Road
Meadowfield Place	Cashel Lane	Thornhill Road
Shilgrove Place	Kiltyclogher Road	Trew Mount Road
Mullaghboy Crescent	Crossglebe	Tullyaran Road
King Street	Strews Road	Tullybryan Road
Union Road	Rockdale Road	Tullyvar Road
Bellshill Road	Lurgy Road	Tullywinny Road
Park View	Killygarvan Road	Washingford Row
Parker Avenue	Killygarvin Road	Woodlawn Drive
New Row	Annaghone Road	Woodlawn Park
Brough Road	Ballynafeagh Road	Woodvale Park
Hillhead Road	Killycolpy Road	
Oldtown Road	Sluggan Road	
Hillhead Terrace	Castlefarm Road	
Killyberry Road	Keeragh	
Creagh Hill	Slate Quarry Road	
Deerpark Road	Tirnaskea Road	
Sersons Road	Trainors Terrace	
Garrison Road	Lucy Street	
Mullaghboy Road	Cookstown Road	
Lurganagoose Road	Annahavil Road	
Glenshane Road	Moneygaragh Road	
Broagh Road	Ballynakilly Road	
Mcmaster Crescent	West Street	

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Bridge Street	Aughagranna Road	
Moyola Park	Mountjoy Road	
Ballynacross Road	Lammy Road	
The Cairns	Hillside	
Ashbourne	Ballygruby Lane	
Drumlamph Road	Hammond Street	
Church Street	Beaghmore Road	
Carricknakielt Road	Ronan Manor	
Castle Street	Jubilee Park	
William Street	Derryloran Place	
Malcolm Villas	Cooke Crescent	
Crawfordsburn	Castle Villas	
Glen Road	Mullan Road	
Glenview	Conway Close	
Glencree	Mckinney Park	
Kilrea Road	Loughdoo Road	
Hunters Park	New Line Road	
Coolagh Road	Loughbracken Road	
Mullagh Road	Tullywiggan Road	
Craigadick Road	Killybearn Road	
Ballyknock Road	Hawthorn Manor	
Ranaghan Road	Tobin Park	
Glenvale	Woodvale Crescent	
Garvagh Road	Mill Lane	
Moneysallin Road	High Street	
Drumlane Road	Northland Road	
Hervey Hill Road	Magherafelt Road	
Lismoyle Road	Cloneen Drive	
Boveedy Road	Northland Gardens	
Lisnagrot Road	Rockview Park	
Fallahogy Road	Carnagh	
Moneygran Road	Kilreish Estate	
Hillside Cottages	Ballybeg Lane	
Garden Terrace	Gaussen Villas	

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Rainey Street	Craigs Road	
Killyneese Road	Ramper Road	
Shandon Park	New Road	
Davison Villas	Churchtown Road	
Tamnadeese Road	Davagh Park	
Mullaghboy Lane	Cherry Hill	
Broad Street	Annaghquin Road	
Springfield Park	Tullyodonnell Road	
Beatrice Villas	Killyneedan Road	
Alexander Park	Mullaghmoyle Road	
Brown Drive	Oughterard Road	
Tamney Crescent	Corrycroar Road	
Hawthorne Road	North Street	
Carn View	Kilmascally Road	
Aghagaskin Road	Legmurn Road	
Jacksons Drive	Newmills Road	
Curran Road	Tullywiggan Cottages	
Blackpark Road	Drumullan Manor	
Oak Park	Church View	
High Street	Bridgend Road	
Upper Golf Terrace	Drapersfield Road	
Fairhill Road	Fairhill	
Mossbawn	Fairlea Heights	
Knocknagin Road	Hammond Mews	
Mullaghboy Hill Road	Riverbrook Court	
Rectory Road	Eglish Close	
Gortmore	Orchard View	
Parker Gardens	Ballymulligan Road	
Old Tyanee Road	Woodvale Road	
Lisheen Park	Drumconvis Road	
Megargy Road	Birchwood Park	
Dunlogan Road	Lisacclare Road	
Fort View	Tamlaghtmore Road	
Lisnamuck Road	Crockbane Road	

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Knockadoo Road	Trickvallen Road	
Quilly Road	Finvey Lane	
Ballyriff Road	Carnenny Lane	
Killowen Drive	Lisnanane Lane	
Golf Terrace	Sandholes Road	
Sandy Braes	Gortacar Road	
Oakland Crescent	Bardahessiagh Lane	
Roundabout	Cornamaddy Road	
Ronan Drive	Gortnaskea Road	
Lester Park	Killywoolaghan Road	
Highfield Road	Mckeown's Lane	
Kirk Avenue	Blackbog Road	
Princess Drive	Ballygonny Road East	
Mill Park	Salterstown Road	
Campletown Terrace	Crouck Road	
Woodland Road	Legnacash Road	
Moyola Court	Dunmore Lane	
Rainey Court	Doons Road	
Dromore Road	Glenarny Road	
Brackaghlistlea Road	Mackenny Road	
Fern Drive	Drumgarrell Road	
Hazeldene Avenue	Mossband Road	
Regency Court	Ballydawley Road	
Churchwell Lane	Rogully Road	
Brackagh Road	Dunnabraggy Road	
Moorside Villas	Moss Road	
Brough Terrace	Lindsay Ville	
Maghera Road	Ballyronan Road	
Millview	Edendoit Road	
Bells Court	Sherrigrim Road	
Moyola View	Dungannon Road	
Gregg Gardens	Tullylagan Road	
King William Iii Crescent	Tullyard Road	
Beagh Terrace	Loughnamarve Road	

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Martins Terrace	Brigh Road	
Cooke Avenue	Brookend Road	
Martinvale Park	Roughan Road	
St. Lurachs Gardens	Ballygittle Road	
Tirkane Road	Carnan Road	
Knocknakielt Road	Gorticashel Road	
Mullagh Close	Beltonanean Lane	
Thompson Gardens	Terrywhinny Lane	
Beaver Crescent	Unagh Road	
Fair Hill	Toberlane Road	
Glen Close	Coolreaghs Road	
Riverview Park	Drummullan Road	
Tamlaght Road	Lisnahall Road	
Drumard Hill	Ballyeglish Road	
Downings Road	Urbal Road	
Longlands	Carrydarragh Road	
Friels Terrace	Maghadone Road	
Ringsend Close	Battery Road	
Moneysharvan Road	Trickwallen Road	
Moyagoney Road	Scotchtown Lane	
Mallon Villas	Ballyriff Road	
Princess Gardens	Ballynargan Road	
Sperrin Drive	Annaghmore Road	
Slemish View	Caneese Road	
Lester Gardens	Northland Drive	
Beechland Place	Tullynagee Road	
Killross Villas	Mawillian Road	
Bells Manor	River View	
Broagh Village	Cavanakeeran Road	
Mullagh Lane	Turnabarson Road	
Meadow Villas	Fairgreen Street	
Drumconready Road	Gortscraheen Road	
Craigmore Road	Blacktown Road	
Loughinsholin Park	Mourne View	

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Glenelly Villas		
Gorse Road		
Luney Lane		
Drumderg Road		
Gortnaskey Road		
Tullynagee Road		
Brackagh Lane		
Ballynagarve Road		
Strawmore Road		
Loves Road		
Dunarnon Road		
Island Road		
Lisalbanagh Road		
Killyboggin Road		
Ballyscullion Lane		
Brackaghreilly Road		
Ballydermot Road		
Tamlaghduff Road		
Ballymacombs Road		
Tamlaghduff Park		
Ballymacombs Lane		
Curr Road		
Drumimerick Road		
Grove Terrace		
Leitrim Road		
Tamney Martin Road		
Macknagh Lane		
Tullyheran Road		
Rocktown Road		
Curragh Road		
Eden Road		
Boyne Row		
Jubilee Road		
Derrynoyd Lane		

Magherafelt Council Area	Cookstown Council Area	Dungannon Council Area
Cloane Road		
Luney Road		
Rosgarran Road		
Motalee Road		
Rockbrook Road		
Derg Lane		
Moss Road		
Grange Lane		
Gortamney Lane		
Killyberry Lane		
Carricknakielt Lane		
Ballyscullion Road		
Dreenan Road		
Aughrim Lane		
The Island		
Glenvale Road		
Culbane Road		
Killygullib Road		
Currish Lane		

Newtownards Saturday Market

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Regional Development under what terms would his Department permit Newtownards Saturday market to relocate temporarily to a Roads Service car park during the renovation of Conway Square, Newtownards.

(AQW 5750/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the use of car parks for trading is prohibited under the Off-Street Parking Bye-Laws (Northern Ireland) 1994 paragraph 12. Implementation of the necessary change to the legislation, even for a temporary period, could not be completed by January 2012.

The use of certain car parks for markets and fairs, such as, those held in Smithfield Square East, Lisburn, dates back to arrangements put in place during the re-organisation of local government in 1973. At this time, the responsibility for administering car parks was transferred from Councils to Roads Service and appropriate clauses and conditions were agreed at that time. No such arrangements are in place for either the South Street/Court Street or Kennel Lane car parks in Newtownards.

I understand that Roads Service is liaising with Ards Borough Council to establish if their proposed improvements could be split into phases, whereby works would be carried out in part of Conway Square, while the remaining area would remain available for use by the traders.

Roads Service is hopeful that this proposal will be acceptable to Ards Borough Council and will be implemented when the renovation works start in January.

Grit Boxes in the Colin Area of West Belfast

Ms J McCann asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the location of the grit boxes in the Colin Area of west Belfast.

(AQW 5808/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that there are 93 salt/grit boxes in the general Colin area of west Belfast. The location of each of these is detailed in the table below:

Sect	Road No.	Road Name	Location
VL03	U1002/01	Glenmeen Close	Opposite House No. 5 on Green
WL01	U7102/36	The Manor, Blacks Rd	At SL No. 1
WL01	U7115/22	Glenburn Road	At SL No. 63
WL01	U7115/22	Glenburn Road	At SL No. 44
WL01	U7115/22	Glenburn Road	At JCT Beattie Pk
WL01	U7104/18	Glenhead Ave.	Opposite STL9/House No. 31 on Main Road
WL01	U7106/05	Sunnymede Park 2	Opposite. SL No. 4 at wall
WL01	U7106/05	Sunnymede Park 1	At SL No. 2
WL01	U7106/07	Sunnyhill Park	At JCT Upper Dunmurry Lane
WL01	U7105/13	Willow Gardens	At JCT Rowan Drive
WL01	U7105/25	Seymour Hill Mews	At St No. 7
WL01	U7105/52	Rivergrove	At SL No. 4
WL01	U7105/03	Larch Grove	Between SL No. 11 and 14
WL01	U7105/35	Housernbeam Rd 2	Opposite SL No. 10/Mace
WL01	U7105/35	Housernbeam Rd 1	At Side of House No. 99
WL01	U7105/26	Hawthouserne Park	At House No. 5
WL01	U7105/42	Glenwood Park 2	At SL No. 8
WL01	U7105/42	Glenwood Park 1	At SL No. 31
WL01	U7104/18	Glenhead Ave.	Opposite SL No. 5/House No. 43
WL01	U7104/12	Glenariff Drive	Jct. Glenburn Rd/St1
WL01	U7104/15	Glenaan Ave 3	Side House No. 22
WL01	U7104/15	Glenaan Ave 2	JCT Glenburn Rd/Opposite SL No. 1
WL01	U7104/15	Glenaan Ave 1	JCT Glendun Pk
WL01	U7105/15	Birch Green	At Steps Opposite House No. 24
WL01	U7104/06	Beatties Park South	On Bend
WL01	U7105/12	Ashlea Bend	At School Gates SL No. 3
WL01	U7102/05	The Green, Dunmurry	SL No. 1 Edenvale
WL01	U7106/08	Areema Drive 2	At SL No. 2

Sect	Road No.	Road Name	Location
WL01	U7106/08	Areema Drive 1	Opposite SL No. 8
WL01	U7102/34	Oakhurst Avenue	Side of House No. 123 at end of Footway
WL01	U7106/04	Lenwood Drive	Opposite House No. 1
WM01	U7107/08	Woodside View	At House No. 52
WM01	U7017/11	Woodside Park	At House No. 3
WM01	U7107/46+47	Laurelbank, Poleglass	At SL No. 34
WM01	U7101/53	Colinvale, Poleglass	Side of House No. 48 on Grass
WM01	U7101/73	Colinvale, Poleglass	Opposite House No. 110 on Grass
WM01	U7101/73	Colinvale, Poleglass	At House No. 18
WM01	U7107/07	Woodside View	Rear House No. 94
WM01	U7107/56	Glenwood Poleglass	On Footway Opposite SL No. 3
WM01	U7107/56	Glenwood View, Poleglass	Rear SI No. 5
WM01	U7115/25	Glenbawn Cres	At House No. 8 (On Verge) at Wall
WM01	U7117/15	Ardcaoin Park Poleglass	At SI No. 3
WM01	U7117/22	Ardcaoin View	At Wall Of Jct Ardcaoin Place
WM01	U7117-18	Ardcaoin Avenue	At SL No. 48 Beside House No. 35
WM01	U7117-18	Ardcaoin Avenue	At SL No. 34
WM01	U7117/15	Ardcaoin Park	At SL No. 3 (At Fence)
WM01	U7117-02	Glenkeen	At SL No. 6
WM01	U7101/40	Merrion Park	Opposite House No. 3
WM01	U7101/40	Merrion Park	At House No. 91 (Originally at No. 94)
WM01	U7101/35	Springbank Close	House No. 21 at Wall
WM01	U7101/37	Good Shepherd Rd	At School
WM02	U7106/75	Summerhill Drive	At House No. 34
WM02	U7116/15	Cherry Gardens	House Nos. 19/21 on Grass Area
WM02	U7016/10	Glasvey Rise	At JCT Glasvey Drive
WM02	U7116/50	Glasvey Rise	SL No. 130
WM02	U7106/20	Gardenmore Road	At St. Marks School
WM02	U7106/29	Broom Park	At SL No. 5 Opposite House No. 31
WM02	U7106/29	Almond Drive 1	House No. 4 at Wall
WM02	U7106/41	Almond Drive 2	At SL No.19/ House No. 40
WM02	U7116/13	Aspen Park	Opposite SL No. 7 On Grass
WM02	U7116/13	Aspen Park	At SL No. 1 On Grass

Sect	Road No.	Road Name	Location
WM03	U7105/55	Mount Eagles Ave	At Side SL No. 2
WM03	U7105/55	Mount Eagles Ave	At House No. 45
WM03	U7108/73	White Rise	At SL No. 52
WM03	U7115/55	Teeling View	Near SL No. 1/Opposite House No. 16
WM03	U7108/15	Lagmore Meadows	Opposite House No. 170 At Fence
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Glen	Bad Bend Above House No. 24
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Glen	SI No. 3 At Roundabout
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Glen	At Side House No. 63
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Glen	Opposite House No. 93
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Glen	Opposite House No. 132
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Glen	Opposite House No. 146
WM03	U7108/46	Lagmore Rise	At SL No. 14 (New Bin 25/2/2011)
WM03	U7101/23	Old Colin	At House Nos. 78/79
WM03	U7101/05	Glengoland Park 1	Opposite House No. 10 On Verge
WM03	U7101/05	Glengoland Parade	At SL No. 14
WM03	U7101/16	Glengoland Gds	At House No. 50 At Wall
WM03	U7101/17	Glengoland Cres	At Glengoland Gds At Wall SL No. 1
WM03	U7101/01	Glengoland Ave 3	At House No. 70
WM03	U7101/01	Glengoland Ave 2	Opposite SL No. 6 At Wall
WM03	U7101/03	Glengoland Ave 1	At JCT Glengoland Pk On Verge
WM03	U7012/17	Margaretta Park	At Side Of House No. 7
WM03	U7115/47	Glendowan Park	At House No. 9 On Grass Verge
WM03	U7115/47	Glendowan Park	At Side Of House No. 2 Beside Gate
WM03	U7115/50	Glendowan Grove	At House No. 1 On Grass Verge
WM03	U7116/32	Credenhill Park	Opposite Forest Pk Sign On Grass
WM03	U7116/32	Credenhill Park	Opposite House No. 33
WM03	U7102/11	Cloona Park 1	Jct Cloona Ave Opposite House No. 64
WM03	U7102/11	Cloona Park 1	House No. 42A
WM03	U7102/11	Cloona Park 1	Side House No. 121/Jct Cloona Ave At Wall
WM03	U7101-58	Hazelwood Avenue	At House No. 137
Z02H	M0001	Blacks Road	At Park & Ride Area
Z02H	M0001	Sprucefield	At Park & Ride Area

Roads Surfaces on the Route of the Annual Greencastle 5 Mile Road Race

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will ensure that Roads Service carries out essential repairs to roads surfaces on the route of the Annual Greencastle 5 Mile Road Race on Monday 26 December, including Crockanboy Road and Mullydoo Road; and that Roads Service proactively engages with the organisers of the Road Race on this matter.

(AQW 5875/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Crockanboy and Greencastle Road portions of the route are considered to be in good condition.

With regard to the Mullydoo Road section, I understand that this was due its cyclic inspection during the week commencing 5 January 2012 however, as in previous years, Roads Service officials have liaised with the race organisers and arranged to inspect it early. It is anticipated that any repairs considered necessary will be carried out before the race date.

Department for Social Development

Boiler Replacement Scheme

Mr Molloy asked the Minister for Social Development how many applications for the Boiler Replacement Scheme have been successful to date.

(AQW 3585/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): Any private sector householder, aged 60 years or over, in receipt of Rate Relief or over 70 and in receipt of Lone Pensioner Allowance but not Housing Benefit and with an existing boiler that is 15 years old or more can apply for the scheme.

At 30 September, 504 application forms from eligible applicants have been received, 114 formal approvals to proceed with replacement works have been issued.

Social Security Agency: Staff

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the religious background of staff in the Social Security Agency in each of the last 20 years.

(AQW 3952/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Recruitment and promotion exercises for General Service posts (i.e. administrators and managers) are managed on a corporate basis by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) through the HRConnect outsourced service. All Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) recruitment and promotion competitions are delivered in line with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code and Commissioners' regulate all recruitment to and within the NICS, at all levels, to ensure that the 'merit principle' is adhered to. DFP also provides statutory monitoring returns to the Equality Commission on its workforce composition for the NICS.

The religion of NICS staff is not held. However, as required by the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 (FETO), information is collected on the perceived community background of staff and applicants for posts in the NICS. Using this data, the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has provided information for the past 11 years relating to the Social Security Agency (SSA) in the table below.

NISRA can only provide information annually on the perceived community background of staff from 1 January 2000 to date. Prior to this, the information was only available at Departmental level through published Equal Opportunity Unit Reports. These reports, however, were not collated on an annual basis, but on a 3 yearly cycle.

Year	Total Staffing Numbers	Protestant Numbers %		Roman Catholic Numbers %		Not Determined Numbers %	
2000	4914	2010	40.9	2814	57.3	90	1.8
2001	5360	2158	40.3	3104	57.9	98	1.8
2002	5798	2310	39.8	3391	58.5	97	1.7
2003	5780	2313	40.0	3387	58.6	80	1.4
2004	5946	2372	39.9	3498	58.8	76	1.3
2005	5793	2288	39.5	3430	59.2	75	1.3
2006	5680	2239	39.4	3341	58.8	100	1.8
2007	5518	2193	39.7	3261	59.1	64	1.2
2008	5391	2136	39.6	3179	59.0	76	1.4
2009	5552	2253	40.6	3222	58.0	77	1.4
2010	5767	2374	41.2	3324	57.6	69	1.2
2011	5486	2247	41.0	3174	57.9	65	1.2

Note: All figures relate to permanent staff within the Social Security Agency and includes both full & part time staff i.e. headcount.

Source: Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA). Extracted from HRMS at 1 Jan up to 2008 and from HR Connect from 1 Jan 2009 onwards.

Public Contracts

Mr McCartney asked the Minister for Social Development to list all the current public contracts within his Department, including to whom each contract was awarded; how the contracts were advertised; and when each contract is next due to go out to tender.

(AQW 4256/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The details requested in respect of contracts are provided in the table below:

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Warm Homes Scheme	Bryson Charitable Group and H & A Mechanical	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	July 2012
Organisational review of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Pricewaterhouse Coopers	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	March 2012

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Mortgage Debt Advice Service	Housing Rights Service	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	March 2013.
Provision of advertising and related services to support Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division in the delivery of its Information and Support Service, 'Choices'	Genesis	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	Contract awarded for an initial one year period, commencing November 2011 with the option to extend by two further periods of one year each.
Survey of child maintenance population in Northern Ireland	Millward Brown Ulster	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	Contract awarded for first survey only- due to expire 29.02.2012. Further surveys may be repeated on an annual or bi-annual basis when contract will be re-tendered
Payphones in Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division buildings	BTNI Payphones	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	September 2012
Pest control	Ecolab	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	January 2012
Catering services	Eurest	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	March 2012

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Hire of courier van	Fleet financial	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	May 2012
Air freshener units in toilets of Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division buildings	Initial Washroom Solutions	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	October 2012
Sanitary disposal units in toilets of Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division buildings	Initial Washroom Solutions	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	January 2013
Ureco toilet service	Ocean Support Services	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	April 2012
Dust mat cleaning	PHS	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	September 2012
Sanitary bin replacement	PHS	Below financial threshold for public advertisement. Services procured on basis of selected tenders as per Procurement Control Limits.	March 2014

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Facilities Management	Serco	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	April 2012
Integrated Design Team (Design & Build contract for a Public Realm Scheme – Belfast: Streets Ahead Phase 1 Project)	AECOM, Design & Planning (formerly EDaw)	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	September 2013 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
Construction (Design & Build contract for a Public Realm Scheme – Belfast: Streets Ahead Phase 1 Project)	Farrans Construction Ltd	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	September 2013 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
Provision of Operational Services at the Lagan Weir.	Quay Marinas	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	February 2012
Andersonstown Road Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	F P McCann	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	Standalone Contract-end date unknown at present and will be on completion of construction phase.
Design of Templemore Avenue/Albertbridge Road Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme	Hamilton Architects	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	Standalone Contract-end date unknown at present and will be on completion of construction phase.
Anderstown Gateway Masterplan	White, Young Green & Paul Hogarth Company	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	No re-tender. Ongoing and end date unknown at present
Glen Road Development Framework	GVA Grimley & AECOM	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	No re-tender. Ongoing and end date unknown at present
Integrated Design Team (Design & Build contract for a Public Realm Scheme – Bank Square Regeneration Project)	RPS	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2013 is anticipated end date -contract is for period of Public Realm Project — may be extended due to slippage.

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Specialist Legal Services for Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate	McGrigors LLP	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News &News Letter.	Due for review August 2012 but may not be renewed.
Property Surveying Services – Laganside managed workspace buildings	O'Connor, Kennedy and Turtle	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News &News Letter.	Due for review April 2012 but may not be renewed.
Maintenance contract for water feature at Custom House Square Belfast	Chemical Treatment Services Ltd	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News &News Letter.	May 2012 – option to extend for up to 2 years, year on year, subject to approval.
Provision of Stewarding Services at Custom House Square, Donegal Quay, Lagan Weir and Queen's Quay Belfast	Eventsec	EU Restricted procurement - European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News &News Letter.	December 2012
River Lagan Environmental Engineering Consultant	Atkins	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News &News Letter.	January 2013 - option to extend for 1 year subject to approval.
River Lagan Boat Hire and River Maintenance	Gordon Darragh	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News &News Letter.	Due for review June 2012 but may not be renewed.
Masterplan of Greater Clarendon (Sailor town) area. Jointly promoted with the Strategic Investment Board.	GVA Grimley in association with EDAW (now AECOM) Faber Maunsell and Berwin Leighton	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	June 2012 assuming that Masterplan has issued. Contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Restoration and Reinstatement of steelwork on the SS Nomadic	Harland and Wolff	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	December 2011 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
SS Nomadic Conservation and Restoration ICT services	RPS	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	September 2012 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only- no re-tender.
Planning Application for Land at Ballykeel. Ballymena	Hamilton Architects	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	January 2012 is contract end date - may be re-tendered
Monaghan Street and Hill Street Public Realm Scheme, Newry	Hamilton Architects	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	May 2012 is contract end date - may be re-tendered.
South East Coast Masterplan	Scott Wilson	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	June 2012 is contract end date - may be re-tendered.
Coleraine Masterplan	Paul Hogarth Company	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2012 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only- no re-tender.
Armagh City Centre Development Sites	Tribal	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2013 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only- no re-tender.
Lisburn Development Sites	Scott Wilson	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2013 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only- no re-tender.
Portadown/Lurgan Development Sites	Paul Hogarth Company	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2013 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
Grosvenor Barracks Planning	Tribal	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	End date unknown at present –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Dungannon Scotch Street Development Site	Scott Wilson	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	September 2012 is contract end date- contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
Omagh Town Centre Development Sites	Paul Hogarth Company	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	End date unknown at present - contract for period of project only - no re-tender.
Enniskillen Town Centre Master Plan	Scott Wilson	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2012 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
Cookstown & Magherafelt Masterplan	Scott Wilson	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2012 is contract end date –contract is for the period of the project only - no re-tender.
Autorek – Cheque Reconciliation	API Software Limited	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	March 2012
Supply of Multi-Function Devices to Social Security Agency.	Xerox	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	May 2016
Courier	DX Courier	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	December 2011
Document Storage and Distribution	CDS	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	2016
Campaign for Social Security Agency Outreach to Older People	Genesis Advertising	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	May 2012
Support and Assistance for Implementation of Central Payment System	Deloitte	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	May 2012

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Medical Support Services Project - Legal Advice	Arthur Cox	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	December 2011 is anticipated contract end date - contract is for the period of the project only.
Medical Support Services Project - Financial Advice	Grant Thornton	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	December 2011 is anticipated contract end date - contract is for the period of the project only.
Medical Support Services Project - IT Accreditation	Sopra	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	December 2011 is anticipated contract end date - contract is for the period of the project only.
Medical Support Services Project - Delivery of Medical Services	Atos Healthcare IT Services UK Ltd	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	Contract expires December 2016; re-tender early 2016
Medical Support Services Project - IT Health Check	Sopra	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	December 2011 is anticipated contract end date - contract is for the period of the project only.
Medical Support Services Project - Insurance Advice	Willis Insurance	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	December 2011 is anticipated contract end date - contract is for the period of the project only.
Social Security Agency Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake	Advice NI	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	June 2012
Social Security Agency Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake	Disability Action	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	June 2012

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Social Security Agency Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake	Larne & District Citizens Advice Bureau	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	June 2012
Social Security Agency Innovation fund for increasing benefit uptake	Macmillan Cancer Support	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	June 2012
Social Security Agency Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake	Vine Centre Ltd	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	June 2012
Social Security Agency Benefit Uptake Programme for 2011-2012	Advice NI	Non-EU Procurement -open to all suppliers. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	June 2012
Supply & Support of Multi-Function Devices– Employment Support Allowance	Konica Minolta	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	May 2012
Social Security Agency - Carpet Cleaning	Precision Industrial Services	Non-EU Procurement -open tender. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	April 2012
House-keeping Services for Andersonstown Jobs & Benefits Office	Mount Charles	Non-EU Procurement -open tender. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	December 2012
Provision of House-keeping for James House and Lighthouse	Sodexo	EU open procurement. European Trade Journals, eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	February 2013

Contract	Awarded To	Advertised	Due for Review/Re-Tender
Medical Support Services Agreement	Atos Origin IT Services UK Ltd	Appointment from Central Procurement Division framework	December 2017
Graphic Design and Print Management Services	Navigator Blue Limited	Non-EU procurement. Open tender. eSourcing NI, three local papers – Belfast Telegraph, Irish News & News Letter.	Due for review April 2012 with the option of a further year.

Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the draft Programme for Government, to detail the criteria that might be used to determine the order in which Housing Executive properties are fitted with double glazing.

(AQW 4864/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Information in relation to the criteria to be used to determine the order in which Housing Executive properties are fitted with double glazing is not yet available.

The Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems. It is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of double glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development, given the commitment in the Programme for Government consultation document to install double glazing in all Housing Executive properties, to detail (i) the number of properties which do not have double glazing; and (ii) whether the process will include the replacement of existing window frames.

(AQW 4953/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of double glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

In the past it has been Housing Executive policy to insert double glazing units into existing frames where possible. However, subject to the appropriate approvals, the Housing Executive no longer intends to continue with this policy and where single glazing exists it will be replaced with new frames and double glazing.

Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of whether the proposed installation of double glazing in all Housing Executive properties (i) is to address the household insulation deficit; or (ii) is to encourage acquisition of these properties as envisaged in PricewaterhouseCoopers' report on the Fundamental Review of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

(AQW 4954/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The proposed installation of double glazing in all Housing Executive properties is to ensure that all tenants enjoy a warm well insulated home that helps tackle some of the causes of fuel poverty. The installation of double glazing in all social housing has been a high priority for me and £2m additional funds was recently secured in the October Monitoring round to enable the Housing Executive to replace single glazed windows with double glazing and additional insulation measures to tackle the thermal efficiency of individual homes.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme, and is working to identify additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the Housing Executive housing estates in the North Down area where the properties within the estates do not have double glazing.

(AQW 4987/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing. The Housing Executive is working to identify those properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

Housing Association: Waiting/Transfer Lists

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development (i) whether the Housing Association has a statutory responsibility to inform tenants of any changes to rules regarding waiting/transfer lists; (ii) if not, will he review how the Housing Associations communicate this information to their tenants and those on waiting/transfer lists; and (iii) whether he will consider instructing Housing Associations to keep local MLAs and District Councils up to date with any changes to the rules.

(AQW 5029/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Social housing waiting and transfer lists are administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive through the Housing Selection Scheme. Details of the rules regarding the Housing Selection Scheme are available on the Northern Ireland Housing Executive website. Changes to the rules are published on the website.

There is no statutory obligation on the Housing Executive to consult with applicants on the waiting/transfer lists.

Housing Associations operate their waiting transfer lists in accordance with the Housing Selection Scheme.

There are no plans to require the Housing Associations to contact applicants about any changes to the rules.

Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development to detail how many Housing Executive properties in the Mid Ulster area are in need of double glazed window units.

(AQW 5172/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of double glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

The Mid Ulster constituency includes the Housing Executive's Magherafelt and Cookstown District Office areas and a small part of their Dungannon District Office area. In Magherafelt a window replacement scheme has already commenced during the current financial year for 84 properties and a second scheme is due to commence later this financial year for 161 properties. In Cookstown a window replacement scheme is due to commence this financial year for 61 properties. There are no schemes planned for the Dungannon District Office area at this stage.

Housing Benefit Claimants: Strabane

Ms Boyle asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of Housing Benefit single person claimants in the 25-35 age bracket, within the Strabane District Council area, who will have the rate of their benefit reduced with effect from 1 January 2012, as a result of the decision to implement Statutory Rule 2011/293.

(AQW 5214/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has identified 61 current claimants in the 25-35 age bracket in the Strabane District Council area who would be affected by the change in legislation and they have written to each claimant individually. The claimants will not necessarily have their claim adjusted on 1 January 2012. The date on which their claim will be affected will vary depending on the review date for their claim, which is on the anniversary of their original claim date, and whether or not their Housing benefit rate was being transitionally protected following the last change in legislation which was introduced in April 2011. Each of the claimants who received a letter will have been advised of the date specific to their claim.

Promoting a Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to outline the measures he has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether he will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby his Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future.

(AQW 5221/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) Since coming into office I have been considering how to enhance the performance and delivery of the different parts of my Department through better collaboration and co-ordination, for example between housing and urban regeneration. A key part of this development process is how we deliver shared future outcomes. Over the coming months I will be making my position clear on how I intend to take this forward.

- (ii) My Department, in accordance with the Northern Ireland Act 1998, fulfils the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. The promotion of equality and good relations is therefore a consideration in the development of all my Department's policies and spending decisions. My Department will also take account of any mainstreaming and good relations considerations in relation to policy development and resource allocation that emerge as part of the development of the final Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

Review of Improving Domestic Energy Efficiency

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 4427/11-15, when the review of his Department's approach to improving domestic energy efficiency for owner occupiers and the private rented sector will be completed.

(AQW 5270/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I have asked officials to review my Department's approach to improving domestic energy efficiency in owner occupied and privately rented homes in the future. This review will examine how we target resources and will include an assessment of the most appropriate energy efficiency improvement measures.

The review will commence in January 2012 and should be completed by summer 2012. The evaluation of the pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme will also form part of the review. My Department has also commissioned Professor Christine Liddell to carry out additional research to help identify areas of high fuel poverty prevalence which will assist targeting of resources.

Housing Association Properties

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of housing association properties that are currently under occupied.

(AQW 5294/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not currently available as housing associations do not collect information on changing household composition. Until now, there has been no reason for them to do so as this does not have any impact on the level of rent charged.

The Government's ongoing reform of the Welfare System will impact directly on households under-occupying social homes and work is currently underway to identify what the implications will be for Northern Ireland's social tenants.

Housing Executive Properties: Double Glazing

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the Housing Executive housing estates in the Strangford constituency where properties within the estate do not have double glazing.

(AQW 5305/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of double glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

The Strangford constituency includes the Housing Executive's Newtownards District and parts of their Downpatrick and Castlereagh District Office areas. In the Newtownards District a window replacement

scheme is due to commence this financial year for 316 properties in the Glen Estate and also includes some individual properties in Comber. There are no schemes planned for the Downpatrick or Castlereagh District Office areas at this stage.

Redevelopment of Comber Town Centre

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the redevelopment of Comber town centre.

(AQW 5306/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is working with the Steering Group established by Ards Borough Council to take forward a traffic improvement and public realm scheme in Castle Street with a view to implementing a scheme in 2013/2014, subject to funding being available and all necessary approvals.

Panel of Benefit Appeal Tribunals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 4187/11-15, to detail the positions and the annual salaries of each of the two full-time salaried members on the panel of benefit appeal tribunals.

(AQW 5316/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The positions held by the two full-time salaried members are President of Appeal Tribunals and Legal Chairman of Appeal Tribunals. Their respective annual salaries for the 2011-12 financial year, as determined in accordance with recommendations by the Senior Salaries Review Body, are set out in the following table:

Position	Total Annual Salary (including estimated employer's National Insurance & accrued superannuation liability costs)
President of Appeal Tribunals	£186,272
Legal Chairman of Appeal Tribunals	£148,835

Members on the Panel of Benefit Appeal Tribunals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development what training members on the panel of benefit appeal tribunals receive in relation to issues of (i) alcohol and drugs dependency; and (ii) mental health to prepare them for hearing appeals and addressing appellants.

(AQW 5317/11-15)

Mr McCausland: An appeal tribunal is an independent judicial body and therefore neither the tribunal, nor the training of tribunal members, falls within my responsibility as Minister for Social Development. Under Schedule 1 of the Social Security (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, the training of tribunal members is a statutory function of the President of Appeal Tribunals. The President, Mr Conall MacLynn, can be contacted directly at: Office of the President of Appeal Tribunals, 6th Floor, Cleaver House, 3 Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GA.

Disability Living Allowance: motability scheme car

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are currently in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance; and of these, how many have availed of a motability scheme car.

(AQW 5318/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There were 96,274 people in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance at 27 November 2011, the most recent figure available.

My department does not hold information on how many people who receive the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance decide to avail of the motability scheme. The administrative arrangements in place to support people who avail of the scheme are on an individual customer's record and the Department for Work & Pensions IT system that is used to administer Disability Living Allowance does not hold information on the total number of people who have availed of the scheme.

The Motability Scheme, whereby people who receive the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance may exchange all or part of their allowance in return for a car, is administered by the independent charity Motability. Information on the number of motability customers can be obtained from Motability by writing to: Declan O'Mahony, Director, Motability, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow and Essex, CM19 5PX.

Pay-As-You-Go Oil Pilot Scheme

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how the pay-as-you-go oil pilot scheme to address fuel poverty will operate; (ii) how it differs from the Oil Stamp Scheme introduced by Local Government; and (iii) whether it is intended to replace the Oil Stamp Scheme.

(AQW 5354/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I recently announced my department's intention to pilot a Pay as You Go for oil in conjunction with Kingspan Environmental and Carillion Energy Supplies. The technology developed by Kingspan Environmental will link to the PayPoint and allow householders to purchase a voucher in the same way that can be done for gas and electricity.

There are still some issues to be resolved before the pilot will commence however, I am confident that the pilot will go ahead early in the New Year and that approximately 20 homes, across all tenures, will be involved in the pilot. If the pilot is successful it is hoped that this will discourage householders from purchasing emergency drums of oils which cost significantly more per litre than larger fills of oil.

The Oil Stamp Saving Schemes are an excellent tool to help households budget for fuel and it is not intended that this pilot will replace the oil stamp schemes. However, I recognise that many people find it difficult to save for stamps when they urgently need oil and therefore resort to purchasing emergency drums. I would hope that the pilot will complement the work done through Oil Stamp Savings Scheme and I would encourage householders to avail of these schemes if available in their area.

Small Pockets of Deprivation

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development (i) for his Department's assessment of the Small Pockets of Deprivation Programme; and (ii) to detail his proposals for continuing the programme post March 2012.

(AQW 5355/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I recognise that the communities which have benefitted from the Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) programme believe that it has made a positive contribution to their areas. However, it has been difficult to establish clear evidence of the programme's impact. From a number of evaluations already carried out it is clear that the programme had been of greatest value where it had been able to assist work already taking place in the target areas and where relatively strong community based groups existed and were able to make good use of the funding opportunity.

I can confirm that funding has been made available in my Department's budget for the SPOD programme up to 31 March 2015 and that I have no plans at present to change the way in which funding is allocated. However, I want to ensure that the funding delivers the best possible impact in the target areas. Therefore, I have asked the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which implements the SPOD programme on behalf of my Department, to work with the communities in the SPOD areas to identify the priority issues in each area and work up projects to address those issues. I expect the NIHE to report back before the end of March 2012.

Social Housing

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail, in respect of each constituency, the points required for an applicant for social housing to obtain a two or three bedroom house.

(AQW 5368/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested. The Housing Executive does not allocate properties at a certain points level and it is therefore not possible to advise how many points are required to be allocated a 2/3 bedroom house as it will vary, depending on the number of people on the Waiting List, the level of points they have been awarded and the scale and nature of turnover in any particular area. The circumstances surrounding this will vary from day to day. For example, someone could therefore be offered a two bedroom house in a particular locality today at 200 points and tomorrow another two bedroom house could be allocated to an applicant who has just come on the list and been awarded 290 points.

The allocation of social housing in Northern Ireland is governed by the Rules of the Housing Selection Scheme as follows:-

Rule 46 – The General Rule: All applicants will be assessed and placed on a Waiting List which is used by all Participating Landlords. As a general rule each dwelling will be offered to the relevant Applicant with the highest points.

Rule 47 – The General Rule: In the present context an Applicant is a “relevant applicant” if: –

- 1 He/she has applied for, or is deemed to have applied for accommodation with the locational and other characteristics of the dwelling in question, and
- 2 The landlord is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the non-locational characteristics of the dwelling meet the Applicant’s needs, and having regard to all of the circumstances, do not substantially surpass those needs.

Social Housing New Builds

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how many social housing properties need to be built in each of the next three years to meet the demand of the sector.

(AQW 5369/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The need for social housing was considered in the ‘Northern Ireland Housing Market Review & Perspectives 2011 – 2014’ report which was recently published by the Housing Executive.

In this they assess that a minimum of 1900 new social dwellings are required each year to meet the ongoing needs of a growing population with a further 600 new homes needed each year to address a backlog built up since 2001.

They also note the waiting list has fallen for a second successive year so whilst we have never built to this level of theoretical need, it is clear other interventions in the housing market are making an impact on the statistics.

Whilst building new social housing is an important tool to addressing housing need it is not the only answer. We must look to provide realistic alternatives for those who may be able to avail of them. For example, I want to do more to protect those already renting privately, making the Private Rented sector an attractive alternative for those who can not or do not want to access social housing. I also want to increase the availability of affordable housing and my recent support for Co-Ownership will help more first time buyers than ever before access affordable home ownership. Finally I believe that actively tackling the issue of empty homes offers a real opportunity to make more housing available.

We need a holistic solution to address what is a complex range of housing need and that is why I plan to bring forward in the coming months a new housing strategy that will cover a wider range of issues than ever before, each designed to create more choice, opportunity and access to a more meaningful housing solution to meet the wider demands of those in housing need.

Housing Executive Properties

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) how many properties the Housing Executive owns; and of these how many (a) do not have double glazing in every window; (ii) do not have cavity wall insulation; and (iii) do not have loft insulation.

(AQW 5371/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive currently owns 89,828 dwellings. In relation to double glazing, cavity wall insulation and loft insulation, this information is not available in the format requested as many such installation schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records are incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the Housing Executive's stock has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive implemented a major programme to install cavity wall insulation in the mid to late 1980s and consequently the 2009 House Condition Survey indicated that only 5.2% of the Housing Executive's stock had no wall insulation. This is largely in non-traditional property types which do not have cavity walls and this is being addressed through alternative means of insulation.

Loft insulation has been installed through a combination of External Cyclical Maintenance and other schemes. Again the 2009 House Condition Survey indicated that only 1.2% of Housing Executive homes had no loft insulation and this will be addressed by subsequent cyclical schemes.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

People in Receipt of Benefits

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are in receipt of (i) Employment and Support Allowance; (ii) Incapacity Benefit; (iii) Severe Disablement Allowance; (iv) Disability Living Allowance; (v) Income Support; (vi) Attendance Allowance; (vii) Pension Credit; and (viii) Housing Benefit, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 5380/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is set out in the tables below. Due to system configuration these figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

TABLE 1

RECIPIENTS OF EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE, INCAPACITY BENEFIT, SEVERE DISABLEMENT ALLOWANCE, DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE AND ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE BY ASSEMBLY AREA AT MAY 2011

Assembly Area	Employment & Support Allowance	Incapacity Benefit	Severe Disablement Allowance	Disability Living Allowance	Attendance Allowance
Belfast East	1,070	2,630	460	8,850	3,590
Belfast North	1,930	4,060	660	14,780	3,940
Belfast South	1,040	2,370	490	8,340	3,240
Belfast West	1,860	3,850	680	17,420	2,510
East Antrim	1,010	2,420	420	7,240	2,750

Assembly Area	Employment & Support Allowance	Incapacity Benefit	Severe Disablement Allowance	Disability Living Allowance	Attendance Allowance
East Londonderry	1,370	3,070	540	8,290	3,220
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	1,130	2,450	590	9,200	3,340
Foyle	1,530	4,190	690	13,630	2,230
Lagan Valley	960	2,370	430	7,700	3,030
Mid Ulster	1,360	3,230	540	10,160	2,940
Newry And Armagh	1,350	3,430	790	12,090	3,420
North Antrim	1,350	2,980	590	8,400	3,490
North Down	750	1,930	430	6,190	3,370
South Antrim	1,000	2,420	630	7,890	2,520
South Down	1,430	3,270	680	10,930	3,180
Strangford	960	2,400	360	7,410	2,750
Upper Bann	1,580	4,240	560	12,720	3,370
West Tyrone	1,250	3,560	730	12,760	2,710
Unknown	170	400	160	1,360	630
Total	23,100	55,260	10,390	185,370	56,220

Data source MIDAS/GMS scans May 2011

TABLE 2

RECIPIENTS OF INCOME SUPPORT AND PENSION CREDIT AT MAY 2011 AND HOUSING BENEFIT AT APRIL 2011 BY ASSEMBLY AREA

Assembly Area	Income Support	Pension Credit	Housing Benefit
Belfast East	3,920	4,920	8,810
Belfast North	8,400	7,570	16,930
Belfast South	3,900	4,200	9,050
Belfast West	9,960	7,190	14,630
East Antrim	2,830	4,120	6,430
East Londonderry	4,200	5,520	8,620
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	3,420	5,520	6,360
Foyle	8,190	6,070	14,900
Lagan Valley	2,670	4,050	5,830
Mid Ulster	3,840	5,640	5,990

Assembly Area	Income Support	Pension Credit	Housing Benefit
Newry And Armagh	5,040	6,500	8,190
North Antrim	3,710	5,800	8,090
North Down	2,260	3,630	5,400
South Antrim	2,820	3,850	5,390
South Down	4,140	5,380	7,200
Strangford	2,380	4,180	5,780
Upper Bann	4,920	6,310	9,890
West Tyrone	5,120	5,850	8,520
Unknown	580	930	790
Total	82,300	97,210	156,800

Data source MIDAS/GMS scans May 2011 and Housing Benefit claimant data at April 2011

Regional Infrastructure Support Programme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development with which stakeholders he has held discussions regarding the proposed changes to the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme.

(AQW 5385/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Since I announced the proposed changes to the Regional Support Programme I have met with representatives from CO3 and also with a small delegation representing all of the organisations currently funded under the existing programme. This delegation consisted of representatives from Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, Citizens Advice Bureau and Community Evaluation Northern Ireland.

Use of uPVC Window Frames in Social Housing Properties

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) his Department's; and (ii) the Housing Associations' policy in relation to the use of uPVC window frames in social housing properties.

(AQW 5386/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department does not have a policy in relation to the use of "uPVC" window frames but does provide guidance to Housing Associations on Government procurement policy which requires that all public procurement is on the basis of value for money. Best Value for Money is defined as: "The most advantageous combination of whole life costs, quality and sustainability to meet the customer requirements." In this context, cost means consideration of the whole life cost; quality means meeting a specification which is fit for purpose and sufficient to meet the customer's requirements; and sustainability means economic, social and environmental benefit.

The social housing development programme requires that all new 'new build' self-contained schemes must meet the Code for Sustainable Homes rating level '3 stars' or better. The Code was developed to drive a step-change in sustainable building practice for new homes. It is a standard for key elements of design and construction which affect the sustainability of a new home. The Code measures the sustainability of a new home against nine design categories rating the 'whole home' home as a complete package.

The Materials category aims to encourage responsible sourcing of materials with lower environmental impacts over their lifecycle. Materials are rated on a scale from A+ to E, with A+ having the lowest overall environmental impact in accordance with "The Green Guide to specification" published by the

Building Research Establishment. PVC-U windows score an overall “A” rating for domestic windows and PVC-U is a material that can be recycled again and again.

Lenadoon Avenue, Belfast: Double Glazing

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development whether the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has any plans to replace the windows in Numbers 150 to 172 Lenadoon Avenue, Belfast with double glazing.

(AQW 5432/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has confirmed to me that the dwellings referred to are included in a window replacement scheme which is due to go on site in February 2012.

Rinalea Gardens, Lenadoon, Belfast

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development when the Northern Ireland Housing Executive will install double glazed windows in properties in Rinalea Gardens, Lenadoon, Belfast.

(AQW 5433/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has confirmed to me that the dwellings referred to are included in a window replacement scheme which is due to go on site in February 2012.

Housing Executive: Redecoration Grants

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Social Development how much the Housing Executive has paid out in redecoration grants in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 5434/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency. However, the table attached gives details of how much the Housing Executive has paid out in redecoration grants in each of the last five years, broken down by their District Offices.

District Office	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)
Belfast West	632	218,961	1,041	304,041	520	177,714	284	114,852	799	265,191
Belfast East	375	182,225	340	81,538	339	128,837	156	46,449	370	93,125
Belfast North	1041	296,113	1,207	421,043	268	69,946	849	233,530	667	166,775
Belfast Shankill	920	336,558	410	119,251	680	208,865	471	234,245	375	164,540
Belfast South	606	167,114	558	192,984	512	161,350	146	42,066	135	76,087
Bangor	567	153,403	300	93,354	312	103,274	166	46,187	170	70,926
Newtownards	732	223,717	306	79,935	284	87,110	428	120,624	362	97,300
Castlereagh	470	141,556	502	121,798	352	116,043	385	93,209	205	49,687
Lisburn Antrim Street	338	107,187	501	145,330	303	77,912	384	102,543	259	92,351
Lisburn Dairyfarm	264	52,072	406	123,523	66	20,880	228	54,451	117	46,927
Downpatrick	423	94,861	242	58,026	162	41,432	197	59,164	367	116,853
Banbridge	300	80,299	314	79,658	232	65,304	243	78,599	271	51,234
Newry	457	161,444	492	126,088	203	63,617	233	74,912	313	91,663
Armagh	286	83,233	299	86,878	128	37,589	73	29,763	154	36,471
Lurgan	441	117,437	328	138,011	336	107,368	369	111,618	299	80,559
Portadown	178	55,937	51	18,870	210	83,929	104	23,714	229	79,976
Dungannon	334	101,263	181	66,791	225	76,190	112	35,698	274	92,358
Fermanagh	390	94,859	395	102,243	374	86,327	240	65,087	240	59,900

District Office	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)	Number of Payments	Cost (£)
Ballymena	383	125,273	251	59,895	129	45,859	153	28,742	285	133,630
Antrim	371	106,022	454	95,368	493	159,916	406	210,731	329	82,680
Newtownabbey 1	241	80,146	219	59,335	213	81,304	244	61,887	148	74,865
Newtownabbey 2	262	52,292	312	88,932	103	39,138	221	88,313	198	29,980
Carrickfergus	445	110,829	89	24,712	77	35,863	68	35,549	93	22,232
Larne	198	48,152	265	61,192	103	27,504	61	19,173	187	50,826
Ballycastle	104	22,196	91	28,734	110	44,516	16	7,221	9	2,695
Ballymoney	234	67,664	268	72,579	98	26,402	69	14,366	124	55,423
Coleraine	512	164,185	393	117,930	449	105,040	221	47,868	145	29,248
Waterloo	307	105,859	356	144,006	234	84,659	160	54,006	334	98,003
Waterside	470	155,934	321	71,406	435	178,321	321	110,495	235	101,202
Collon Terrace	511	154,340	568	200,162	588	139,071	263	128,638	377	143,958
Limavady	277	80,114	222	60,588	65	22,913	101	33,914	185	59,590
Magherafelt	250	70,635	287	67,128	240	111,127	103	27,447	20	11,206
Strabane	509	175,482	399	150,742	191	61,741	272	107,660	50	25,760
Omagh	493	164,426	311	86,937	112	22,509	202	57,956	233	92,969
Cookstown	140	61,174	274	63,353	78	13,014	128	27,269	58	20,970
Total	14,461	4,412,962	12,953	3,812,360	9,224	2,912,585	8,077	2,627,946	8,616	2,767,159

Convictions for Benefit Fraud

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have been convicted of benefit fraud in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 5474/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the total number of convictions in each of the last three years is shown in the table below.

Financial Year	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Number of Convictions	530	455	542

Shared Surface Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what consultation his Department has had, or intends to have, with groups representing people who are blind or partially sighted in relation to shared surface schemes.

(AQW 5492/11-15)

Mr McCausland: DSD Schemes continue to be led by DRD in the area of road management. All of our regeneration proposals, which are professionally designed, are required to be to Roads Service standard and require approval from DRD prior to the commencement of works. All schemes are Equality Assessed and involve thorough consultation with an array of interest groups and organisations representing, among others, people with disabilities.

The Londonderry City Centre Public Realm Scheme, which was completed in November 2010, includes surfaces that are shared between pedestrians and vehicles. DSD consulted widely with all interested parties including organisations representing disabled people prior to commencing implementation of this project.

The consultation process was conducted through public exhibitions of the scheme proposals, public meetings, establishment of a dedicated web page with an electronic feedback facility, distribution of information leaflets and face to face meetings with individuals and organisations. All views and concerns expressed were taken account of as far as possible in arriving at the final scheme design.

A disability audit of the final scheme design proposals was carried out by Disability Action. Whilst generally welcoming the scheme, the audit suggested a number of actions to make the area more user friendly for disabled people. These included recommendations on kerb lines, paving patterns, parking and drop-off facilities, crossing points, street furniture and bus stops. These recommendations have also been taken account of as far as possible in the construction of the scheme.

My Department is aware that Roads Service colleagues meet regularly with organisations representing disabled people in Londonderry and will continue to review the operation of the new public realm scheme now that it has been handed over to the Department for Regional Development.

There are at present, however, no other immediate plans for any shared surface schemes in Northern Ireland within our remit of Urban Regeneration.

Income Gap Between the Most Wealthy and the Least Wealthy

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the income gap between the most wealthy and the least wealthy; and how this compares to the rest of Europe.

(AQW 5539/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Published figures from the annual Northern Ireland Households Below Average Income series show weekly median incomes for those in the top 20% of the United Kingdom income distribution compared to those in the bottom 20%, in Northern Ireland (NI) and the United Kingdom (UK). See tables 1 and 2 below.

On a Before Housing Costs (BHC) basis, in 2009/10, individuals in Northern Ireland in the top 20% of the UK income distribution had a weekly household income 4.0 times higher than the bottom 20%. Median weekly household income (BHC), in 2009/10, for the top 20% of the UK income distribution in Northern Ireland was £827, for the bottom 20% the figure was £207.

On an After Housing Costs (AHC) basis, in 2009/10, individuals in Northern Ireland in the top 20% of the UK income distribution had a weekly household income 4.8 times higher than the bottom 20%. Median weekly household income (AHC), in 2009/10, for the top 20% of the UK income distribution in Northern Ireland was £753, for the bottom 20% the figure was £158.

The Department for Social Development does not produce figures which will show a direct comparison with the rest of Europe. However, figures are produced which show a comparison within the UK on an AHC basis. (See table 2)

TABLE 1:

MONEY VALUES OF QUINTILE MEDIANS IN AVERAGE 2009/10 PRICES, FOR NORTHERN IRELAND BASED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM INCOME DISTRIBUTION

(£ per week, equivalised)						Source: FRS
Quintile group medians						Ratio of Top to Bottom Quintile Medians
	Quintile 1 (Bottom 20%)	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5 (Top 20%)	
Before Housing Costs						
2002/03	192	295	397	517	739	3.8
2003/04	196	292	390	515	734	3.7
2004/05	202	303	404	519	765	3.8
2005/06	204	298	410	537	800	3.9
2006/07	201	305	399	546	789	3.9
2007/08	199	300	403	536	798	4.0
2008/09	198	304	408	532	803	4.1
2009/10	207	312	405	543	827	4.0
After Housing Costs						
2002/03	147	243	339	456	663	4.5
2003/04	152	240	348	461	652	4.3
2004/05	159	251	351	459	695	4.4
2005/06	161	247	355	473	709	4.4
2006/07	162	255	348	484	716	4.4
2007/08	151	251	358	481	727	4.8
2008/09	149	251	358	483	746	5.0
2009/10	158	251	350	488	753	4.8

Notes:

1. All estimates are subject to sampling error

TABLE 2:**MONEY VALUES OF QUINTILE MEDIANS IN AVERAGE 2009/10 PRICES, FOR UNITED KINGDOM BASED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM INCOME DISTRIBUTION**

(£ per week, equivalised)						Source: FRS
Quintile group medians						Ratio of Top to Bottom Quintile Medians
	Quintile 1 (Bottom 20%)	Quintile 2	Quintile 3	Quintile 4	Quintile 5 (Top 20%)	
Before Housing Costs						
2002/03	197	292	396	524	803	4.1
2003/04	198	294	396	527	796	4.0
2004/05	203	299	400	532	806	4.0
2005/06	202	300	403	538	818	4.0
2006/07	199	300	405	538	825	4.1
2007/08	198	301	406	541	833	4.2
2008/09	202	305	409	547	848	4.2
2009/10	208	310	413	550	849	4.1
After Housing Costs						
2002/03	148	240	341	460	711	4.8
2003/04	147	245	344	464	716	4.9
2004/05	153	251	348	470	730	4.8
2005/06	150	251	353	479	745	5.0
2006/07	147	251	355	479	753	5.1
2007/08	145	252	357	486	762	5.3
2008/09	143	251	354	489	769	5.4
2009/10	145	252	356	488	772	5.3

Notes:

1. All estimates are subject to sampling error

Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Programme

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 4482/11-15, to detail (i) the level of funding Pobal has received under the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Programme in each of the last three years; (ii) when the funding was allocated; (ii) for what purpose the funding was allocated; and (iv) the duration of the funding.

(AQW 5564/11-15)

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

(I)

2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
£37,325.27	£37,325.27	£36,092.00

- (ii) The funding for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years was issued under one contract for funding in March 2009. The funding for the 2011/12 financial year was issued under one contract for funding in April 2011.
- (iii) The funding has been awarded for running costs to facilitate the delivery of a range of social, economic, and educational projects to address priorities for action set out in the Greater Falls Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan.
- (iv) The current contract for funding with Pobal ends on 31 March 2012.

Pay Related Social Insurance Contributions

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development why Pay Related Social Insurance contributions, that are paid in the Republic of Ireland, are not taken into consideration when people from the Republic of Ireland move to Northern Ireland and apply for the contribution-based Job Seeker's Allowance.

(AQW 5568/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The social security rights of people moving within the European Union are governed by Regulation (EC) No 883/2004. Under those rules, insurance contributions paid in another Member State may be taken into consideration for the purposes of contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance if the person concerned has worked and paid national insurance contributions in the UK since moving here.

Rent for Park Homes and Willerby Caravans

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development, under the Caravans Act (NI) 2011, whether caravan site owners are allowed to charge different levels of rent for Park Homes and Willerby caravans.

(AQW 5670/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The level of rent or pitch fee as it is known, is a matter for agreement between the site owner and the resident. It is possible that a site owner may charge different levels of pitch fees to different residents depending on the size of the pitch, the size of the unit, whether it is a Park Home or a Caravan, the scenery etc.

My Department has responsibility for the Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 as it applies to the residential sector i.e. those who live in a caravan as their main home. The legislation requires that a written statement is drawn up and agreed between the site owner and the resident and must include among other things the amount of the rent being charged for the pitch on which the caravan is sited and the date on which the rent will be reviewed each year.

The legislation contains a presumption that the pitch fee shall change by a percentage no more than any percentage change in the retail prices index since the last review date.

Rate Payers Who Own Vacant Properties

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development if there are any grants available to assist rate payers who own vacant properties and wish to make improvements to bring them up to living standard.

(AQW 5683/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The economic downturn has resulted in a significantly reduced level of grants funding. Grant aid is currently being approved for mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants for adapting private properties to meet the needs of disabled people and Repairs Grants on the foot of statutory notices. Discretionary grants, which deal with major renovation and repair, are currently only being approved in exceptional circumstances. The criteria for exceptional circumstances are generally that the property

represents a significant health and safety risk to the occupants. Therefore, as vacant properties are not occupied, discretionary grant aid is currently not available under the exceptional circumstances criteria.

Within Town Centre Living Initiative Areas grant aid is available on a very limited basis for vacant properties where the statutory application was received prior to May 2011.

My Department is currently considering two pilots which will be used to test the appropriateness and effectiveness of various approaches to tackling empty homes.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Digital Switchover

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission what plans are in place in Parliament Buildings for the digital switchover, the turning off of analogue transmitters and the continuing provision of RTÉ and TG4.

(AQW 4895/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly uses digital input signals for the majority of the channels available on the internal TV distribution system. According to Digital UK, the British and Irish Governments will ensure that RTÉ1, RTÉ2 and TG4 will be made available on digital terrestrial television before the analogue transmitters are switched off in October 2012. The Assembly will provide access to these digital channels within Parliament Buildings once they become available.

Leisure Facilities

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission what leisure facilities are available to staff and Members who are based in Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 5173/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission recognises the benefits of a healthy workforce and is currently developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy to help promote that aim.

Although there are currently no leisure facilities in Parliament Buildings, there are shower and changing facilities available for building users who may wish to jog or run in the grounds of the estate.

Building users can also avail of the leisure facilities in the Maynard Sinclair Pavilion on the Stormont Estate.

Due to restraints on space and budget the Commission is not currently in a position to provide leisure facilities in Parliament Buildings.

MLA: Pension Entitlement

Mr Campbell asked the Assembly Commission to detail the pension entitlement of an MLA who has been elected since 1998 and served as an office holder with an additional remuneration in 1999/00 of £6,525, 2000/01 of £28,252, and with an anticipated office holder remuneration in 2011/12 of £71,433.96 and 2012/13 of £71,433.96, assuming the MLA salary remains at the current £43,101.00 per annum.

(AQW 5339/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): In order to perform an indicative pension calculation to illustrate the above scenario, the following assumptions have been made:

- The MLA is not currently, nor has been a dual mandate member (i.e. has not been paid as a Westminster MP);
- From 1 April 2009, the MLA moved to the higher personal contribution rate of 11.5% of salary (from 6.0% of salary prior to 1 April 2009);

- A last day of service of 31 March 2013 has been used for calculation purposes;
- The Officeholder remuneration is payable for the entirety of the relevant financial years;
- The pension illustrated is payable at age 65; and
- All other details are as stated in the question.

At 31 March 2013, an MLA elected in June 1998 would have 10 years and 261 days reckonable service at the lower accrual rate and 3 years 359 days at the higher rate, giving a Member's pension entitlement of £13,529 per annum. In addition, the office holder pension entitlement would be worth £4,412 per annum. Therefore, the MLA would have a total pension entitlement of £17,941 per annum at age 65. It should be recognised that these figures are indicative and would require confirmation prior to the MLA's retirement.

Stormont Estate: Car Parking

Mr Hussey asked the Assembly Commission to detail why there are inadequate car parking facilities for staff and visitors.

(AQO 960/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission is aware of the difficulties being experienced with car parking, most notably on Monday and Tuesdays. During the summer recess the Assembly, in conjunction with the Department of Finance and Personnel, created an overflow facility adjacent to the Lower East car park primarily for use on plenary sitting days. Along with minor alterations to the parking layout in the Lower East car park, these proposals created approximately 44 additional parking spaces for building users.

This has significantly improved the situation and car park user feedback has been very positive. The Commission appreciates however that it may still be necessary for some people to park on the Prince of Wales and Massey Avenues on sitting days. The situation will be kept under regular review by Facilities Directorate.

Parliament Buildings: Irish Language

Ms J McCann asked the Assembly Commission how it intends to implement measures to address the needs of the Irish language community in Parliament Buildings.

(AQO 967/11-15)

Mrs Cochrane (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): A draft language policy was initially presented to the Assembly Commission in March 2010. It was agreed that the draft policy would be taken by the Parties for further consideration. A further amended version of the draft policy was re-presented for the Parties to consider in June 2010.

Following further discussions at the Assembly Commission meeting in November 2011 it was agreed that further consideration would be given in relation to the draft language policy in anticipation of a final agreed language policy being presented to the Commission at their meeting of 24 January 2012.

The Assembly Commission will remain mindful of its statutory obligations while taking the draft language policy into consideration.

Assembly Committees: Documents

Mrs D Kelly asked the Assembly Commission for an update on the proposal to enable committee members to access committee papers through electronic tablets and iPads.

(AQO 972/11-15)

Mr Cree (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): At present committee teams compile paper packs for use by members. As part of developing service to committees, a survey was carried out to determine members' attitudes to the introduction of IT in committee rooms and to gather their

thoughts on the most appropriate way to move forward. Around 48% of committee members replied to the survey and of those, 69% indicated that they would accept an electronic pack instead of a paper pack.

An experimental electronic committee pack has been developed and will shortly be trialled by staff before sharing with members. We hope the pack will allow members to be able to annotate and highlight text just as they do with a paper pack. Book marking will be used to replicate the tabbing used in paper packs.

Wireless connections will be required to access the electronic committee pack in committee rooms. The Assembly Wi-Fi will need to be assessed to ensure that it is capable of being used for this type of intensive committee business. There is a strong possibility that it will need to be up graded but the cost of this has not yet been calculated.

Plans are being made for a committee pilot, in early 2012, of various devices which could be used to access electronic committee packs. The pilot will involve different types of tablets, including I pads. Laptops may also be trialled. One of the main aims of the pilot will be to assess which device works best for members in committee meetings across a range of criteria such as readability, navigation, speed of accessing, printing, annotating and highlighting etc.

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