

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 13 December 2013

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 13 December 2013

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Lay Magistrate and Member of the Judicial Appointments Commission

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, following the findings by the Public Accounts Committee against Mr Eoin Doyle, whether he will continue to serve as a Lay Magistrate and member of the Judicial Appointments Commission.

(AQW 27404/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The procedure for appointing members to the NI Judicial Appointments Commission and for terminating such appointments is set out in Section 3 and Schedule 2 of the Justice (NI) Act 2002.

Reinvestment and Reform Initiative

Mr P Ramsey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the current state of the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative; and to detail the current and planned expenditure in relation to the initiative.

(AQW 27992/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Reinvestment and Reform Initiative (RRI) commenced in 2002. Elements of the Initiative have since been subsumed into a number of key Executive programmes, including the Programme for Government and Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Regular updates on former military and security sites included in the Programme for Government are provided to the OFMDFM Committee. We made a Written Statement to the Assembly on progress with the implementation of the Investment Strategy in July 2013.

In 2011, a further three sites were gifted under the Hillsborough Agreement. These sites were not intended primarily for regeneration but are intended to provide capital receipts for the Executive. A soft market test of the Shackleton site is being undertaken to determine options for sale. Options for the other two sites are being reviewed.

The Executive plans to borrow £200 million in 2013-14 and £250 million in 2014-15. In addition, as part of the 'Economic Pact' there is a further £100 million RRI borrowing available across 2014-15 and 2015-16 for shared housing and shared education projects.

Looking forward, the Executive will make decisions on the appropriate level of RRI borrowing for 2015-16 as part of its Budget process.

Former Army Barracks at Ballykelly

Mr Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what criteria will be applied when choosing a buyer for the former army barracks at Ballykelly, following the recent advertisement for expressions of interest.

(AQW 28444/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our Department is testing the market by calling for expressions of interest following a number of meetings between officials and interested parties. We will consider the contents of all submissions before making a decision on the next steps.

Any final decision will be based on the demonstrable value to the Executive, the local community and to the region. We may request further engagement in order to clarify and or explore potential uses in the context of an emerging strategy for the Shackleton site.

Departmental Buildings: Visitors Diagnosed with Autism

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what provision is made within their departmental buildings to receive visitors diagnosed with autism and to cater for their needs.

(AQW 28515/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: All visitors to government buildings should be treated with courtesy and respect by staff. Where possible, details of visitors are notified to reception in advance of their arrival. Where visitors with disabilities, including those with autism spectrum conditions, advise they require additional help and support to cater for their needs, every effort will be made to ensure this is provided for them.

As required by the 2011 Autism Act, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety led on the development of the cross-departmental Autism Strategy and Action Plan, which was approved by the Executive on 28 November 2013. The Action Plan contains proposals for autism awareness training for frontline Civil Service staff. It is anticipated that the Strategy and Action Plan will be launched and published before the end of the year.

Shackleton Barracks

Mr G Robinson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how they envisage the development of the former Ministry of Defence Shackleton base at Ballykelly proceeding.

(AQO 5110/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The former Shackleton Barracks was transferred to OFMDFM under the Hillsborough Castle Agreement. The original intention was that it should be sold and the proceeds used to help fund Executive programmes.

When we received this site, the property market was in a steep decline and offers for the site did not match its commercial value, nor assist in the economic development potential for the region. The decision was therefore taken to maintain the site until the property market started to improve and potential uses could be developed that would address regional, social and economic needs.

In 2012, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development announced an intention to relocate the DARD headquarters to Shackleton.

We believe the time is right to test the market, to determine the level of interest in this vast 720 acre site. In order to do this, a soft market testing exercise began on 18 November. We anticipate that this exercise will provide potential ideas and uses for the site.

After the level of interest is determined, a decision will be taken as to the suitability to go forward with development plans.

Goods, Facilities and Services Legislation

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to explain the delay with bringing forward the goods, facilities and services legislation; and when the legislation will be brought before the Assembly.

(AQW 28824/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering the scope of the legislation and the implications of the various options available to us for taking this forward.

This is an extremely complex policy area, and Junior Ministers have responded positively to requests for meetings to discuss the issue with stakeholders, such as the Equality Commission and the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Goods, Facilities and Services Legislation

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister which issues of the goods, facilities and services legislation have yet to be agreed.

(AQW 28825/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering the scope of the legislation and the implications of the various options available to us for taking this forward.

Children's Budgeting Pilot

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) when the Children's Budgeting Pilot will commence; (ii) which expenditure it will track; and (iii) when, and to whom, it will report its progress, outcomes and findings.

(AQW 28826/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: It is expected that the pilot on tracking children's expenditure will commence in April 2014. Preparatory work has already commenced and, over the next few weeks, we will be asking key departments to identify areas of expenditure which could be further disaggregated to identify spend on children and young people.

When a suitable area is identified, the Terms of Reference will be agreed with the participating department which will set out the scope, duration and the monitoring and reporting arrangements for the pilot.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Lunn asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister in which financial year is the money allocated to the Social Investment Fund due to be spent.

(AQW 28882/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: It is anticipated there will be significant spend over the next 3 financial years.

Definitions of Child Poverty

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what are the definitions of (i) absolute; and (ii) relative child poverty used by their Department.

(AQW 28999/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The definitions of absolute and relative child poverty used by OFMDFM are the definitions that are laid out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

A child is considered to be in absolute poverty if they are living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of median income in 2010/11, as adjusted for subsequent inflation. This is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are seeing their incomes rise in real terms. In 2011/12, the most recent year for which data were available, the absolute poverty threshold for a couple with two children aged 5 and 15 was an income of £404 per week before housing costs are taken into account. Absolute child poverty in 2011/12 was estimated to be 25% (109,000 children).

A child is considered to be in relative poverty if they are living in a household with an equivalised income below 60% of UK median income in the year in question. This is a measure of whether those in the lowest income households are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the population as a

whole. In 2011/12 the relative poverty threshold for a couple with two children aged 5 and 15 was an income of £392 per week (before housing costs) from all sources. Relative child poverty in 2011/12 was 22% (almost 95,000 children).

Definitions for the measurement of relative and absolute child poverty are prescribed in the Child Poverty Act (2010). Child poverty rates are measured through the Family Resources Survey which, as a sample survey, is subject to sampling error. Household incomes are equivalised to allow households of different sizes and compositions to be compared.

Social Investment Zones

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the basis of what criteria have funds been allocated across the nine social investment zones.

(AQW 29017/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We have now agreed the allocations for the nine Social Investment Fund (SIF) Zones. In coming to this decision, we considered both the scale of need and identification of need in each zone under the objectives of the Fund, using the original set of criteria below as a guide:

- Areas within the top 10% most deprived Super Output Areas on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010.
- Areas within the top 20% most deprived Super Output Areas on the key domains of income, employment, education and health.
- Areas which can provide independently verified and robust evidence of objective need linked to the 4 strategic objectives of SIF.

The approach we have set out will focus the funds we have available to meet the objectives of SIF and clearly target the areas of deprivation that exist in each of the zones, as well as ensuring that funding is disbursed across all areas of deprivation, regardless of scale and not just those with concentrated urban problems. This approach means that we will tackle deprivation in the areas of high and durable need but also allows us to reach into smaller pockets of deprivation.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Relocation of Forest Service Headquarters

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on her Department's proposal to relocated Forest Service headquarters to Co. Fermanagh; and to detail when she expects to make an announcement on the preferred location.

(AQW 28622/11-15)

Mr O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): In line with the Programme for Government target, I remain fully committed to the relocation of Forest Service to Fermanagh by June 2015. An appraisal of the options for accommodating Forest Service in Fermanagh is ongoing.

The appraisal is informed by my Department's Estate Framework which complements the Executives Asset Management Strategy. That Framework points towards the preferred location being in Enniskillen. My officials are exploring accommodation options including the potential of Inishkeen House in Enniskillen where some Forest Service staff are currently based. When the appraisal is complete I will confirm the findings.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

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

(AQW 28671/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill:

- (i) No tenders were awarded.
- (ii) My Department did not provide funding to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013. However, the Loughs Agency, a North South Implementation Body, which is co-sponsored by my Department and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the south played a vital role in the City of Culture events and sponsored the Turner Prize event and also the Fields Trio event, which was part of the Walled City Music Festival. The total sponsorship used by the Loughs Agency from north/south grant aid was £9,000.

The Agency partnered with Tate Britain to supply local oysters, harvested from Lough Foyle, to the event which was attended by 1500 guests. In addition the Agency supplied local oysters to a reception on an Irish naval vessel on Lough Foyle. The Turner Prize launch received wide national and international media coverage.

The Loughs Agency also had a high profile role in the Flavours of the Foyle Seafood Festival, which attracted 18,000 visitors and hosted the Sea Angling Competition in the World Police and Fire Games in Derry.

The Loughs Agency will also be working with key partners in the development of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race events, planned for June 2014 and June 2016 and the events surrounding it including sailing events, other water based activities, angling competitions and a seafood festival.

Integrated Prevention Pollution Control

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her Department's current capability to deliver training of Integrated Prevention Pollution Control.

(AQW 28855/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department is currently working with LANTRA Awards, the organisation who accredits training in Integrated Prevention and Pollution Control, to have trainers approved to deliver this training. I anticipate that my Department will be in a position to deliver training in early 2014.

Integrated Prevention Pollution Control

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what is the current waiting list for training of Integrated Prevention Pollution Control.

(AQW 28856/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: There is a current waiting list of 59 people.

Training Courses: Value of Fees

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what was the value of the fees paid for training courses that her Department was unable to deliver, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 28857/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: This current financial year £340 of fees were returned for a training course my Department did not deliver due to insufficient applications. No fees were returned during the previous three financial years.

Proposed Legislation on Reservoirs

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 27876/11-15, whether the reservoirs named are currently up to the standard required under the forthcoming legislation on reservoirs.

(AQW 28859/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The reservoirs referred to in the response to AQW 27876/11-15 are owned by NI Water (NIW). It is my understanding that NIW have been managing these reservoirs in the spirit of the Reservoirs Act 1975. If this is the case, and subject to any amendments to the legislation during the Assembly process, these reservoirs should satisfy the requirements of the Reservoirs Bill.

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department's literature promotes training providers other than the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise.

(AQW 28891/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department produces literature to promote its services to the industry which includes the training programmes provided by CAFRE. My Department also promotes training programmes which are delivered by other training providers on behalf of DARD.

Single Farm Payment Scheme Claimants

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department will act on the agreement reached at Brussels, which allows for advance contributions to be made to Single Farm Payment Scheme claimants, to make advance payments to Single Farm Payment applicants that have included land in their application that is the subject of more than one claim.

(AQW 28896/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Advance payments are not possible in cases where two applicants have used the same land to support their Single Farm Payment claims and the issue has not been resolved. Payments (regardless of whether these are advances or within the December payment window) can only be made once the claim is fully validated and the duplicate field issue resolved.

Legislation on Greyhound Racing and Welfare

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans she has to introduce legislation on greyhound racing and welfare.

(AQW 28920/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has policy and legislative responsibility for the welfare of both farmed and other animals, including greyhounds. The regulation of greyhound racing per se does not come under my Department's remit as greyhound racing is not regarded as an agricultural activity and does not take place on agricultural land. The Department for Social Development is responsible for the licensing of dog racing tracks for the purpose of betting.

My Department has recently made substantial improvements to animal welfare legislation with the introduction of the new Welfare of Animals Act 2011. The 2011 Act aims to safeguard the welfare of all animals and provides powers for inspectors to take such steps as necessary to ensure the welfare of these animals is maintained, should they believe a protected animal is suffering or is likely to suffer.

I believe the 2011 Act provides sufficient powers to protect the welfare of greyhounds both on and off the track. Any specific welfare concerns in respect of any greyhound should be reported to the Councils' Animal Welfare Officers who enforce the 2011 Act in respect of non-farmed animals, including greyhounds. Contact details for the relevant Councils' Animal Welfare Officers can be obtained at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>.

Given the recent substantial improvements to animal welfare legislation, which covers greyhounds, I have no plans to introduce further legislation in this area.

Lough Foyle Fishermen: Drift Net Licences

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what decision has been made to deal with Lough Foyle fishermen who were promised outright purchase of their Drift Net Licences by the Department, given that these fishermen have been banned from fishing for the last five years.

(AQW 28952/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Neither my Department or the Loughs Agency is aware of any promise of an outright purchase of salmon Drift Net Licences within the Foyle Area.

Salmon drift net fishermen were previously offered a salmon fishing hardship package in 2007 after a period of consultation. The scheme was not taken up by a small number of fishermen who decided that they would prefer to retain their fishing history and continued to fish in 2007, 2008 and 2009. However, the stocks of salmon did not improve and in 2010 all salmon drift netting within Lough Foyle was suspended (not banned) by Regulation, and currently remains suspended.

Land Owners: Remote Sensing Inspections

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how, and when, land owners were notified that their land was subject to remote sensing inspections.

(AQW 29204/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department will issue letters to affected farm businesses in December 2013, informing them that their land was subject to control with remote sensing. Land owners will not be notified, unless they are claimant farmers that have had an inspection by control with remote sensing.

There is no requirement to notify land owners or farmers.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

GAA Club Names

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 7387/11-15, for an update on the data provided.

(AQW 27449/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): I am not aware of any GAA Clubs that are named after a so-called terrorist. Since April 2011, Sport NI has provided a total of £1,527,973 to GAA clubs across the north up to 31 March 2013. A breakdown of this figure, and the names of the GAA clubs that have received funding, is attached at Annex A.

Annex A

Organisation Name	2011	2012	Grand Total
All Saints GAC	£4,329		£4,329
Annaghmore GAC	£2,890		£2,890
Armagh Harps GFC	£3,133		£3,133
Ballinderry Shamrocks GFC	£245,000		£245,000
Cairde Naomh Pól	£8,100		£8,100
Clady Sean South GFC	£2,630		£2,630

Organisation Name	2011	2012	Grand Total
Collegeland O'Raghillys GAC	£5,964		£5,964
Doire Colmcille CLG		£245,000	£245,000
Friends of St. Dallan's	£2,765		£2,765
John Mitchel's Glenullin GAC	£3,269	£245,000	£248,269
Lamh Dearg GAC	£245,000		£245,000
Na Magha Hurling and Camogie Club	£2,410		£2,410
Naomh Colum Cille Hurling Club	£6,795		£6,795
St James GAC	£2,347		£2,347
St Joseph's Ladies GFC (Glenelly)	£3,525		£3,525
St Malachy's GAC (Moortown)	£7,044	£245,000	£252,044
St Patrick's GAC (Lisburn)	£2,772		£2,772
St Patrick's GAC (Loup)		£245,000	£245,000
Grand Total	£547,973	£980,000	£1,527,973

City of Culture Legacy Fund

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how organisations apply for funding from the £2 million City of Culture Legacy Fund.

(AQW 28767/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The funding I announced on 20th November is not subject to an open call for applications. Rather, it will be allocated on the basis of need to continue key projects from the 2013 cultural programme, and in the context of my Department's priorities and Business Plan.

The aim is to promote the positive continuance of key benefits, partnerships and momentum after December 2013 and to invest in the development of modern sports facilities.

It is my intention to make a bid to the Executive for funding for the 2014/ 15 financial year to support ongoing and new interventions which maximise City of Culture benefits across the North West of Ireland in tackling poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

City of Culture Legacy Programmes and Activities

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) when the company limited by guarantee to deliver the City of Culture legacy programmes and activities will be established; (ii) where this company will be based; (iii) the number of staff to be employed by the company; and (iv) when it will produce its corporate plan.

(AQW 28768/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Whilst detailed arrangements will be developed in the coming months, it is my intention to have new structures in place for the 2014/15 financial year in order to maintain momentum and maximise benefits from the City of Culture 2013.

The new body, which will be based in Derry will have responsibility for developing the area as a creative and cultural driver for the north of Ireland and beyond.

City of Culture Legacy Fund

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the (i) projects that will be supported by the £2 million City of Culture Legacy fund; and (ii) monies allocated to each project.
(AQW 28769/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have secured over £2m for the January to March 2014 period to support continuation of key projects from the City of Culture's cultural programme in 2013 to prevent the loss of key benefits, partnerships and momentum after December 2013 and to invest in strategic sports facility development.

All projects will be subject to acceptance and adherence to conditions set out in detailed contracts or letters of offer which have not yet been finalised.

Supported projects are expected to include:

- Music projects, for example key elements of the Music Promise project and the return of Other Voices to Derry in February 2014;
- Digital projects, for example continuation of the Portrait of a City project and digital skills provision;
- Literacy skills projects, for example the Disobey Gravity programme;
- Community projects delivered under Community Cultural Strategies developed for neighbourhood renewal areas;
- A pilot creative voucher scheme in Derry designed to stimulate new collaborations between creative enterprises and businesses from a diverse range of other sectors;
- Expansion of the Nerve Centre's Fab Lab with a wider North West emphasis; and
- Sports facility development.

In addition I will make available funding for the purchase of Eamonn O'Doherty's Armoured Pram, Lumiere's Stitch in Time piece and a portable community venue, subject to appropriate contractual agreements.

Departmental North West Office

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) when the departmental North West office will open; (ii) where it will be located; (iii) what will be its remit; and (iv) to detail the number and grade of staff employed.
(AQW 28836/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My officials are currently preparing detailed plans and costings for the establishment of the DCAL North West Office during this financial year. Further details will be released in due course.

UK City of Culture 2013: Funding

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in relation to the £12.6 million awarded to fund the City of Culture 2013, to detail (i) the projects funded by the award; (ii) the arts organisations that received funding; and (iii) the monies awarded to each organisation.
(AQW 28837/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department has allocated a total of £12.6m (£6.5m for 2012/13 and £6.1m for 2013/14) to Derry City Council for the 2013 City of Culture's cultural programme of events.

Derry City Council has responsibility for providing funding to the many hundreds of organisations for events that have taken place as part of the cultural programme. These events have included Music Promise, Portrait of a City, Individual Artists Programme, Digital Book of Kells, London Symphony Orchestra and many others.

As we do not yet have a final account, it would not be appropriate to provide a breakdown of funding for each project and organisations at this time.

Outdoor Sporting Facilities

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what collaboration has taken place with the Department of Education to ensure there are adequate outdoor sporting facilities for use by community and sporting groups and local schools in Bangor.

(AQW 28873/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have been having ongoing discussions with the Minister of Education regarding the opening up and sharing of school sports facilities with the local community and sports groups throughout the north of Ireland, including Bangor.

Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, and the Department of Education (DE) have worked together to develop two guidance documents that seek to encourage community use of schools and school sports facilities, including within the Bangor area. As part of the delivery of Sport Matters, Sport NI's guidance document 'Your School, Your Club' has been developed to ensure that its content and advice is complementary to that provided in the DE Community Use Toolkit.

The Minister of Education and I intend to jointly launch both documents early next year.

2014 Commonwealth Games

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much financial support her Department and Sport NI will award to local competitors in the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

(AQW 28923/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The NI Commonwealth Games Council has not yet selected local competitors for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

However, Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, is investing £543,129 in Commonwealth Games sports through its Athlete Investment Programme in this current financial year. The Sports Costs strand of the Programme, which contributes to the implementation of agreed training and competition programmes, is made to the Governing Body which in turn selects the most suitable athletes. Athletes may apply directly to Sport NI for the Living Costs strand of the Programme which contributes to essential living and travel costs.

This funding is not solely for preparation for the Commonwealth Games, but also in respect of other competitions that take place during the investment period. Funding for 2014/15 in respect of Commonwealth Games sports has yet to be determined.

UK City of Culture: Legacy Plan

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what legacy is envisaged in areas outside Londonderry from the UK City of Culture.

(AQW 28996/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I recently announced my strategic vision for City of Culture legacy, not just for the City of Derry, but for the entire North West of Ireland.

A key legacy objective is to ensure that the benefits of our investment in the City are felt in the towns and villages across the North West of Ireland.

It is my intention to make a bid to the Executive for funding for the 2014/15 financial year and beyond to support ongoing and new interventions which maximise City of Culture benefits across the whole North West of Ireland in tackling poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

My Department is working with Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council and Coleraine Borough Council to support the development of modern sports facilities over the next 2-3 years which I believe

will benefit the local communities, enhance good relations and promote equal opportunities in this area. This will include support for sports complexes at Daisfield, in Derry, Dungiven and Coleraine.

I will continue to engage and work with stakeholders throughout the North West over the coming months to develop my legacy plans.

Local Sports Museum

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on a local sports museum.
(AQW 29038/11-15)

Ms Ní Chullín: The Ulster Sports Museum Association (USMA) has received significant financial support from Government Departments in recent years to undertake feasibility work and to develop an outline business case for an Ulster Sports Museum/Hall of Fame. This proposal did not demonstrate value for money nor long term sustainability without significant, on-going public sector support.

As part of the ongoing stadia development each of the Business Cases for the stadia will include proposals for Education and Heritage Centres which will celebrate the evolution of the games of Rugby Union, Association Football and Gaelic Games and their respective positive roles in contributing to a healthy, shared society. It is anticipated that this provision at the new stadia will further impact on the viability of a dedicated Sports Museum/Hall of Fame.

Retirement of a Professional Footballer

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she has any plans to mark David Healy's retirement as a professional footballer.
(AQW 29039/11-15)

Ms Ní Chullín: I have no plans to mark David Healy's retirement as a professional footballer.

However, I have publically recognised David Healy's remarkable goal scoring achievements during his career in international football.

Funding for Sub-Regional Stadia

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the funding for sub-regional stadia, including a timescale for progress.
(AQW 29249/11-15)

Ms Ní Chullín: Given that funding for the development of sub-regional association football stadiums has still to be secured, no decision of any kind on funding to assist the development of any sub-regional stadiums has yet been taken.

Department of Education

Departmental Grants Available

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education to detail all the grants available through his Department.
(AQW 28388/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): There are a number of different types of grants allocated through my Department and these are listed below.

Grant-in-aid to provide revenue and capital support to each of the Department's Arms Length Bodies.
Paid to:-

- The Belfast Education and Library Board
- The North-Eastern Education and Library Board

- The South-Eastern Education and Library Board
- The Southern Education and Library Board
- The Western Education and Library Board
- The Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment
- The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
- The Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards
- The Youth Council
- The General Teaching Council
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
- Council for Integrated Education
- Middletown Centre for Autism Limited
- Boards of Governors of Grant Maintained Integrated Schools
- Boards of Governors of Voluntary Grammar Schools
- Boards of Governors of Irish Medium Schools
- Trustees of Catholic Maintained Schools

Current and capital grant provided for furtherance of the Department's objectives Paid to:-

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Middletown Centre for Autism (Holdings) Limited | ■ School Employer Connections |
| ■ British Council | ■ Centre for Information & Language Teaching |
| ■ Women's Aid Federation | ■ An Gaelaras |
| ■ National Children's Bureau (NIABF), previously Save the Children | ■ BT Young Scientist |
| ■ Childline (Helpline Expansion) | ■ Stock Market Challenge |
| ■ National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children | ■ Business Education Partnerships |
| ■ The Gaelic Athletic Association | ■ Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS) |
| ■ The Irish Football Association | ■ Sentinus |
| ■ Music for Youth | ■ Stranmillis University College |
| ■ NI Centre for Information on Teaching (NICILT) | ■ St Mary's University College |
| ■ Association of Science Education (NI) | ■ Young Enterprise |
| ■ The Queen's University, Belfast | ■ Public Health Agency |
| ■ The University of Ulster | ■ Fostering Network |
| ■ Early Years, The Organisation for Young Children | ■ Voices Of Young People In Care |
| ■ The Health & Social Care Board (for Sure Start and related services) | ■ Commission for Catholic Education |
| ■ Recipients of the Early Years Fund (administered on behalf of DE by the Early Years Organisation) | ■ Controlled Schools' support body working group |
| ■ Charter Work Experience | ■ East Belfast Partnership |
| | ■ North Belfast Partnership |
| | ■ South Belfast Partnership |
| | ■ West Belfast Partnership |

- Greater Shankill Partnership
- Trustees of Voluntary Youth Centres
- The Pushkin Trust
- Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships
- Business in the Community

Maximum Distance School Children can Travel

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has a maximum distance beyond which a child should not have to travel to attend school.

(AQW 28491/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Parents can express their preference as to which school they wish their child to attend anywhere in the North.

The Department does not specify a maximum distance beyond which a child should not travel, this is a matter for the parents.

Departmental Buildings: Visitors Diagnosed with Autism

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what provision is made within his departmental buildings to receive visitors diagnosed with autism and to cater for their needs.

(AQW 28652/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: All visitors to Department of Education buildings are treated with courtesy and respect by staff. Where possible, details of all visitors are provided to reception staff prior to their arrival. Where visitors advise of a requirement for additional help and support to cater for their specific needs, including autism spectrum conditions, every effort will be made to ensure this support is provided for them. All visitors who are attending by invitation, or notify my Department in advance, are met at reception and are escorted to their destination.

Departmental Spend in West Belfast

Mr Sheehan asked the Minister of Education for a breakdown of (i) capital spend; (ii) maintenance spend; and (iii) any other additional spend by his Department in West Belfast, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 28691/11-15)

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

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	Total
Capital	8,429,425	8,123,126	10,217,603	26,770,154
Maintenance	4,074,520	4,581,502	5,691,734	14,347,756
Other Spend*	121,148,134	122,782,083	122,029,706	365,959,923
Total	133,652,079	135,486,711	122,029,706	407,077,833

* includes spend on schools, school meals kitchens, youth clubs, transport, Sure Start, special needs etc.

Crossroads Primary School near Kilrea

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Education for an update on the plans for a new build for the Crossroads Primary School near Kilrea, including an estimated completion date.

(AQW 28713/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At present, there are no specific plans for a new build project for Crossroads Primary School.

While Crossroads Primary School will be disappointed that it is not included in my capital programme at this time, this in no way implies that it will not be considered for funding at a later stage within the on-going area planning process.

Upgrading of School Pitches to 3G

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education what funds are available to upgrade school pitches to 3G. (AQW 28749/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There are no specific funds dedicated to the upgrade of school pitches.

Education and Library Boards receive a budget to progress a programme of minor works in controlled schools and the Department administers a programme for non-controlled schools. Applications are considered on a case by case basis and assessed on their individual merits in line with ministerial priorities.

All schools are welcome to make an application to the relevant authority for the provision of a synthetic pitch, either to the Education and Library Boards in respect of Controlled schools or the Department of Education for non Controlled schools .

Education and Library Board: Failure to Send Children to School

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education whether the law which compels parents or guardians to ensure children attend school is also enforceable against care home staff.

(AQW 28762/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Article 45(1) of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 ("the 1986 Order") states that:-

"The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise."

Article 45(2) goes on to state that the provisions of Schedule 13 (Enforcement) shall apply and a parent who contravenes the provision of Article 45(1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable to the penalties provided by paragraph 4 of that Schedule.

Article 2D of the 1986 Order states that a parent in relation to a child or young person includes any person -

- "(a) who is not a parent of his but who has parental responsibility for him, or
- (b) who has care of him"

For a child living in a care home, any legal action taken under these provisions would be against the relevant Health and Social Care Trust.

Primary School Outdoor Sports Facilities

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education how much each Education and Library Board has spent on primary school outdoor sports facilities in each of the last five years; and from which budget area this was funded.

(AQW 28869/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Education and Library Boards (ELBs) receive a budget to progress a programme of minor works in controlled schools. I have been advised that applications are assessed and prioritised using the published criteria. Within this programme a range of sporting and play facilities are provided

including playgrounds, upgrade of existing and provision of new sports pitches, provision of drainage, security fencing and storage units. The following table details expenditure by year:

Board	School Type	2008/09 (£000'S)	2009/10 (£000'S)	2010/11 (£000'S)	2011/12 (£000'S)	2012/13 (£000'S)	Total (£000'S)
BELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	Primary	119	64	190	166	585	1,124
	Post Primary	7	3	13	0	171	194
NEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	393	0	0	393
SEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	456	456
SELB	Primary	0	0	0	1,053	0	1,053
	Post Primary	53	0	0	0	482	535
Total	Primary	119	64	190	1,219	585	2,177
	Post Primary	60	3	406	0	1,109	1,578

Outdoor sports facilities have been approved for grant aid in the following major work capital investment schemes funded through the major work capital budgets as follows:

Board	School Type	2008/09 (£000's)	2009/10 (£000's)	2010/11 (£000's)	2011/12 (£000's)	2012/13 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
BELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	01	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	420	0	420
SEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
SELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	600	0	0	600
Total	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	600	420	0	1,020

1. A major work was completed at a BELB primary school in 2012/13 financial year at a total cost of approximately £3,103k but the value of work relating to sporting facilities is not readily available.

ELBs have also received either part or full capital funding for outdoor sport facilities associated with major/minor works from other funding bodies as follows:

Board	School Type	Source of Funding	2008/09 (£000's)	2009/10 (£000's)	2010/11 (£000's)	2011/12 (£000's)	2012/13 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
BELB	Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	Primary		0					
	Post Primary	New Opportunities Fund	432	34	4	0	0	470
NEELB	Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	New Opportunities Fund/Larne Council	0	0	648	0	0	648
SEELB	Primary	Big Lottery	0	190	0	0	0	190
	Post Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
SELB	Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	New Opportunities Fund/Sports NI	0	0	1,044	0	0	1,044
Total	Primary		0	190	0	0	0	190
	Post Primary		432	34	1,696	0	0	2,162

Other major work capital schemes include PPP schemes however the cost of outdoor sports facilities are subsumed within the overall contract cost.

Primary School Outdoor Sports Facilities

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education to detail the outdoor primary school sports facilities that his Department has directly funded, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 28870/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not directly fund capital programmes in schools. It grant aids a programme of capital minor works in non-controlled schools in conjunction with the relevant school authority.

This programme grant aids a range of facilities including playgrounds, upgrade of existing pitches, and provision of drainage, security fencing and storage units. The Department does not record sporting facilities grant aided under the minor works programme as a separate funding stream. However, the total available for all minor works programmes in the last 5 years, including sporting facilities, in the non-controlled sector is detailed in the table below.

2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
£26.855m	£39.248m	£18.516m	£21.103m	£29.106m

Sports facilities have been included and approved for the purposes of grant aid in major school capital build projects, however, the costs of these facilities are subsumed within the overall cost of the project.

Post-Primary School Outdoor Sports Facilities

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education how much each Education and Library Board has spent on post-primary school outdoor sports facilities in each of the last five years; and from which budget area this was funded.

(AQW 28871/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Education and Library Boards (ELBs) receive a budget to progress a programme of minor works in controlled schools. I have been advised that applications are assessed and prioritised using the published criteria. Within this programme a range of sporting and play facilities are provided including playgrounds, upgrade of existing and provision of new sports pitches, provision of drainage, security fencing and storage units. The following table details expenditure by year:

Board	School Type	2008/09 (£000's)	2009/10 (£000's)	2010/11 (£000's)	2011/12 (£000's)	2012/13 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
BELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	Primary	119	64	190	166	585	1,124
	Post Primary	7	3	13	0	171	194
NEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	393	0	0	393
SEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	456	456
SELB	Primary	0	0	0	1,053	0	1,053
	Post Primary	53	0	0	0	482	535
Total	Primary	119	64	190	1,219	585	2,177
	Post Primary	60	3	406	0	1,109	1,578

Outdoor sports facilities have been approved for grant aid in the following major work capital investment schemes funded through the major work capital budgets as follows:

Board	School Type	2008/09 (£000's)	2009/10 (£000's)	2010/11 (£000's)	2011/12 (£000's)	2012/13 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
BELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	01	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
NEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	420	0	420
SEELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0

Board	School Type	2008/09 (£000's)	2009/10 (£000's)	2010/11 (£000's)	2011/12 (£000's)	2012/13 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
SELB	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	600	0	0	600
Total	Primary	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	0	0	600	420	0	1,020

2. A major work was completed at a BELB primary school in 2012/13 financial year at a total cost of approximately £3,103k but the value of work relating to sporting facilities is not readily available.

ELBs have also received either part or full capital funding for outdoor sport facilities associated with major/minor works from other funding bodies as follows:

Board	School Type	Source of Funding	2008/09 (£000's)	2009/10 (£000's)	2010/11 (£000's)	2011/12 (£000's)	2012/13 (£000's)	Total (£000's)
BELB	Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
WELB	Primary		0					
	Post Primary	New Opportunities Fund	432	34	4	0	0	470
NEELB	Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	New Opportunities Fund/Larne Council	0	0	648	0	0	648
SEELB	Primary	Big Lottery	0	190	0	0	0	190
	Post Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
SELB	Primary		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Post Primary	New Opportunities Fund/Sports NI	0	0	1,044	0	0	1,044
Total	Primary		0	190	0	0	0	190
	Post Primary		432	34	1,696	0	0	2,162

Other major work capital schemes include PPP schemes however the cost of outdoor sports facilities are subsumed within the overall contract cost.

Primary School Outdoor Sports Facilities

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education to detail the outdoor post-primary school sports facilities that his Department has directly funded, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 28872/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not directly fund capital programmes in schools. It grant aids a programme of capital minor works in non-controlled schools in conjunction with the relevant school authority.

This programme grant aids a range of facilities including playgrounds, upgrade of existing pitches, and provision of drainage, security fencing and storage units. The Department does not record sporting facilities grant aided under the minor works programme as a separate funding stream. However, the total available for all minor works programmes in the last 5 years, including sporting facilities, in the non-controlled sector is detailed in the table below.

2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
£26.855m	£39.248m	£18.516m	£21.103m	£29.106m

Sports facilities have been included and approved for the purposes of grant aid in major school capital build projects, however, the costs of these facilities are subsumed within the overall cost of the project.

School Transfer Process

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education how many designated officers there are within (i) the Department of Education; (ii) each Education and Library Boards; and (iii) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, to support schools that (a) have transformed; and (b) wish to transform.

(AQW 28875/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: (i) The Department of Education does not have a designated officer as the funding and other help provided to support schools that (a) have transformed; and (b) wish to transform to integrated status is provided by a team of officials as part of their wider duties. (ii) Each Education and Library Board has arrangements in place to support schools that have transformed or wish to transform. SEELB has a designated officer whereas the other Education and Library Boards identify a team of officers to provide advice and support in relation to all relevant issues, as required. (iii) The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools does not have a designated officer.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what monitoring and evaluation takes place on the Education and Training Inspectorate.

(AQW 28921/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As an organisation committed to continuous improvement and increased openness, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) secures an independent evaluation of its work on an annual basis.

Up until 2008/09, this external independent evaluation had been conducted for a number of years by Price Waterhouse Coopers. From 2009 to date, to reduce costs involved, an independent, confidential, post-inspection evaluation has been conducted by the (NISRA).

Furthermore, during the last four years, ETI has also been subject to a (1) Charter Mark Assessment, (2) DE Internal Audit Evaluation, and (3) Customer Service Excellence Award Assessment.

All of these assessments of quality have reported very positively on the organisation.

School Crossing Patrol Guards

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the criteria used to determine whether a school crossing patrol guard is replaced when a vacancy arises.

(AQW 28939/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards are responsible for the provision of school crossing patrols (SCP). In the event of an SCP position becoming vacant, the Board that is responsible is required to undertake a series of surveys and a risk assessment at the site to determine whether there

is a continued need for the provision. The surveys and risk assessments are carried out in accordance with agreed five Board criteria based on Road Safety GB guidelines developed by the Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association in England and Wales. The guidelines incorporate elements from the existing widely adopted criteria for the assessment of potential zebra and pelican crossing sites, and consider factors such as:

- Vehicular traffic flow at school times;
- The number of pedestrians crossing (both accompanied and unaccompanied);
- The average age of the pupils traversing the road;
- The safety record on the portion of the road where the SCP is positioned;
- Speed limit; and
- Sight lines.

The appointment process for SCPs is carried out in accordance with established Board procedures and there are no plans to change the process or the determination of need for an SCP.

The Road Safety GB guidelines, that are used to determine whether a school crossing patrol is replaced, were formally reviewed by Road Safety GB in June 2012. Given this recent review Boards consider that there is no requirement for another review in the short term.

School Crossing Patrol Guards

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education whether he plans to review the process of appointment and determination of need for a school crossing patrol guard.

(AQW 28940/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards are responsible for the provision of school crossing patrols (SCP). In the event of an SCP position becoming vacant, the Board that is responsible is required to undertake a series of surveys and a risk assessment at the site to determine whether there is a continued need for the provision. The surveys and risk assessments are carried out in accordance with agreed five Board criteria based on Road Safety GB guidelines developed by the Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association in England and Wales. The guidelines incorporate elements from the existing widely adopted criteria for the assessment of potential zebra and pelican crossing sites, and consider factors such as:

- Vehicular traffic flow at school times;
- The number of pedestrians crossing (both accompanied and unaccompanied);
- The average age of the pupils traversing the road;
- The safety record on the portion of the road where the SCP is positioned;
- Speed limit; and
- Sight lines.

The appointment process for SCPs is carried out in accordance with established Board procedures and there are no plans to change the process or the determination of need for an SCP.

The Road Safety GB guidelines, that are used to determine whether a school crossing patrol is replaced, were formally reviewed by Road Safety GB in June 2012. Given this recent review Boards consider that there is no requirement for another review in the short term.

School Crossing Patrol Guards

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans there are to change the criteria used to determine whether a school crossing patrol guard is appointed.

(AQW 28941/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards are responsible for the provision of school crossing patrols (SCP). In the event of an SCP position becoming vacant, the Board that is responsible is required to undertake a series of surveys and a risk assessment at the site to determine whether there is a continued need for the provision. The surveys and risk assessments are carried out in accordance with agreed five Board criteria based on Road Safety GB guidelines developed by the Local Authority Road Safety Officers' Association in England and Wales. The guidelines incorporate elements from the existing widely adopted criteria for the assessment of potential zebra and pelican crossing sites, and consider factors such as:

- Vehicular traffic flow at school times;
- The number of pedestrians crossing (both accompanied and unaccompanied);
- The average age of the pupils traversing the road;
- The safety record on the portion of the road where the SCP is positioned;
- Speed limit; and
- Sight lines.

The appointment process for SCPs is carried out in accordance with established Board procedures and there are no plans to change the process or the determination of need for an SCP.

The Road Safety GB guidelines, that are used to determine whether a school crossing patrol is replaced, were formally reviewed by Road Safety GB in June 2012. Given this recent review Boards consider that there is no requirement for another review in the short term.

Education and Library Board: Failure to Send Children to School

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 28720/11-15, for a breakdown of these figures shown by the primary and post-primary sector.

(AQW 28957/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have advised that the number of cases of parents or guardians failing to send children to school in the 2012/13 academic year that were prosecuted in each ELB broken down by primary and post-primary sector is as set out below.

ELB	Number of Prosecutions	
	Primary	Post-Primary
Belfast ELB	*	*
Western ELB	6	27
North-Eastern ELB	20	48
South-Eastern ELB	*	*
Southern ELB	12	55

* denotes fewer than 5 cases, figure suppressed to avoid possible identification of individuals

Salaries for Senior Managers in Education and Library Boards

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how the salaries for senior managers in Education and Library Boards, within the current structure, are independently reviewed.

(AQW 28966/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The salaries of Chief Executive Officers and Second Tier Officers in the Education and Library Boards are independently reviewed by the Senior Management Pay Review Panel (SMPRP) which is headed by the Chair of the Staff Commission.

In determining the salary ranges, the SMPRP take into account of the Executive's Public Sector Pay Policy and associated guidance, the independent recommendations published annually by the Review Body on Senior Salaries (an advisory NDPB of the Cabinet Office) and of pay movements in the wider public sector, particularly salaries of Directors of Education in comparably-sized local authorities in Great Britain.

Primary Schools in Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many pupils attend each primary school in Bangor. (AQW 28968/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The most up-to-date validated figures for pupil enrolments relate to the 2012/13 school year, these are detailed in the table below. Updated 2013/14 figures will be available following the completion of the annual school census which is currently being undertaken.

Pupil enrolments in primary schools in the Bangor area - 2012/13

School name	Total enrolments
Ballyholme Primary School	627
Ballymagee Primary School	404
Bangor Central Primary School	604
Bloomfield Primary School	394
Clandeboyne Primary School	181
Crawfordsburn Primary School	212
Glenlola Collegiate Prep School	62
Grange Park Primary School	394
Kilcooley Primary School	165
Kilmaine Primary School	670
Rathmore Primary School	598
St Comgall's Primary School	302
St Malachy's Primary School	351
Towerview Primary School	391
Total	5,355

Source: School census

Notes:

1. Figures for primary schools include nursery, reception and year 1 – 7 classes.
2. Schools have been included above if they have Bangor stated as part of their postal address.

New Build for Strabane Academy

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Education what is the position and timescale regarding the new build for Strabane Academy, given that the Economic Appraisal for the new build has been with the Department of Finance and Personnel since May 2008.

(AQW 28976/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In my statement to the Assembly on 22 January 2013 I announced a programme of 22 new build projects that would advance in planning. Strabane Academy was included in this announcement.

A previous Economic Appraisal (EA) for a new build for Strabane Academy, although undertaken, was never approved by my Department or the Department of Finance and Personnel and, as this EA was more than two years old at the time of my January 2013 announcement, current guidelines state that it had to be updated.

The revised EA was submitted to the Department by the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) in August 2013, and is currently under consideration. This work is well advanced and it is expected that it will be sent to DFP shortly for their approval.

The WELB in its role as managing authority for Strabane Academy has advised that the appointment of consultants for this project is currently ongoing however it is not in a position to advise of a possible start on site date due to the early stage of the project.

'Lisanelly-Styled' Campus in Armagh City

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education for an update on the proposed 'Lisanelly-styled' campus in Armagh City.

(AQW 28978/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In the first instance it will be for the SELB and CCMS, as the school managing authorities, to determine and agree the best way forward including any proposals to co-locate schools and share facilities.

I am aware that the concept of a campus in Armagh is being considered. I have met with some of those involved and been appraised of their proposals. It will be for the SELB, as the planning authority for the area, working in conjunction with other relevant managing authorities to determine the next steps in developing this, or any other area solution for the Armagh city area.

Holocaust Memorial Trust

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education what plans there are to promote further the work of the Holocaust Memorial Trust among school children.

(AQW 29003/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I believe this question refers to the Holocaust Educational Trust and their work in schools. The Department of Education has no plans to further promote the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

There are opportunities for schools here to explore the Holocaust and related issues through a number of Areas of Learning within the revised curriculum.

In line with the flexibility provided by the revised curriculum, it is a matter for individual schools to decide on their involvement with outside organisations, such as the Holocaust Educational Trust, to assist in their delivery of the curriculum.

Young People with Learning Disabilities

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how his Department is working with the Department for Employment and Learning and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to identify and respond to specific barriers faced by young people with a learning disability at key life transitions during school, training and employment and day centre opportunities.

(AQW 29021/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education (DE) has already taken actions to strengthen the transition planning process, including the appointment of Education Transition Co-ordinators in each Education

and Library Board (ELB) and the provision of life skills training for young people with a learning disability. At operational level, it is incumbent on ELBs to develop close working relationships with colleagues in other agencies to ensure effective and coherent plans for young people in transition.

DE is liaising with the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in relation to transition planning through both the cross-departmental Autism Strategy & Action Plan and the Bamford Action Plan, and is also engaged with the cross-agency Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership's (CYPSP) 'Transition to Adulthood of Young People with Disabilities' sub-group.

The CYPSP sub-group will explore the potential for a number of mechanisms to help improve the experience of transition to adult services for the young person and their families, including an integrated plan which will be multiagency and have a person centred approach. Appropriate post-school provision that ensures progression for young people is part of the group's remit.

Support is also available through the ELBs' Transitions Services and DEL's Careers Service for young people who are vulnerable to social exclusion and who have high priority career guidance needs where specialist skills are required.

DE is committed to the continuous improvement of the quality of careers education in schools and both DE and DEL are working well together to take forward the full and continuing implementation of the joint DE/DEL 'Preparing for Success – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy'.

In addition, the Education and Training Inspectorate will undertake an evaluation of current transition arrangements in both mainstream and special schools, including post-primary to adult services, in early 2014. The findings of this report will be shared with DHSSPS and DEL when completed.

Education and Library Board: Failure to Send Children to School

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 28720/11-15, how these figures compare to the two previous academic years; and whether there is evidence of any specific trends. **(AQW 29034/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Library Boards (ELBs) have advised that the number of prosecutions of parents or guardians failing to send their children to school, since the 2010-11 school year is as set out below.

ELB	Number of Prosecutions 2010-11	Number of Prosecutions 2011-12	Number of Prosecutions 2012-13
Belfast ELB	*	*	*
Western ELB	45	26	33
North-Eastern ELB	6	10	68
South-Eastern ELB	7	9	*
Southern ELB	37	37	67

* denotes fewer than 5 cases, figure suppressed to avoid possible identification of individuals.

The Department has no evidence of any specific trends.

Education and Library Board: Failure to Send Children to School

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 28720/11-15, how much advice is offered, or warnings given, to parents and guardians in these situations; and for how many days or occasions a child is absent before action is taken to prosecute.

(AQW 29061/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Schools should refer pupils to Education welfare Service (EWS) for support, if appropriate, if their attendance falls below 85% or if there is a cause for concern.

The intervention by the EWS is tailored to the individual child following the assessment of their circumstances including their needs, the parents/carer's capacity to meet those needs and the family and environmental factors. Provision of advice and support, consideration of warnings or any onward referral is completely determined by the outcome of this assessment.

3G Pitches for Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education which body is responsible for funding 3G pitches for schools. (AQW 29069/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There is no specific provision in the Department of Education's (DE's) Building Handbook for any pitches (including 3G pitches) at primary schools, whereas the Building Handbook for Secondary Schools Edition 4 states that "in schools with enrolments in excess of 349, the Department may approve the provision of a pitch with a sand-filled synthetic surface, provided it is matched by a reduction of two conventional pitches.

Education and Library Boards receive a budget to progress a programme of minor works in controlled schools and the Department administers a programme for non-controlled schools. Applications are considered on a case by case basis and assessed on their individual merits in line with ministerial priorities.

All schools are welcome to make an application to the relevant authority for the provision of a 3G pitch, either to the Education and Library Boards in respect of Controlled schools or the Department of Education for non Controlled schools.

Replacement Building for Woodburn Primary School, Carrickfergus

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Education to make a statement on the proposal for a replacement building for Woodburn Primary School, Carrickfergus. (AQW 29070/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have no plans at this time to provide a replacement school building for Woodburn Primary School in Carrickfergus.

I will continue to examine the case for capital investment across the estate and any proposals the Northern Eastern Education and Library Board have for Woodburn Primary School will be considered along with other priorities as part of a future capital announcement.

Cherish SureStart: Electoral Wards

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education how the electoral wards served by Cherish SureStart were selected. (AQW 29083/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: DHSSPS established the Sure Start Programme in the north of Ireland during 2000/01. Geographical areas applied for Sure Start funding and were required to demonstrate need in their area.

Cherish Sure Start was launched in January 2001 following a successful bid for Sure Start funding by a consortium made up of a number of community, voluntary and statutory partners to the Western Area Childcare Partnership. The project was originally established to provide services to the following wards: Irvinestown, Kesh, Ederney and Lack, Trillick, Ballinamallard and Lisnarick as the consortium identified particular need for services in rural areas at that time.

In the 2006-2008 expansion of the Sure Start programme, Cherish Sure Start extended its services to a further three wards (Rosslea, Newtownbutler and Devenish) in line with the direction that services

should be provided to at least the top 20% most disadvantaged areas at ward level, as measured by the Multiple Deprivation Measure (MDM) .

Capital and Recurrent Funding to a New School

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Education how his Department provides (i) capital; and (ii) recurrent funding to a new school.

(AQW 29093/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The process which my Department adopted to select new build school projects for capital funding in 2012 and 2013 is set out in two protocol documents published on the Department's website and can be accessed via the following links;

http://www.deni.gov.uk/major_works_protocol.pdf

http://www.deni.gov.uk/microsoft_word_-_protocol_for_selection_of_project_to_advance_on_planning.pdf

In addition the protocol for the Schools Enhancement Programme is accessed via the following link;

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/school-enhancement-programme-protocol.htm>

Following Ministerial approval of a Development Proposal to open a new school, and subject to all required conditions of grant-aid approval having been met, the new school will receive a recurrent budget allocation under the current arrangements as set out in the Common Funding Scheme. Full details of the current Common Funding Scheme for 2013/14 Financial Year may be found at the following link:

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/schools-and-infrastructure-2/schools-finance/common-funding-section/common-funding-scheme-2013-14.htm>

Where the new school opens mid financial year, it will receive a recurrent budget allocation calculated pro rata from the start of the month in which it opens.

School Capital Expenditure

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Education how much funding his Department has committed to school capital expenditure since May 2011.

(AQW 29094/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: School capital expenditure committed by my Department in each financial year since May 2011 is as follows:

Financial year	£000s
2011/12	109,967
2012/13	103,007

In the current financial year, a total capital budget of £106.9m has been committed to be spent on schools' capital projects.

Community Relations, Equality and Diversity Expenditure

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Education to detail his Department's Community Relations, Equality and Diversity expenditure in (i) 2012; and (ii) 2013.

(AQW 29095/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I can confirm that my Department allocated £1,139k in 2011/12 and £1,163k in 2012/13 to fund the delivery of the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity policy.

Departmental Arms-Length Bodies

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Education how many people are employed in his Department's arm's-length bodies, including (i) teaching staff; (ii) non-teaching staff; (iii) chief executives; and (iv) board members.

(AQW 29096/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of people employed in DE's Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) in 2012/13 is as follows:

		Number (headcount)
(i)	Teaching staff	19,436
(ii)	Non-teaching staff	29,134
(iii)	Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)	12
(iv)	Board members	203
	Total	49,152

Notes:

- Headcount figures include part-time staff.
- Figures will fluctuate during the year with leavers and new starts.
- Non-teaching staff figure includes Headquarter staff (excluding Chief Executives), school based staff and out centre and youth club staff. Figure excludes support staff in Voluntary Grammar and Grant Maintained Integrated schools. This information is not currently held centrally as these schools are individual employers and run their own payroll systems.
- CEO figure includes all ALB figureheads - some posts are not referred to as CEOs for example the GTCNI Registrar and the Commission Secretary of the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards.
- The Board members figure does not include the Commissioners appointed to carry out the functions of the suspended SEELB Board.

Visiting Speakers in Schools: Vetting

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Education to outline how visiting speakers are vetted, prior to speaking in schools on such issues such as abortion.

(AQW 29194/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department has issued advice in its circular 2001/15 'Relationships and Sexuality Education' (RSE) to schools, including the need for them to develop their own age appropriate RSE policy in consultation with parents and the Board of Governors. The consultation with parents is very important and will allow the school to seek parental views regarding their proposed delivery of RSE. The starting point should always be the development of a RSE policy.

A report published by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) in January 2011 about RSE provision in post-primary schools highlighted the need for teachers to be provided with more support to help them deal with sensitive issues. To address this, the Department has commissioned the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) to review current RSE guidance for schools and it intended that this work will be completed during the 2014/15 financial year.

In terms of the delivery of RSE by schools, it is accepted that schools do find it helpful to involve outside organisations or individuals, to supplement the school's delivery of the curriculum.

The Department of Education's Circular 2013/1 requires staff engaged in Regulated Activity in schools to be vetted. However, visitors who are asked to deliver a presentation to a class or take part in or host a class discussion would not usually be classed as being engaged in regulated activity. Teachers

should always be present when a representative from an agency or individual is taking a session with a class. Consequently, they would not routinely need to be vetted before being allowed onto school premises. Such visitors should of course be managed by school staff and their access to pupils, areas and movement within the school should be restricted as needs require.

A member of school staff should review the resources which are to be used and judge the appropriateness of such materials for the age range and maturity of the pupils and as I have already stated schools should consult with parents in developing their RSE policy.

As with all aspects of the revised curriculum, delivery of RSE and related issues, such as abortion, is a matter for individual schools, taking into account the maturity and level of understanding of their pupils.

Intake of Primary School Pupils: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the intake of pupils to each primary school in North Down, in each of the last 5 years.

(AQW 29200/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is detailed in the table below. Please note that the 2013/14 figures are provisional, finalised figures will be available at the end of February.

Year 1 enrolments - Primary schools in North Down constituency - 2009/10 – 2013/14

School name	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14
Ballyholme Primary School	76	84	93	90	90
Ballymagee Primary School	59	57	59	60	57
Ballyvester Primary School	7	8	18	18	20
Bangor Central Primary School	86	85	86	87	87
Bloomfield Primary School	41	44	60	59	59
Clandeboyne Primary School	15	21	26	51	48
Connor House Preparatory School	19	4	-	-	-
Crawfordsburn Primary School	35	35	33	29	31
Donaghadee Primary School	59	56	59	52	57
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	30	30	29	29	30
Glenlola Collegiate	11	15	6	12	12
Grange Park Primary School	50	43	53	60	60
Hollywood Primary School	50	49	38	65	80
Kilcooley Primary School	15	23	13	24	17
Kilmaine Primary School	89	87	86	89	91
Millisle Primary School	21	28	35	30	26
Rathmore Primary School	80	78	85	84	84
Redburn Primary School	19	16	15	-	-
St Anne's Primary School, Donaghadee	5	4	3	13	10
St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor	36	25	51	52	46

School name	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14
St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor	37	35	52	59	59
St Patrick's Primary School, Holywood	25	28	34	45	36
Sullivan Upper School	26	24	27	26	24
Towerview Primary School	41	48	53	55	49

Source: School census

Notes:

1. These figures include year 1 intakes only; new entrants into other year groups have not been included.
2. Figures for 2013/14 are provisional.
3. '-' denotes schools that have since closed

After School Clubs: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the schools in North Down which hold after school clubs. (AQW 29202/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department (DE) does not have responsibility for after school clubs which operate outside the Extended Schools (ES) programme.

The ES programme provides additional funding, £12m in 2013/14, for those schools serving the most disadvantaged areas to provide for a wide range of services and activities outside of the normal school day. Where assessed as needed by schools, this may include after school clubs.

The schools in the North Down constituency that are eligible to receive ES funding in the 2013/14 financial year and provide after school clubs are outlined in the table below.

- Kilcooley PS, Bangor
- Bloomfield PS, Bangor
- Clandeboye PS, Bangor
- St Malachy's PS, Bangor

Public Private Partnership and Private Finance Initiative Contracts

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) which schools in the Foyle constituency are currently subject to Public Private Partnership, or Private Finance Initiative, contracts; (ii) the length of each contract; (iii) the current cost of each contract; (iv) the remaining term of each contract; (v) the average cost to the public purse for this arrangement; and (vi) the year the contract was signed. (AQW 29237/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- (i) There are two schools in the Foyle Constituency, St Cecilia's College and St Mary's College, which are currently subject to Public Private Partnership (PPP) contracts. Together the schools form the Derry Diocese PPP project.
- (ii) The two schools are part of the same project, which has a 25 year contract.
- (iii) The current (annual) cost of the contract is measured by the unitary charge payment. For this project the unitary charge for 2013/14 is £6.38m.
- (iv) There are 22 years remaining of this contract.
- (v) The total cost to the public purse of this project is £163m over the 25 years of the project.
- (vi) The contract was signed in 2008 and became operational on 02 September 2010.

Shared Education Funding

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education how much funding was allocated to shared education in each of the last five years. [R]

(AQW 29281/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I refer the Member to my response to AQW 28806/11-15. My Department has not issued funding specifically for shared education. Indications are that schools have funded shared education through department funding streams (such as the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy and Entitlement Framework funding), external funding sources or from within their own school budget. In addition, the Extended School policy encourages schools to partner or cluster with one or more other schools for the delivery of extended services.

Shared Education Funding

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education which organisations received shared education funding in each of the last five years. [R]

(AQW 29282/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I refer the Member to my response to AQW 28806/11-15. My Department has not issued funding specifically for shared education. Indications are that schools have funded shared education through department funding streams (such as the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy and Entitlement Framework funding), external funding sources or from within their own school budget. In addition, the Extended School policy encourages schools to partner or cluster with one or more other schools for the delivery of extended services.

Post-Primary Schools: Sport

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many post-primary schools offer participation for pupils in (i) football; (ii) gaelic games; (iii) cricket; (iv) rugby; and (v) tennis.

(AQW 29305/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not collect information on the individual sports or games provided by each school nor do we hold information on schools with competitive teams.

Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory element of the revised curriculum for all pupils of compulsory school age and Department of Education guidance recommends that schools should provide a minimum of 2 hours PE per week.

The Department does not prescribe specific sports or games to be delivered within a school's PE curriculum as this is a matter for each school.

However, legislation does detail that PE provision to pupils should cover different types of physical activity. Namely in Primary Schools, provision should include athletics, dance, games and gymnastics with the addition of swimming at Key Stage 2. For Key Stage 3 pupils in Post-Primary School, provision should include athletics, games, gymnastics and swimming. For pupils in Key Stage 4 schools should facilitate pupils' participation in a regular, frequent and balanced programme of physical activity.

Primary Schools: Sport

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many primary schools offer participation for pupils in (i) football; (ii) gaelic games; (iii) cricket; (iv) rugby; and (v) tennis.

(AQW 29306/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not collect information on the individual sports or games provided by each school nor do we hold information on schools with competitive teams.

Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory element of the revised curriculum for all pupils of compulsory school age and Department of Education guidance recommends that schools should provide a minimum of 2 hours PE per week.

The Department does not prescribe specific sports or games to be delivered within a school's PE curriculum as this is a matter for each school.

However, legislation does detail that PE provision to pupils should cover different types of physical activity. Namely in Primary Schools, provision should include athletics, dance, games and gymnastics with the addition of swimming at Key Stage 2. For Key Stage 3 pupils in Post-Primary School, provision should include athletics, games, gymnastics and swimming. For pupils in Key Stage 4 schools should facilitate pupils' participation in a regular, frequent and balanced programme of physical activity.

Primary Schools: Sport

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many primary schools have competitive teams in (i) football; (ii) gaelic games; (iii) cricket; (iv) rugby; and (v) tennis.

(AQW 29307/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not collect information on the individual sports or games provided by each school nor do we hold information on schools with competitive teams.

Physical Education (PE) is a compulsory element of the revised curriculum for all pupils of compulsory school age and Department of Education guidance recommends that schools should provide a minimum of 2 hours PE per week.

The Department does not prescribe specific sports or games to be delivered within a school's PE curriculum as this is a matter for each school.

However, legislation does detail that PE provision to pupils should cover different types of physical activity. Namely in Primary Schools, provision should include athletics, dance, games and gymnastics with the addition of swimming at Key Stage 2. For Key Stage 3 pupils in Post-Primary School, provision should include athletics, games, gymnastics and swimming. For pupils in Key Stage 4 schools should facilitate pupils' participation in a regular, frequent and balanced programme of physical activity.

Department for Employment and Learning

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

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

(AQW 28674/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): My Department did not award any tenders or provide any funding to organisations in Derry related to the delivery of the City of Culture 2013.

Proposed Merger of Stranmillis Teacher Training College and Queen's University, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to provide an update on the current status of the proposed merger of Stranmillis Teacher Training College and Queen's University, Belfast.

(AQW 28727/11-15)

Dr Farry: I have updated members previously on the proposed merger and made a statement on teacher education issues to the Assembly on 28 November 2011. I have commissioned a two-stage study of the teacher education infrastructure in Northern Ireland. The first stage has now been completed and I made a statement on this to the Assembly on 21 May this year. The second stage which is examining options for a more shared and integrated system for the delivery and funding of

teacher education is currently underway and I expect it to conclude by the summer of 2014. Any merger would be considered in the context of the outcome from this work.

Religious Background of University Applicants

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 2962/11-15, for an update on the data provided.

(AQW 28733/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department does not hold information on the religion of applicants to university and this is also not collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The Department does however hold information on the religion of Northern Ireland (NI) domiciled students enrolled at the NI Higher Education Institutions.

The number of NI domiciled students from a Catholic, Protestant and Other/Not Known background enrolled at: Queen's University; the University of Ulster (broken down by each campus); St Mary's University College; and Stranmillis University College in each of the last seven years is detailed in Annex A. This has been placed in the Assembly Library and on my department's website at <http://www.delni.gov.uk/>.

Religious Background of the Current University Staff

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the religious background of the current (i) teaching staff; and (ii) non-teaching staff at (a) Queen's University Belfast; (b) the University of Ulster, broken down by campus; (c) St Mary's University College; and (d) Stranmillis University College.

(AQW 28734/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Higher Education Institutions have provided the information which I have placed in the Assembly Library and on the DEL website on <http://www.delni.gov.uk/>.

Assured Skills Budget

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the spend on the Assured Skills budget for every year since its foundation; (ii) the amount that each company has received through this programme; (iii) whether the funding provided through this scheme is included as part of the support offered by Invest NI.

(AQW 28773/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) The Assured Skills programme was established in 2010/11. The year-on-year Assured Skills spend is as follows:
- 2010/11 – £888,644.44
 - 2011/12 – £346,971.68
 - 2012/13 – £659,429.57
 - 2013/14 – £222,591.38 (to 30 November 2013)
- (ii) Currently, Assured Skills is engaged in eleven company projects supporting the creation of 2,232 jobs at a total Departmental commitment of £3.44million. Since the start of the programme, including completed projects, the amount that companies have received from Assured Skills funds (up to 30 November 2013) is as follows:

Company	Assured Skills Support 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2013
Allstate	£239,477

Company	Assured Skills Support 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2013
Andor	£66,031
Axiom	£103,518
Barclays Bank	£5,802
BT	£107,225
Citigroup	£182,225
CVS Caremark	£121,409
Deloitte	£34,014
First Source Solutions	£28,028
Heritage	£40,674
Liberty	£79,159
Market Resource Partners	£83,078
MITIE Security	£54,435
Navinet	£56,928
Santander	£26,266
Stream International	£777

Please note that agreements are also in place or being finalised with Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Cowen Group, Caterpillar and Magellan Aerospace. However, no claims have yet been made against the support offered.

- (iii) Yes. A potential investor is presented with one offer from Northern Ireland. However, the offer comprises two complementary parts: the Invest Northern Ireland element and the Assured Skills element, which is aimed at supporting the skills needs of the investor.

Please note that, during the first pilot phase of the programme, a variety of approaches were trialled and a number of projects had no Invest Northern Ireland component. Since the initial pilot finished in 2011/12 and arising from the evaluation of the pilot, only projects with components from both the Department for Employment and Learning and Invest Northern Ireland have been supported under Assured Skills.

Labour Relations Agency

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail, for each of the last eight years (i) the number of queries to the Labour Relations Agency (LRA); (ii) the number of queries relating to potential unfair dismissal claims; (iii) the number of employment tribunal hearings; (iv) the amount of funding provided to the LRA; (v) the full time equivalent staff makeup of the LRA; and (vi) the number of mediation cases involving the LRA.

(AQW 28777/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Labour Relations Agency is a Non-Departmental Public Body with responsibility for promoting the improvement of employment relations in Northern Ireland. The Agency has provided the information in Annex A, by way of answer to points (i), (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi). This has been placed in the Assembly Library and on my department's website at <http://www.delni.gov.uk/>.

Apprentices who Failed to Complete their Apprenticeship

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of apprentices who failed to complete their apprenticeship due to their employer terminating their employment, in each of the last three years; and (ii) any actions taken to enable them to complete their apprenticeship.
(AQW 28782/11-15)

Dr Farry: From September 2010, 684 apprentices who left the ApprenticeshipsNI programme were classified as 'redundant apprentices'. Table 1 overleaf provides the breakdown for the last three years.

My Department has advised contracted Training Suppliers that in cases where an apprentice's employment is terminated, ApprenticeshipsNI participants may join the Training for Success programme (subject to eligibility).

As a contingency measure my Department introduced the Programme-Led Apprenticeship programme in 2009. With the provision of a revised Training for Success Level 2 training option (contracts awarded in June 2013) the continuation of Programme-Led Apprenticeships was considered unnecessary.

My Department also introduced contingency arrangements in 2008 for Construction, Engineering or Motor Vehicle Industry apprentices to allow an apprentice who had been made redundant to continue with his/her training. These arrangements were introduced as a short-term measure but remain in place.

Table 1 Leavers from ApprenticeshipsNI where Termination Reason was recorded as "Redundant Apprentice", by Academic Year ⁽¹⁾

2010/11	225
2011/12	241
2012/13	218
Total	684

Source: Data extracted from the Department's Client Management System on 25th October 2013

(1) From 1st August to 31st July in each year

Number of Apprentices that have Emigrated

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of apprentices in each different skill area that have emigrated or left Northern Ireland to find employment, in each of the last three years.
(AQW 28808/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department does not hold data relating to apprentices that have emigrated or left Northern Ireland to find employment. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency publishes statistics relating to "International Out-Migration". Unfortunately, publications do not include the detail that you have requested.

My Department's ApprenticeshipsNI Statistical Bulletin provides key information on the ApprenticeshipsNI programme and contains data to July 2013. The Bulletin is published on a quarterly basis with the statistics presented covering a range of topics including starts, occupancy, leavers and outcomes for participants on ApprenticeshipsNI.

A full copy of the Statistical Bulletin can be viewed by following the link below.

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/apprenticeshipsni-statistical-bulletins.htm>

As the member will be aware, in February I announced a major review of my Department's apprenticeship policy. This review, which is all-encompassing in nature, is progressing as planned, and I will be reporting its findings shortly.

Number of Females Participating in Apprenticeship Courses

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline any initiatives being introduced to increase the number of females participating in apprenticeship courses.

(AQW 28942/11-15)

Dr Farry: The most recent edition of my Department's ApprenticeshipsNI Statistical Bulletin indicates that from the introduction of the ApprenticeshipsNI programme in 2007 to date, the percentage of females starting ApprenticeshipsNI funded training has increased from 35% to 51%. A full copy of the Statistical Bulletin can be viewed by following the link below.

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/publications/r-and-s-stats/apprenticeshipsni-statistical-bulletins.htm>

Factors impacting on this increase include the introduction of an all-age provision coupled with accessibility for those working a minimum of 21 hours per week.

As outlined in my oral statement to the Assembly on Tuesday 4 June 2013, I am aware of a range of gender equality issues facing Northern Ireland. I recognise that females, despite gaining strong educational attainments in the further and higher education fields, are much less likely than males to pursue careers in economically relevant areas such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The implementation of the STEM Strategy, 'Success through STEM' sets out how we will collectively help to address this issue. Businesses themselves have an important role to play. For example, the STEM Business sub-group ran a seminar entitled 'Are you getting the balance right?' in association with the Equality Commission. The seminar engaged with STEM businesses to investigate the issues of gender bias in STEM and assist in identifying additional steps businesses can take to make careers in STEM attractive to women.

As the member will be aware, back in February I announce a major review of my Department's apprenticeship policy. This review, which is all encompassing in nature, is progressing as planned and I will be reporting its findings shortly.

Young People with a Learning Disability: Data

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline any plans his Department has to collate data on young people with a learning disability who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, or at risk of being NEET.

(AQW 28943/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department developed and leads the cross-departmental strategy, 'Pathways to Success' (PtS) the Executive's formal strategy for addressing the needs of young people who are not in employment, education and training (NEET). As part of its implementation a range of programmes are available to a wide range of young people in the NEET category including those with learning disabilities. While the individual PtS providers collect data on participants with disabilities and health problems, details of the specific disabilities of the participants are not collated centrally.

The official source of population estimates of the number of young people who are NEET is the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which is carried out by the Department of Finance and Personnel. The most recent LFS figures for the period July-September 2013 estimate that there were 11,000 (23% of total NEETs) with a disability. However, the LFS sample size is too small to provide a more detailed breakdown by type of disability.

My Department intends to analyse data from the 2011 Census of Population with respect to young people in the 16-24 age range. This analysis will examine, amongst other things, the issue of disability. In addition, as outlined in the 'Pathways to Success' strategy, my Department will explore with other Departments options for the development of a tracking system for NEETs which would ultimately encompass those young people with a disability.

Data collected for Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF) programme monitoring records the number of NEETs aged 16-19 and also the number of participants with disabilities or health conditions. The data therefore allow the identification of participants who are NEET and who have a disability. However, it does not enable the identification of participants with any specific disability, such as learning disability.

Young People with a Learning Disability

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail any targeted programmes that support young people with a learning disability who are Not in Education, Employment or Training, or are at risk of being NEET.

(AQW 28944/11-15)

Dr Farry: DEL offers the following programmes that directly and indirectly target and support young people with a disability including those with a learning disability.

Work Connect

Work Connect is an employment programme designed to help recipients of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Incapacity Benefit (IB) to overcome barriers to employment, improve their employability and, where possible, find and keep suitable employment. Work Connect is delivered in partnership with external organisations, and provides quality specialist pre-employment and employment provision to clients who have health conditions and / or disabilities, but who are capable of, and wish to play, a full and active role in society. Since its introduction 21 young people with a learning disability have entered the programme, and currently 12 of these young people continue to be supported through Work Connect.

Access to Work (NI)

Access to Work (NI) assists people with disabilities who are either in paid employment, or who have a job to commence, through the provision of practical support and by meeting any additional costs associated with overcoming work-related obstacles that may result from having a disability.

The programme provides a range of individually assessed supports that may be one-off in nature or for a longer term and potentially indefinite period. It provides support to participants where there are additional costs associated with their specific disability, for example; adaptation to premises and equipment; communication support at interview; special aids and equipment; support workers and travel to work support.

There are currently 640 people with disabilities being supported through Access to Work (NI) of which 149 have a learning disability and 31 are aged 16 to 24.

Workable (NI)

This programme aims to assist people with disabilities enter or retain employment through the provision of a flexible range of specialist supports such as a job coaching, mentoring or extra training. All participants have individually focused development plans to help them achieve realistic occupational goals. Workable (NI) is delivered by organisations with extensive experience of meeting the vocational needs of people with disabilities. There are currently 455 employees availing of support through Workable (NI) of which 87 are aged 18 - 24 with a learning disability.

Youth Guarantee

The Department offers a guarantee of a training place through its Training for Success programme for all unemployed 16-17 year old school leavers with extended eligibility for those with a disability. The Training for Success programme is designed to enable participants to progress to higher level training, further education, or employment by providing training to address personal and social development needs, develop occupational skills and employability skills and, where necessary, Essential Skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

Community Family Support Programme (CFSP)

The Community Family Support Programme (CFSP), is an initiative designed to help families make life changing decisions to enhance their prospects and support them to become full participants in society. It also supports families with a high level of need in developing their capacity to reach their full potential. During the 26 week programme families will receive help to address the health, social, economic, educational, employment and training issues that impact on their daily lives.

The programme also aims to prevent young people falling into the NEET category and help other young people who find themselves in this situation to re-engage with education, training or employment.

Professional support workers will engage and consult with parents of children and young people to promote early intervention and high quality parenting and to identify solutions to address their specific needs. This includes support for young people or children that may have learning disabilities.

Families will get help to tackle a range of issues and receive support to improve parenting skills. Working closely with schools, children will receive support for needs they may have including additional help with essential skills, numeracy, literacy, problem solving and ICT. Help and support for social and economic issues, health, housing, alcohol and drugs will also feature in the support package and everyone of working age will get help to develop skills to find work.

Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF)

The Collaboration and Innovation Fund (CIF) is one of the employment initiatives developed under the Executive's 'Pathways to Success' strategy for young people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Over £9.2 million has been made available to 24 organisations from the community, voluntary and educational sectors to explore new approaches to address the specific and general employability barriers faced by these young people. Projects will deliver provide support to over 6,100 NEET young people from December 2012 to March 2015.

The Print Room project delivered by The Appleby Trust will provide support to 50 young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The remaining projects do not specifically target young people with a learning disability but all young people in the NEET category including those with a learning disability are eligible to participate.

Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF)

Whilst the Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF) Programme, 2007-2013 is not specifically targeted at specific groups of participants, young people with disabilities are eligible to participate and do take part in projects funded under the programme in significant numbers.

Further Education

The Learner Access and Engagement NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) pilot programme, enables learners, aged 16 to 18, who are not, currently, in employment, education, training, nor Essential Skills (ES) provision, and who hold no more than one qualification at level 2 or above, to undertake mentored and supported learning.

The pilot programme is open to any eligible participant, who has been disengaged from education and who may have barriers to learning, including a physical or learning disability.

Young People with a Learning Disability: Apprenticeship Programmes

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline how his Department makes apprenticeship programmes accessible to young people with a learning disability.

(AQW 28945/11-15)

Dr Farry: As part of the ApprenticeshipsNI programme, Disability Support Services are available for participants with learning disabilities. Disability Support Suppliers are contracted by the Department

and will work closely with Careers Advisers, Training Suppliers, employers and apprentices to provide both pre-entry and ongoing programme support.

Examples of programme support include; one-to-one mentoring, job coaching and disability awareness training for employers and colleagues of apprentices with disabilities.

A disability supplement, of up to £1,560, is payable under ApprenticeshipsNI to allow training suppliers to provide additional support, such as specialist equipment

My Department's Disability Employment Service also offers a range of employment support provision to clients with a learning disability and employers. For example, the Access to Work (NI) and Workable (NI) programmes assist people with disabilities who are either in paid employment, or who have a job to commence, through the provision of practical support associated with overcoming work-related obstacles that may result from having a disability.

Young People with a Learning Disability: Further Education

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and detail how many young people with a learning disability access further education, training or employment programmes.

(AQW 28946/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the academic year 2012/13, a total of 937 young people aged 16-19 with a learning disability started on Training for Success, Programme-Led Apprenticeships and ApprenticeshipsNI provision.

In the same year, a total of 1,063 young people aged 16-19 with a learning disability started on a Professional & Technical course at a Further Education college.

Since its introduction in 2012, a total of 21 young people with learning disability aged 16-24 have entered the Work Connect programme, and there are currently 12 of these young people on the programme.

There are currently 640 people with disabilities being supported through Access to Work (NI) of which 149 have learning disability. 31 of these are aged 16-24.

There are currently 87 18-24 year olds with a learning disability participating on the Workable (NI) programme.

The Enhanced Employer Subsidy, introduced as part of the Youth Employment Scheme, has supported 28 young people with a learning disability into employment to date.

As some individuals may be participating in more than one scheme, I cannot give a total number of people with learning disability benefitting from DEL programmes.

Young People with a Learning Disability: Further Education

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail how many young people with a learning disability achieve accredited further education qualifications, broken down by type and level achieved.

(AQW 28947/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the 2012/13 academic year a total of 1,277 students, aged between 16 & 19 with a learning disability achieved accredited qualifications in the Northern Ireland Further Education Sector.

The table below provides a breakdown by course type and level of study.

Type of Course	Level of Study				Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	HE Level	
Entitlement Framework	61	10	36	0	107

Type of Course	Level of Study				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	HE Level	Total
Government Training	283	164	9	0	456
Cost Recovery	2	16	2	0	20
Mainstream Further Education	137	394	144	19	694
Total	483	584	191	19	1,277

Source: FELS

Note: Learning disability is defined through self-classification and age is at 1st July 2012.

Young People with a Learning Disability

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how his Department is working with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Education to identify and respond to specific barriers faced by young people with a learning disability at key life transitions during school, training and employment and day centre opportunities.

(AQW 29020/11-15)

Dr Farry: Over recent years we have worked on a cross Departmental basis with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department of Education through a number of forums at both Ministerial and official level. This includes key initiatives such as Bamford and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, the latter of which has a dedicated sub group looking at the issue of transitions.

In addition, the Executive's Disability Strategy also recognises the importance of this issue in delivering on its wider priorities of social inclusion and economic success and has rightly identified transitions as a key issue.

I believe a co-ordinated and concerted approach by all key statutory bodies, including my own Department, is necessary in order to make real and sustained progress for these young people.

To that end I have engaged with a wide range of interests on this matter over recent months and undertaken a number of actions to make progress. This includes an audit of further education provision, an increase in financial support of £500k within further education, progress on the use of social clauses in public sector contracts to benefit the employment/skills needs of those with a disability and a strategic review of my Department's Disability Employment Service.

More recently, I raised this issue at the DHSSPS led Inter-Ministerial Group on Mental Health and Learning Disability. As a result it has been agreed that, under the auspices of the Executive's Disability Strategy, and in conjunction with the Office of the First Minister and other Departments, work will be taken forward to identify opportunities to improve upon current arrangements.

This work should fit well with developing initiatives being progressed, such as the Health and Social Care Board review of Day Opportunities and its proposals on a "Regional Learning Disability Day Opportunities Model".

Funded PhD Places in STEM Subjects

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to (i) detail the total number of funded PhD places in STEM subjects currently available and utilised; and (ii) outline the criteria for application.

(AQW 29027/11-15)

Dr Farry: The numbers of DEL funded PhD places in economically relevant subjects are not available yet from the Universities for the year 2013/14. In the academic year 2012/13 my Department funded 516 PhD places in economically relevant subjects.

My Department provides the funding to Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster to administer the postgraduate studentship awards scheme. They select, by competition, the students to fill these awards within the limits of funding available.

DEL does, however, require some basic eligibility criteria to be met including: some residency and citizenship conditions; that the required academic entry qualification for a PhD studentship is a first or upper second class honours degree from a university in the United Kingdom or Ireland or equivalent qualifications and experience; and, candidates who already have a doctoral degree or who have been registered on a programme of research leading to the award of a doctoral degree for more than one year full time are not eligible.

Northern Regional College: Students with a Learning Disability

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) whether the Northern Regional College carried out an assessment into the educational needs of students with moderate to severe learning difficulties based in the Glens of Antrim area; (ii) when and how this assessment was carried out; and (iii) whether it included factors such as demand, transport and finance.

(AQW 29032/11-15)

Dr Farry: Northern Regional College has not carried out an assessment into the educational needs of students with moderate to severe learning difficulties based specifically in the Glens of Antrim area. The College works closely with health trust transition teams and the Careers Service, across the whole College catchment area, in order to identify prospective students and provide guidance on the courses and support which is available to them. This engagement takes place on an annual basis, prior to course provision being finalised

All further education colleges take into consideration all relevant factors, including potential demand, transport infrastructure and financial viability, when planning curriculum delivery. I can advise that my Department is currently examining the matter of access to transport for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability, aged 19 and over. My Department will consider a course of action and develop proposals, once this initial piece of work has been completed.

Jobseekers Undertaking more than one Course per Year

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline (i) what flexibility is available for jobseekers undertaking more than one course per year and (ii) what support, if any, is available to customers to fund courses.

(AQW 29055/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) Steps to Work (StW) is the Department for Employment and Learning's main adult return to work programme.

All participants on Step One or Step Three provision can undertake one Short Accredited Training Courses (SATC) within a 12 month period. SATCs are aimed at those who are largely job ready but who may lack some specific vocational skills or qualification which would enhance their prospects of finding and sustaining employment.

My Department has no flexibility to allow participants access to more than one SATC in any 12 month period. Flexibility only exists around the timeframe permitted for delivery of the SATC.

All SATCs delivered for JobSeekers Allowance (JSA) participants must be completed within either a 2 week consecutive period, or over a number of days over two separate weeks. If a course extends into a third week JSA claimants will be deemed unavailable for work and, therefore, may face reductions or loss of benefit.

Participants in receipt of another benefits such as Incapacity Benefit (IB), Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Income Support (IS), or those not in receipt of benefit, may also undertake one

SATC within a 12 month period. Attendance on SATCs for these participants must be completed within a maximum of 6 weeks.

Step Two of the programme provides additional opportunities for participants to undertake a longer training course alongside a work placement within either the 8 week Back to Work or the 26 week Qualification strands of provision. All accredited qualifications delivered within these strands of provision must be on the Register of Regulated Qualifications.

Additional assistance is also available for those participants who have been assessed as having essential skills needs to undertake an approved Essential Skills Qualification in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

- (ii) Within Steps 1 and 3 of the programme the daily rate for SATCs is £50 plus full travel costs. However, where the participant has evidence of a verified job opportunity District Managers may approve SATCs costing up to a maximum of £1000 while in exceptional circumstances a Short Accredited Course costing between £1,000 and £2,000 may be approved by Programme Management and Development Branch.

Steps to Success

Ms McGahan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in regard to South Tyrone, to outline, in relation to people who are economically inactive, (i) what safeguards or flexibilities does his Department intend to build into the delivery of Steps to Success; (ii) whether his Department has developed any policies for claimants suffering mental illness who need additional support; and (iii) how this will be delivered.

(AQW 29168/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Department is presently undertaking a procurement process for the delivery of the Steps 2 Success (S2S) programme to replace the existing Steps to Work employment programme. S2S is designed to assist eligible benefit claimants move into sustainable employment. The requirements for the programme are set by the Employment Service and will be the same across Northern Ireland.

The Department has built in a series of safeguards and flexibilities to ensure that economically inactive clients in receipt of Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) who participate on S2S receive a high standard of service. These safeguards and flexibilities include:

- participation on S2S for ESA clients will be agreed between the Employment Service Adviser and the client, if this is identified as the most suitable option for them;
- the activities undertaken by the participant during their time on S2S will be agreed between the participant and the S2S Provider;
- the level of service to be delivered to each participant by Providers is defined in a Service Guarantee designed by the Department;
- the level of funding for Providers will be higher for economically inactive clients to take account of the greater needs of these clients.

Each of the Department's employment programmes is designed to meet the needs of all eligible clients, including those with disabilities/health conditions. S2S Providers will be required to have a supply chain which includes organisations that will be able to meet the needs of participants with disabilities/health conditions.

As well as the opportunity to participate on S2S the Department's Disability Employment Service provides specifically tailored programmes and services aimed at meeting the needs of people with disabilities, including mental health conditions. These programmes help people progress towards employment, move into work, and then sustain work through ongoing support and assistance. The programmes include: the Condition Management Programme (CMP), delivered by specialist teams in the five Health & Social Care Trusts and Work Connect, delivered by a consortium of seven local disability organisations, with experience in delivering employment services for people with health conditions/disabilities. S2S has been designed to complement these programmes and if participants

who complete them have not found employment they can enter S2S, if they agree this with their Employment Service Adviser.

Organisations bidding to deliver S2S will be required to identify how they will meet the needs of all participants, including those in receipt of ESA. They will be required to identify how they will deliver the service to the level required by the Service Guarantee across the full contract area(s) for which they are bidding, including specialist provision.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Departmental Buildings: Visitors Diagnosed with Autism

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what provision is made within her departmental buildings to receive visitors diagnosed with autism and to cater for their needs.

(AQW 28543/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): All visitors to Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment buildings are treated with courtesy and respect by staff. Where possible, details of visitors are notified to reception in advance of their arrival. Where visitors with disabilities, including those with autism spectrum conditions, advise of additional help and support to cater for their needs, every effort will be made to ensure this is provided for them. All visitors who are attending by invitation, or notify us in advance, are met at reception and are accompanied to their destination.

As required by the Autism Act (NI) 2011, DHSSPS has led on the development of the cross departmental Autism Strategy and Action Plan, which is currently with the Northern Ireland Executive for approval. The Action Plan contains proposals for autism awareness training for frontline staff in NICS. Subject to Executive approval, it is anticipated being able to launch the Strategy and Action Plan for publication before the end of the year.

Review of the Tourist Board

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail whether the current review of the Tourist Board will consider the future location of the Board's headquarters; and if so, whether the Down Public Sector Campus in Downpatrick will be considered as a location.

(AQW 28556/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Terms of Reference for the review of NITB and wider tourism structures is available on the DETI website and can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/nitb_review_brief_for_deti_website.pdf

Under the Terms of Reference the reviewer has been asked to make recommendations designed to rationalise, where it is cost-effective to do so, the provision and delivery of corporate services (including accommodation) within the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) and Invest NI. I await the recommendations of the review.

Sustainability Social Clauses

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the Sustainability Social Clauses that were contained in 13 departmental contracts over 2012/13; and how these are implemented.

(AQW 28628/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Sustainability Social Clauses contained in 13 Departmental contracts awarded from April 2012 to August 2013 include:

- (a) Three work placements for thirteen weeks;
- (b) Encouraging unemployed people into new business start ups;

- (c) Appointing four permanent staff;
- (d) An eight week work placement for each £500,000 of contract value;
- (e) Providing local employment in four contracts;
- (f) Disposal of waste in an ecologically sound manner; and
- (g) Protection of the environment in four contracts.

The first four sustainability clauses above (a-d) are set as performance targets in the contracts which are then monitored by the Contract Manager to ensure that targets are met.

The next sustainability clause (e) relates to a contract which was divided into four smaller contracts to appeal to Small and Medium Enterprises which provided local employment.

The remaining five sustainability clauses (f-g) relate to contracts that contain Supplies and Services Division's requirement to comply with the Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland. Two of these contractors also had International Standards Organisation (ISO) 14001 Environmental Management Accreditation which ensures that they:

- (a) minimize how their operations (processes etc.) negatively affect the environment (i.e. cause adverse changes to air, water, or land); and
- (b) comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmentally oriented requirements.

Land Bank at Sloefield, Carrickergus

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the use of the land bank at Sloefield, Carrickergus.

(AQW 28696/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The 108 acres of land at Sloefield Road in Carrickfergus forms Invest NI's Trooperslane Industrial Estate.

The majority of this Estate has been developed and is currently occupied by businesses. There does, however, remain 17 acres available to support projects brought forward by qualifying businesses.

The available land, as with all Invest NI property held for economic development purposes, is actively marketed to both foreign and indigenous investors. The final decision on investment location, however, lies solely with the investor.

It is important to remember that Invest NI operates in the area of property as a result of market failure and as a result its primary remit is not to maximise occupancy, rental or profit. The organisation instead employs a long term strategy in respect of its property holdings.

Railway Preservation Society of Ireland

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what additional funding is available to assist the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland and their current project in Whitehead.

(AQW 28697/11-15)

Mrs Foster: An application from the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland is currently progressing through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's assessment process.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board currently has no calls for financial assistance open at the moment. However, should project promoters wish to be added to a register of interest for any future funding calls, please e-mail tds@nitb.com.

Number of Jobs Created and Departmental Funding

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of jobs created in each constituency in the last twelve months; and (ii) the departmental funding that was available to each business that created these jobs.

(AQW 28711/11-15)

Mrs Foster: (I) At present Invest NI is only able to report on the number of jobs that have been created as a result of the Jobs Fund. Invest NI has developed new systems that will allow it to begin reporting on the number of jobs created across its full range of interventions from the start of the next financial year. The number of jobs which have been created by the Jobs Fund in each constituency in the last full financial year are:

Invest NI Jobs Fund Jobs Created by Parliamentary Constituency Area 2012 – 2013

Constituency	Jobs Created 12-13	Assistance Paid Towards Jobs Created in 2012-13
Belfast East	80	£267,585
Belfast North	50	£164,895
Belfast South	280	£784,600
Belfast West	80	£210,500
East Antrim	20	£83,500
East Londonderry	40	£99,000
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	136	£428,500
Foyle	179	£322,301
Lagan Valley	59	£252,783
Mid Ulster	261	£1,023,078
Newry & Armagh	83	£254,679
North Antrim	67	£301,632
North Down	23	£82,031
South Antrim	100	£375,210
South Down	60	£113,400
Strangford	35	£110,700
Upper Bann	48	£105,100
West Tyrone	72	£297,208
Total	1,673	£5,276,702

Invest NI reports on the basis of the jobs promoted by the businesses it supports. The jobs promoted by constituency across Invest NI's full range of interventions for the last full financial year are as follows:

Jobs Promoted By PCA	2012-13
Belfast East	216
Belfast North	244

Jobs Promoted By PCA	2012-13
Belfast South	1,220
Belfast West	375
East Antrim	520
East Londonderry	166
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	491
Foyle	468
Lagan Valley	278
Mid Ulster	820
Newry & Armagh	309
North Antrim	210
North Down	103
South Antrim	256
South Down	125
Strangford	167
Upper Bann	519
West Tyrone	678

Definition of Sustainable Energy

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) for her definition of sustainable energy; and (ii) the origin of this definition

(AQW 28751/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) There is no single definition of sustainable energy set out in legislation. A commonly used definition of sustainable energy includes nuclear, renewable energy and energy efficiency. I would include natural gas given its low carbon contribution.
- (ii) The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, which extends to Northern Ireland, focuses on the United Kingdom's contribution to combating climate change and among other things to the desirability of securing a diverse and viable long-term energy supply. It is therefore reasonable to infer from this that sustainable energy covers essentially many areas of energy policy.

Rate of Unemployment

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what the rate of unemployment would be if it was consistent with full employment at current tax rates and social welfare payments.
(AQW 28752/11-15)

Mrs Foster: This is a highly complex area which does not have a definitive answer and is the subject of much dispute amongst some economists. Indeed there is not a formal definition of full employment.

Full employment does not mean zero unemployment, as there is an underlying natural rate of unemployment in an economy – for example as people move between jobs or between education and employment. Even if there were a single accepted approach to this subject it is important to note that

any such rate would not be static and would change over time, for example during different periods of an economic cycle. Thus it is not possible to be definitive about what this rate is for Northern Ireland.

Historically some have associated full employment with a claimant count unemployment rate of three per cent or less. However, in 2007, both the UK and Northern Ireland claimant count rate were both well below this 3% threshold and this led the Department for Work and Pensions to state that the 3% rate was not holding up as a yardstick for full employment at that time.

Rather than focusing on a theoretical debate, it is important that we work to deliver our Economic Strategy commitment to rebuild the economy through promoting employment and improving employment opportunities and employability. In addition, the launch this week of the new Economic Inactivity Strategic Framework will help to reduce economic inactivity levels through skills, training incentives and job creation.

Reform of Local Government: InvestNI

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has held with Enterprise NI and local enterprise agencies concerning preparations for the Reform of Local Government.

(AQW 28754/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have had no discussions directly with Enterprise NI and local enterprise agencies regarding the reform of local government. However Invest NI have been engaged in extensive discussions with local councils, Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SoLACE) and other representative bodies regarding preparations for the reform of local government.

Geological Survey Northern Ireland: Shale Gas

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any assessments by the Geological Survey Northern Ireland into the feasibility of shale gas will be based on the same criteria as the British Geological Survey; and what impact the depth of the location of shale in Fermanagh will have on the feasibility of shale gas in this area.

(AQW 28805/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The criteria used by the British Geological Survey (BGS) in their recent study are specifically related to the geological characteristics of the Bowland Shale and the sedimentary basins of the north of England in which these rocks are found.

The geoscientists of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) will consult with the British Geological Survey about the BGS methodology for estimating gas in place, should similar estimates for the Bundoran Shale Formation in Northern Ireland be undertaken.

There are many areas of Fermanagh where the Bundoran Shale is recognised as being too shallow to be prospective for gas production. The depth of the Bundoran Shale Formation is one of many factors which control the volumes of gas in place and would affect the shale productivity and economic viability of the resource. However, the burial histories of the sedimentary basins in Fermanagh and the north of England are quite different and the depth thresholds used by BGS as a shale gas prospectivity cut-off for the Bowland Shale would not be applicable to the Bundoran Shale.

Championship Golf Tournament

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department is taking to help secure the hosting of the USPGA Championship golf tournament; and for an update on progress in securing this event.

(AQW 28816/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I am aware of the recent news articles relating to this however I would stress that no approach has been made by the US PGA to my Department to host a golf tournament in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board and I would be delighted to support a bid process to bring other major golf tournaments to Northern Ireland in the future.

Hosting major global events, including golf events, play a key role in realising our ambitious plans to grow tourism here to a £1 billion industry by 2020.

Investors from the United States

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps her Department has taken to reassure potential investors from the United States that Northern Ireland is safe, welcoming and open for business.

(AQW 28820/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In recent years, Northern Ireland has enjoyed a much more stable and peaceful environment providing the catalyst for continued success in securing and growing levels of inward investment to the extent that over the last five years, on a per capita basis, Northern Ireland has been the most successful region, after Greater London, in the United Kingdom for attracting inward investment projects.

While a small number of potential US investors have commented about the current situation, Invest NI, has provided assurances that Northern Ireland remains one of the most competitive places and safest places in Europe to do business, highlighting that rates of crime have dropped by 30 per cent in the last 10 years, making Northern Ireland the safest region in the UK.

These are the messages that Invest NI's overseas sales teams use in managing relationships with potential investors to overcome any lingering negative perceptions of Northern Ireland.

My Department and Invest NI are encouraged by the fact that in spite of the recent media coverage, no planned visits by potential investors to Northern Ireland have been cancelled with all recent scheduled visits taking place without disruption.

However it is impossible to measure the effects that such events have had on a potential investors' perception of Northern Ireland and their long term influence on investment decisions.

Renewable Heat Incentive

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what consideration he has given to increasing the budget for the Renewable Heat Incentive.

(AQW 28868/11-15)

Mrs Foster: At this stage I am content that the current budget for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is sufficient to cover the existing level of uptake and future projections based on trends.

As the scheme develops, particularly with the proposed introduction of the domestic RHI and the extension of the non-domestic scheme to support new technologies, DETI will continue to monitor the budget requirements.

Hydraulic Fracturing: Regulation

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the GSNI has sought to become the regulator of hydraulic fracturing.

(AQW 28902/11-15)

Mrs Foster: No.

EnergyWise Campaign

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how the success of the EnergyWise campaign will be measured in terms of changing consumer behaviour.

(AQW 28903/11-15)

Mrs Foster: 'EnergyWise' is a messaging brand rather than a specific campaign. It aims to deliver a unified approach to sustainable energy messaging across all Government Departments and Agencies. The approach was approved by the Executive in November 2010 and to date the brand has been used in two campaigns run by DETI.

In each of the DETI campaigns, research was commissioned pre and post campaign, to assess changes in public awareness and changes in public attitudes. The 'call to action' elements of the advertising were also monitored through the recording of web traffic on the 'nidirect.gov.uk' and 'nibusinessinfo.gov.uk' websites and by monitoring the number of phone calls received. This feedback enabled DETI to assess how consumers were responding to the different elements of the campaigns and in turn can be used to inform future communications work.

My Department will next use the brand, in a campaign to promote renewable heat in both the domestic and non-domestic markets, during January-March 2014. Research will once again be undertaken and the web and phone traffic monitored. Ultimately the change in the rate of applications received for the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme will be a good indicator of the effectiveness of the campaign.

Selective Financial Assistance

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what consideration has been given by her Department to better target Selective Financial Assistance, to create employment in areas of high deprivation and unemployment.

(AQW 28906/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The recent evaluation of Selective Financial Assistance (SFA) which was commissioned by my Department gave detailed consideration to the impact of SFA during the 2004 – 2011 period and concluded that it was being delivered in a balanced and equitable fashion across Northern Ireland.

The evaluation found that SFA operated in many of Northern Ireland's most deprived communities, and supported job creation in our most deprived areas which have the greatest economic need. The evaluation was also able to demonstrate that a disproportionately high amount of SFA has been targeted at areas of disadvantage. For example:

- almost one quarter (23%) of new SFA jobs promoted were located in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods, and;
- almost half (45%) of new SFA jobs promoted were in the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods.

Whilst the evaluation made a number of recommendations to help shape the use of SFA going forward, it is notable that it did not recommend that any greater targeting of support to specific areas should occur. Analysis of Invest NI support over the last two financial years (1 April 2011 – 31 March 2013) would seem to support this approach, as it shows that during this time:

- 52% of all Invest NI Job related offers went to businesses in areas of disadvantage*
- 56% of job related assistance went to businesses in areas of disadvantage*
- 59% of job related investment went to businesses in areas of disadvantage*, and
- 59% of all new jobs promoted were in areas of disadvantage*

*Above Figures exclude Regional Start Initiative

Strategic Energy Framework Targets

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what progress has been made on achieving the 40 per cent renewable energy target of the Strategic Energy Framework.

(AQW 29044/11-15)

Mrs Foster: We continue to make steady progress towards the 40% target. In the rolling twelve month period to end October 2013, approximately fifteen percent of electricity consumption was from renewable energy sources.

Renewable Energy Targets

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the annual electricity MW requirement in each local council area; and whether any monitoring takes place on that basis against the 40 per cent renewable energy target required by 2020.

(AQW 29053/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not undertake monitoring of this nature. I am further informed by Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) that there is no estimation carried out of electrical demand or consumption or monitoring against the renewable energy target in respect of individual council areas. The NIE network is not configured on the basis of council areas and it is therefore impracticable to make such assessments.

Department of the Environment

Private Hire Taxis: Breaches of Regulations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of Belfast based private hire taxi drivers; and (ii) the number of Belfast based private hire taxi depot operators and/or licence holders that have been found in breach of licence regulations; and of these, how many incurred penalties and/or lost their licences, since October 2012.

(AQW 28533/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): Under current Regulations, when a taxi driver or taxi operator is licensed he/she can operate either private or public hire taxis. Accordingly, there are no public hire or private hire taxi drivers or operators but simply taxi drivers or operators that may drive or operate either type of taxi. As of 27 November 2013, there were 4,651 licensed taxi drivers and 477 licensed taxi operators with Belfast addresses.

During the period 1 October 2012 to 30 June 2013, the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) carried out 79 taxi enforcement operations in the Belfast area resulting in 362 private hire taxis and drivers checked for compliance with legal requirements at the roadside. Of these, 39 drivers received Fixed Penalty Notices with a further 31 drivers informed that they were liable to prosecution. In addition, follow up investigations were instigated with 8 taxi operator licence holders.

DVA also carry out compliance visits at commercial premises to ensure that operators comply with the conditions of their taxi operator's licence. The most important of these is that they use only properly licensed drivers and vehicles and maintain accurate booking records. During the period 1 February 2013 to 31 October 2013, there were 40 Compliance visits undertaken at commercial premises in the Belfast area. Of these, 15 were deemed fully compliant with legal requirements with a further 22 subject to a revisit due to minor infractions which have since been rectified. In addition, 1 operator has closed down their premises, 1 operator has received a written warning and 1 operator's licence is currently under review.

Please note that these are not validated official government statistics.

Fixed Penalty Fines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27263/11-15, for his assessment of whether a £30 fixed penalty ticket is a sufficient penalty and deterrent under these circumstances.

(AQW 28535/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Private hire vehicle licensees who contravene the Public Service Vehicle Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 and the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 by causing or permitting a vehicle to ply for hire are liable for a £30 fixed penalty ticket, or a maximum fine of £2,500 if taken to court.

The levels of Fixed Penalties which apply to this and other road transport offences have been agreed following public consultation, and ministerial and committee agreement.

The committing of an offence by a driver listed on the licence of a taxi operator may be considered in terms of determining whether an individual remains a fit and proper person to hold a taxi operator's licence; and similar considerations may apply to the retention of a taxi driver's licence. The fixed penalty ticket is therefore not the only deterrent in place as regards such offences.

A wide range of fixed penalty notices and charges apply for road traffic offences. I recognise that it is necessary periodically to review the charges for the notices, but that it is necessary to do this in a holistic way, to ensure the appropriate balance is kept between offences, and against fines imposed by the courts. My Department therefore plans to carry out a review of all current penalties for road traffic offences, including all fixed penalties. The review will also assess the scope for conditions and circumstances around the commission of an offence to be reflected in the applicable penalties. Work on this review, which is a medium term action measure in the Road Safety Strategy, will begin in 2015 and I will consider its outcomes once it is completed.

Private and Public Hire Taxis

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27815/11-15, given there are different regulations for private and public hire taxis, for his assessment of whether it would be beneficial to differentiate between the two sectors.

(AQW 28536/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Under current Regulations, when a taxi driver is licensed he/she can operate either private or public hire taxis. Accordingly, there are no public hire or private hire taxi drivers but simply taxi drivers who may drive either type of taxi.

You will be aware that the introduction of a single tier licensing system will remove the distinction between Public Hire and Private Hire Taxis, permitting both to pick-up passengers without a pre-booking.

Conservation and Repair of War Memorials

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment to detail what financial assistance is available for the conservation and repair of war memorials.

(AQW 28569/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There are 24 war memorials listed in Northern Ireland; others are protected either as part of a listed building, or because they lie within a Conservation Area.

War memorials that are listed may avail of Listed Buildings Grant-aid funding for works of repair and maintenance of the historic fabric. Grant-aid is available currently at a rate of 45%; and capped at £500K (this is subject to funding availability). Grant-aid assistance, of up to 75% of costs, is also available towards (reasonable) related professional fees.

Some memorials may also be eligible for financial assistance where they are part of a scheduled Historic Monument, though very few (ie less than 10) are known to be protected in this way. Where a

memorial is part of a scheduled Historic Monument, funding may be made available for up to 100% for conservation works. Here again this is subject to funding availability.

Other non DOE sources of funding, including HLF funding, may also be available. Many of these sources may be accessed at the Funding for Historic Buildings' web site <http://www.ffhb.org.uk/>.

Driver and Vehicle Agency: Video Evidence

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27716/11-15, whether photographic evidence, as stated, includes video recordings.

(AQW 28576/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Photographic evidence recorded by Driver and Vehicle Agency enforcement staff includes video recordings.

Costs Paid to Applicant in Legal Case

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27485/11-15, (i) why no costs were paid to the applicant in case LIT 33530/2012; (ii) why the costs for case LIT 33380/2012 are recorded as £0 when the table confirms that his Department paid part of the applicant's costs; and (iii) whether he wishes to revise any of the figures in the table.

(AQW 28601/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The figures quoted in AQW 27485/11-15 related to the amount of money paid out by the Department up to the end of October. Further investigation has revealed that some of the figures included in AQW 27485/11-15 were incorrect. The table provided has therefore been revised and I apologise for the error.

The costs paid in case LIT 33380/2012 were £55,142 and those in case LIT 33530/2012 were £2,080.

Judicial Reviews Due to EIA Grounds 2011-13

Judicial Review	Planning Office	Litigation Reference	Date Commenced	EIA/ Habitat grounds for JR	Status	Cost
Enagh youth Forum Re: Gasification Plant, Derry	Northern	LIT 37470/2013/KB	25/04/2013	EIA	Ongoing	£0
Belfast Office Properties Re: Permission granted for retail development at Castlebawn N'Ards	SPD	LIT 36416/2013/KJB	04/02/2013	EIA	Ongoing	£3,264
River Faughan Anglers Ltd RE: Permission granted for the retention of extension to site office, extension to vehicle maintenance shed and improved wash out facilities, Glenshane Road, Drumahoe (Chambers Site)	Northern	LIT 35931/2012/JMacE	01/12/2012	EIA	Ongoing	£3,791

Judicial Review	Planning Office	Litigation Reference	Date Commenced	EIA/ Habitat grounds for JR	Status	Cost
Sandale Developments Ltd (2) Re: replacement secondary school (under consideration), Termon Road, Carrickmore	Western	LIT 34077/2012	01/07/2012	EIA	Decision Upheld but appeal lodged	£4,684
National Trust JR Re: Permission granted for golf resort.	SPD	LIT 33426/2012/ KJB	08/05/2012	EIA	Decision Upheld	£10,165
Musgrave Retail Partners NI Limited Re: Supermarket permitted at Lineside, Coalisland	Western	LIT 35241/2012/ GH	01/11/2012	EIA	Withdrawn by applicant	£0
James Joseph Woods, RE 40 Dernalea Road Armagh re interconnector Re: O/2009/0792/F	SPD	LIT 32534/2012	28/02/2012	EIA	Ongoing	£58,150
Milhench Harrison Ltd Re: Permission granted under Y/2010/0127/F Erection of 3no 80Kw wind turbines. Hub height 25m rotor diameter 18m. (amended location within site).	Downpatrick	LIT 33380/2012	03/05/2012	EIA	The case was settled and announced to the Court on 19 November 2012 - the Notice Party bought the Applicant's property and DOE paid a contribution to the Applicant's costs of the Judicial Review.	£55,142
William Donnelly, Re: Variation of condition to remove rock from site, K/2008/0995/F & K/2011/0476/F	SPD	LIT 33530/2012	17/05/2012	EIA	Both Decisions Quashed	£2,080
Donald Martin Melrose and Belfast City Airport Watch Re: extension to Belfast City Airport Runway	SPD	LIT 27964/2011/ KJB	01/01/2011	EIA	Withdrawn by applicant	£220,711
Sandale Developments Ltd (3) Re: permission granted for housing under K/2008/0452/O	Western	LIT 30815/2011 & LIT30453	07/11/2011	EIA	Decision Quashed	£3,000
					Total	£360,987

Permissions for Mineral Extraction and Processing

Mr Agnew asked Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27412/11-15, whether his Department has a requirement to review extant permissions for mineral extraction and processing that are likely to have a significant effect on a Special Area of Conservation or any other environmental designation of international importance.

(AQW 28602/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There is a general requirement under the Habitats Regulations to review any extant planning permissions which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site such as a Special Area of Conservation. I would also refer you to my answer to your previous question (AQW 25467/11-15), in which I advised that, whilst the review of old minerals permissions has not yet commenced, I am exploring options and timelines for introducing this review.

Brickkiln Waste Recycling Plant at Maydown, Derry: Fire

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether at the time of the fire which broke out on 8 November 2013 at Brickkiln waste recycling plant at Maydown, Derry, the company was in compliance with all its waste licencing requirements and other development consents.

(AQW 28603/11-15)

Mr Durkan: At the time of the fire on the 8th November 2013:

- Brickkiln Ltd was not in compliance with the conditions of the Waste Management Licence. NIEA is taking action in response to these non-compliances in the form of an Article 16 Notice under the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Order 1997.
- Brickkiln Ltd was in compliance with Water Discharge Consent Number 119/08 for sewage effluent and Water Discharge Consent Number 119/08 for sewage effluent.
- DOE Planning was not aware of any breach of planning control.

Fires at Mobouy Road, Derry

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 25391/11-15 whether his Department has concluded its investigation into the fires at City Industrial Waste, Mobouy Road, Derry; (ii) whether any of the fires resulted in pollution of the River Faughan SAC, the adjoining stream or the environment; and (iii) whether any criminal proceedings will follow.

(AQW 28604/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Water Management Unit staff were on site throughout the response to both 2010 fires and repeatedly checked all surrounding watercourses, but found no significant water pollution. This was due in large part to Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) containing and recycling fire water runoff, under NIEA guidance, so that there was a negligible volume of off-site runoff. As no significant water pollution resulted from these 2010 fires it was not appropriate for NIEA to initiate criminal charges for any fire-related water pollution offence.

The fires at City Industrial Waste, Mobouy Road, Derry were also investigated by the NIFRS and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Queries regarding these investigations and any resulting criminal proceedings would need to be directed to the PSNI and the NIFRS.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Planning Application Consultations

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment whether there is a target time in place for the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's response to the planning application consultations.

(AQW 28653/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency's (NIEA) consultation responses are the subject of targets set for the return of consultation responses on planning applications within certain timeframes. These include a target to return 90% of consultations concerning scoping requests under

the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations (to determine if an Environmental Statement is required) within 15 working days. In relation to routine planning applications the target is to return 75% within 15 working days. The target for consultations which include Environmental Impact, hydro-geological or Article 6 (Habitats Regulations) Assessments is 90% within 30 working days.

These targets are currently being reviewed and it is anticipated that new and tighter targets will be set for the period from now until the transfer of planning powers to the councils. There are ongoing quarterly meetings within the Department between Planning and NIEA senior management where consultation performance is discussed.

In the future as part of the implementation of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, in addition to transferring the bulk of planning powers to councils in 2015, I will provide greater clarity and certainty for the consultation process. For the first time, identified consultees will be statutorily required to provide a substantive response to a consultation request from a planning authority within a specified timeframe and to report on their performance in meeting their duty to respond.

All future consultation responses will have to be “substantive” providing sufficient information to allow the requesting planning authority to determine the application. A holding response would not be regarded as meeting the requirements of the duty to respond.

Details of proposed timeframes, criteria as to what would constitute a substantive response and reporting requirements will be set out in subordinate legislation which will be the subject of public consultation commencing in Spring 2014.

Anaerobic Digester at Tully Quarry

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment, given the process deployed in respect of the Rose Energy application, why the planning application for an anaerobic digester at Tully Quarry, Ballymena is being dealt with by the local planning office.

(AQW 28662/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Rose Energy proposal to which you refer was for a biomass plant to be fuelled by poultry bedding with a smaller amount of meat and bone meal (approximately 260,000 tonnes per annum). It would generate approximately 30MW of electricity as output from the process of incineration. The proposal included a number of structures including an 80 m high chimney stack. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement.

The application was declared a major application under Article 31 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 on 23 September 2008 primarily on the basis that it would be of significance to the whole or a substantial part of Northern Ireland.

In contrast, the proposal for Stream Bio-energy is a much smaller 2MW Centralised Anaerobic Digestion (CAD) Combined Heat and Power Plant that will solely process chicken litter.

Although the Department accepts that the application is important locally, it is not considered to be of regional significance and does not meet with the criteria to be made an Article 31 application. I am therefore content that this application is being processed locally by the South Antrim Area Planning Office.

Anaerobic Digester at Tully Quarry

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment, having regard to the expectations of PPS 18, for his assessment of the level of engagement with local residents by the applicant for an anaerobic digester at Tully Quarry, Ballymena.

(AQW 28663/11-15)

Mr Durkan: While I would encourage public and community consultation with all such proposals, in line with the Department's publication 'PPS18 Best Practice Guidance' as this is not a legislative requirement, applicants cannot be compelled to undertake this prior to the submission of an application.

I understand that the applicants in this case, Stream Bio-energy have since met with local residents to discuss the proposal

Planning Applications for all Large Housing Developments

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether consideration is being given to making a developer contribution to social and affordable housing a requirement in planning applications for all large housing developments.

(AQW 28681/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Officials from my Department have been in discussion with officials from the Department for Social Development in relation to proposals for developer contributions toward the provision of social and affordable housing units.

I have written to the Minister for Social Development on this matter and I hope that we will be able to agree to consult on joint proposals for such a system in the near future.

Taxi Enforcement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27047/11-15, whether enforcement officers are contracted to work evenings or nights or is such work deemed as overtime.

(AQW 28685/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) enforcement officers are not contracted to work evenings or nights and therefore any work undertaken outside conditioned hours is deemed overtime.

For the majority of full-time non-industrial Civil Servants including DVA enforcement officers, pay is related to a specific number of contracted hours of attendance per week, known as `conditioned hours`. Normal conditioned hours are 42 gross per week, including a meal break of one hour a day and the 5 day week is the standard arrangement throughout the Civil Service.

Due to the nature and timing of enforcement operations, particularly in respect of the taxi and bus industry, I have asked that a review of the contractual arrangements for new enforcement staff is undertaken to determine the best workforce model to support an effective and efficient enforcement function.

On average between 1 and 2 Enforcement Officers work in Belfast each evening.

There are 14 PSV enforcement officers based in Belfast.

Taxi Enforcement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27047/11-15, what are the contracted hours of enforcement officers.

(AQW 28686/11-15)

Mr Durkan:

- (i) Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) enforcement officers are not contracted to work evenings or nights and therefore any work undertaken outside conditioned hours is deemed overtime.
- (ii) For the majority of full-time non-industrial Civil Servants including DVA enforcement officers, pay is related to a specific number of contracted hours of attendance per week, known as `conditioned hours`. Normal conditioned hours are 42 gross per week, including a meal break of one hour a day and the 5 day week is the standard arrangement throughout the Civil Service.

Due to the nature and timing of enforcement operations, particularly in respect of the taxi and bus industry, I have asked that a review of the contractual arrangements for new enforcement staff is undertaken to determine the best workforce model to support an effective and efficient enforcement function.

- (iii) On average between 1 and 2 Enforcement Officers work in Belfast each evening.
- (iv) There are 14 PSV enforcement officers based in Belfast.

Taxi Enforcement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27047/11-15, how many enforcement officers in Belfast work evenings.

(AQW 28687/11-15)

Mr Durkan:

- (i) Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) enforcement officers are not contracted to work evenings or nights and therefore any work undertaken outside conditioned hours is deemed overtime.
- (ii) For the majority of full-time non-industrial Civil Servants including DVA enforcement officers, pay is related to a specific number of contracted hours of attendance per week, known as `conditioned hours`. Normal conditioned hours are 42 gross per week, including a meal break of one hour a day and the 5 day week is the standard arrangement throughout the Civil Service.

Due to the nature and timing of enforcement operations, particularly in respect of the taxi and bus industry, I have asked that a review of the contractual arrangements for new enforcement staff is undertaken to determine the best workforce model to support an effective and efficient enforcement function.

- (iii) On average between 1 and 2 Enforcement Officers work in Belfast each evening.
- (iv) There are 14 PSV enforcement officers based in Belfast.

Taxi Enforcement

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 27047/11-15, how many enforcement officers work in Belfast.

(AQW 28688/11-15)

Mr Durkan:

- (i) Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) enforcement officers are not contracted to work evenings or nights and therefore any work undertaken outside conditioned hours is deemed overtime.
- (ii) For the majority of full-time non-industrial Civil Servants including DVA enforcement officers, pay is related to a specific number of contracted hours of attendance per week, known as `conditioned hours`. Normal conditioned hours are 42 gross per week, including a meal break of one hour a day and the 5 day week is the standard arrangement throughout the Civil Service.

Due to the nature and timing of enforcement operations, particularly in respect of the taxi and bus industry, I have asked that a review of the contractual arrangements for new enforcement staff is undertaken to determine the best workforce model to support an effective and efficient enforcement function.

- (iii) On average between 1 and 2 Enforcement Officers work in Belfast each evening.
- (iv) There are 14 PSV enforcement officers based in Belfast.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

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

(AQW 28689/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department did not award any tenders to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013. A total of £817,200 was provided to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013. Funds were dispersed by way of grants. Details are provided in the table below.

Organisation	Amount	Description
Architectural Heritage Fund	£250,000	Acquisition of Great James Street Presbyterian Church and 31-33 Shipquay Street - listed buildings at risk.
City Centre Initiative	£12,500	Installation of CCTV to discourage vandalism on the Walls.
Derry City Council	£504,500	Dereliction Funding (£498,000) and publication of Island City (£6,500).
Echo Echo Dance Studio	£6,200	Installation of disabled access ramp on Hangman's Bastion.
Foyle Civic Trust	£6,000	Living History Exhibition.
Holywell Trust	£10,000	Wave on the Walls (£5,000) and European Walled Towns Symposium (£5,000).
Lumen Christi College	£28,000	Conservation Programme on the 17th century windmill in college grounds.
Total	£817,200	

Prosecutions for Littering

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how many people in each council area have been prosecuted for littering in each of the last three years.

(AQW 28703/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Figures obtained from Councils in respect of successful prosecutions in the courts for littering offences are as follows:-

Litter Offence – No. of Successful Prosecutions

Council	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Ballymena	2	1	0
Belfast	91	15	44
Castlereagh	1	4	1
Coleraine	1	2	1
Cookstown	2	0	1
Craigavon	25	11	41
Down	0	0	8
Larne	3	0	2
Limavady	0	0	1
Magherafelt	0	1	0
Newtownabbey	7	7	4
North Down	0	0	1

Council	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Omagh	1	2	2
All other Councils	0	0	0
Totals	133	43	106

Councils also deal with litter offenders by issuing fixed penalty notices or on the spot fines as an alternative to seeking prosecution through the courts. Over the past three financial years 10,940 fixed penalty notices were issued by councils for littering offences.

Review of Taxi Ranks and of the Introduction of Rank Exclusion Zones

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what was the cost of the report commissioned by his Department into the Review of Taxi Ranks and of the Introduction of Rank Exclusion Zones; (ii) what cognisance has been given to the conclusions in this report; and (iii) what action has been taken as a result of this report.

(AQW 28721/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In June 2011 my Department commissioned research into the suitability of exclusion zones for taxi ranks in Northern Ireland.

- (i) The cost of this research was £9,999. The report was published on 30 November 2011. The report can be downloaded directly from the following link: http://www.doeni.gov.uk/review_of_taxi_ranks.pdf
- (ii) & (iii) The report recommended taking no action in relation to the implementation of exclusion zones. The report concluded that, particularly within Belfast, consumers often prefer not to take rank based taxis. Therefore exclusion zones around ranks would have the effect of making consumers walk further to get their preferred type of taxi outside of the zone. Given the proximity of ranks to one another within Belfast City Centre, this would effectively close the City Centre off to all but Belfast Public Hire taxis. Given the implications for the night time economy, and the safety implications of consumers having to walk late at night to procure the taxi of their choice, the report recommended not introducing exclusion zones in Northern Ireland at this time.

The report made a number of other rank related recommendations, some of which come under the remit of DRD. Those applicable to my Department included the need to encourage rank use, and to increase public confidence in taking rank based taxis, particularly to improve in service levels in collaboration with the taxi trade. My officials continue to work closely with all taxi industry stakeholders as part of the Taxi Reform Programme, and in recent months this has involved intense engagement with Belfast Public Hire. The Department is working with Belfast Public Hire to improve customer service at ranks and encourage consumer confidence, prior to the introduction of single tier taxi licensing, facilitating the adjustment for them to the new regime.

The report also recommended the Department move to a policy of only allowing accessible taxis at official ranks in Northern Ireland, rather than only in Belfast as is currently the case. Further research is ongoing to investigate whether this would suit the needs of people with disabilities, taking account of the fact that not all disabled people are able to use a wheelchair accessible taxi. In addition this research will recommend a revised wheelchair accessible vehicle specification which would improve the service to wheelchair users across Northern Ireland. I plan to issue a consultation on this shortly, once the work is complete.

Radon Public Awareness Campaigns

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether his Department is currently conducting, or planning to conduct, any radon public awareness campaigns in areas where there is an elevated risk of radon; (ii) whether his Department offers householders free radon tests in areas where there is an

elevated risk of radon, or retests after remediation work has been carried out; and (iii) how many radon tests have been carried out by his Department over the last two years.

(AQW 28735/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Since 1988 NIEA has carried out a number of radon campaigns across Northern Ireland, offering free tests to householders in areas with an elevated risk of having high radon levels. Over 50,000 householders have been offered free tests in the course of these campaigns which included road shows, seminars, public meetings, press releases for local media, presentations to professional groups and direct visits to householders in affected areas.

The results of these campaigns were used to produce increasingly accurate radon risk maps in 1989, 1993 and 1999; culminating in the 2009 Radon Atlas which presented radon probability maps for NI at a resolution of 1km squares of the Irish Grid. By 2009, 3.3% of the housing stock in NI (approx 23,000 households) had been tested for radon, compared to 1.9% of the housing stock in the rest of the UK.

NIEA's most recent radon campaign was carried out in 2011 in the Cookstown, Armagh and Dungannon council areas, areas where the response to previous campaigns had been low. Householders in areas where the potential for radon levels to exceed the UK Radon Action level was 5% or greater were contacted by letter and offered a free radon test. Around 540 householders were invited to participate; about 35% accepted the offer. Of the 153 tests successfully completed, six homes were identified above the Action Level of 200 Bq m⁻³ and 17 measured between the Target Level of 100 Bq m⁻³ and the Action Level.

Public Health England (PHE), who issue and analyse the radon monitors on behalf of NIEA, provided the householders with a report of the results and advise on any actions necessary to reduce radon levels. The report on this campaign was published in March 2013 and is available at http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1317138226199.

NIEA are not currently planning to conduct any further radon campaigns or offer free tests but continue to offer advice to householders who contact the Agency with queries about radon and to direct them to the appropriate resources.

Mills Report: Recommendations and Suggestions

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether he, or his departmental officials, have seen the Mills report, or any draft copies or sections of this report; and whether any recommendations or suggestions on altering the report or what should be included in the final version of the report were made.
(AQW 28738/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I have not yet seen the report. The Expert Reviewer, Mr Chris Mills, is currently finalising the report. Given the critical importance of the review and the complex nature of the issues he is investigating, Mr Mills requested extra time to finalise his report which he has been provided with. As part of this process, Mr Mills asked the Chief Executive of the NIEA to ensure his draft report is checked for factual and legal accuracy. My Departmental officials are providing this support to Mr Mills. I understand that Mr Mills will be providing his final report to me in the next few days.

Public Service Vehicles Regulations (NI) 1985

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to provide a copy of the Public Service Vehicles Regulations (NI) 1985.
(AQW 28763/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Regulations in question are contained in the Bound Volumes in the Assembly Library, and can be obtained from the Library enquiry desk using the reference S.R. 1985/123. I have been advised that these can be photocopied or scanned for you as required.

Meter Printers for Taxis

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment what assurances he can give that a rigorous tendering process will be used to select the companies that will supply, fit and calibrate meter printers for taxis, to ensure that drivers receive the best price and service.

(AQW 28775/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As part of the suite of measures included in the taxi reform implementation programme, the Department is planning to work with the private sector to establish a network of Approved Taximeter Centres (ATCs) which will be authorised to calibrate, test and seal taximeters, with an authorisation process largely based on the existing model for approved tachograph centres.

On application for an approval, companies and individuals would be inspected and assessed by DVA to ensure that they meet specified standards. Approved installers would be required to comply with a number of conditions to be determined by the Department. Non compliance with these conditions could result in the withdrawal of the Department's approval and the subsequent loss of access to the marketplace. Once approved, ATCs would be subject to quality audit by DVA to ensure continued compliance with the conditions of the approval.

The Department has no plans to contract these companies and individuals as service suppliers and there will therefore be no requirement for a tender process. The Department does not have the power to regulate the price of taximeters or any fees charged by ATCs; these levels will be determined by market forces.

Legislation to Prevent Back Garden Developments

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment when legislation to prevent back garden developments will be introduced.

(AQW 28788/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I recognise that great care is needed to ensure that the individual or cumulative effects of back garden development do not significantly erode the character or amenity of existing residential areas. However, I am satisfied that existing policy and guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and its addendum 'Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas' is sufficient to ensure that siting, design, layout and density of new development is fully considered. In established residential areas planning permission will only be granted for the redevelopment of existing buildings, or the infilling of vacant sites (including extended garden areas) that respects the existing character and amenity of these areas.

I, therefore, have no plans to introduce legislative measures to prevent back garden developments.

Temporary Private Taxi-Operator Licences

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment how many temporary private taxi-operator licences have been issued in each of the last two years; and what was the duration of each licence.

(AQW 28809/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Taxi Operator Licensing was introduced on 1 September 2012. Regulation 17(2) of the Taxi Operators Licensing Regulations (NI) 2012 provided for the issue of temporary licences to customers who submitted applications on or before 31 October 2012. This measure was designed to enable existing businesses to continue to operate while the Department dealt with the initial influx of applications, following the introduction of taxi operator licensing in September 2012.

A total of 1,7431 temporary operator licences were issued. Operator licences do not differentiate between private and public; licensed operators can operate either type of service.

Temporary licences had no set duration and were intended as an interim measure to allow the Department time to complete the process of determining applications.

Other than for a small number of cases where applicants have exercised their rights of appeal, all temporary licences had been revoked (where the applicant failed to meet the criteria for a full licence) or replaced with a full licence by June 2013.

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

Proposed Bill to Set a 20mph Speed Limit

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the proposed Bill to set a 20mph speed limit on minor residential roads.

(AQW 28838/11-15)

Mr Durkan: While speed limits are a matter for the Department for Regional Development, as Minister with responsibility for road safety, I have an interest in the Bill as a measure with the potential to contribute to further reductions in road casualties.

Over the five years between 2008 and 2012, 797 pedestrians and 128 cyclists were killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in an area with a 30mph limit or lower; around 30 per cent of these casualties were children.

Speed at the moment of collision is one of the key determinants of the outcome and, where pedestrians or cyclists are involved, just a few miles an hour can make a real difference.

I do believe that we should actively consider introducing 20mph limits more broadly to where people live, particularly where vehicles come into close proximity to vulnerable road users such as children, pedestrians and cyclists. It would of course be vital to ensure that any such speed limits are suitable for the roads or areas for which they are proposed and, in particular, that they have the support of the local community, that any necessary or appropriate signage and/or other infrastructure is in place, and that limits are properly enforced. By ensuring that this is the case, there is likely to be more compliance with the lower speed limit, meaning that speeds will be reduced and the impact of any collisions will be lower.

Proposed Bill to Set a 20mph Speed Limit

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact on road safety of the proposed Bill to set the speed limit on minor residential roads at 20mph.

(AQW 28839/11-15)

Mr Durkan: While speed limits are a matter for the Department for Regional Development, as Minister with responsibility for road safety, I have an interest in the Bill as a measure with the potential to contribute to further reductions in road casualties.

Over the five years between 2008 and 2012, 797 pedestrians and 128 cyclists were killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in an area with a 30mph limit or lower; around 30 per cent of these casualties were children.

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Motorists: Taxing Cars Online

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment what steps he is taking to ensure that motorists can tax their cars online.

(AQW 28904/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Vehicle licensing is an excepted matter which is carried out in Northern Ireland by the Driver and Vehicle Agency within my Department, under the terms of an agreement with the Department for Transport, represented by its Agency, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Swansea. Under that agreement, DVLA are responsible for funding the full cost of providing vehicle licensing services in Northern Ireland and for the provision of IT facilities.

At present, there are separate IT systems for Britain and for Northern Ireland. In 2002, DVLA decided, in principle, to integrate the two IT systems and, since that date, they have not invested in the development of the IT system for Northern Ireland. For that reason, when online re-licensing of vehicles was introduced in Britain in 2004, it was not made available in here. Bids for funding to develop this service for Northern Ireland motorists have been rejected by DVLA, which maintains that the most economical way of extending online licensing to NI is through the integration of the IT systems.

DVLA are nearing completion of a project that would extend the GB IT system to Northern Ireland and the introduction of that system would bring with it new services, including online licensing . However, DVLA has proposed using the integrated system to centralise all vehicle licensing services in Swansea and to close all the motor tax offices here. With the support of all Members, I have been robustly opposing these centralisation proposals. I met Mr Robert Goodwill, the relevant Minister in the Department for Transport, on 6 November to press again the case for retaining vehicle licensing services, and the associated jobs, in Northern Ireland. Mr Goodwill indicated that a decision is likely to be made early next year.

I have also repeatedly made the case that online licensing services should be made available in Northern Ireland immediately, and this is an entirely separate matter to the DVLA proposal to centralise vehicle licensing work in Swansea. I will continue to press DVLA for the retention of vehicle licensing services and jobs, and the extension of online licensing but at present I am unable to indicate when these services might become available to motorists here.

Private Hire Taxis: Breaches of Regulations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28259/11-15, whether his Department effectively underwrites invalidated taxi-insurance policies through breaches of law; and what provision exists to have the offending driver made liable for costs borne by his Department and the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

(AQW 28914/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The 6th Motor Insurance Directive requires Member States to make provision for a body to guarantee that victims of road traffic collisions will not remain without compensation where the vehicle which caused the accident is uninsured (or incorrectly insured) or unidentified. In the UK, this body is the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB), which functions under two separate Agreements between Government and the motor insurance industry.

The Uninsured Drivers Agreement requires the MIB to meet unsatisfied Civil Court Judgments against identified motorists who may not have been insured as required by the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

The Untraced Drivers' Agreement requires the MIB to consider applications for compensation from victims of "hit and run" motorists.

The Department is not responsible for underwriting motor insurance, nor does the Department incur any costs from victims of untraced or uninsured drivers. The ultimate cost of funding compensation for victims of uninsured and untraced drivers falls to law abiding motorists via their insurance premiums. The Department does not seek to recover the costs of any claims made through MIB as

we are not involved in or responsible for such claims. You may wish to refer to the MIB website for details of how the Uninsured and Untraced Drivers' Agreements operate (see: <http://www.mib.org.uk/Downloadable+Documents/en/Agreements/Default.htm>)

Private Hire Taxis: Breaches of Regulations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28259/11-15, in relation to victims compensation covered by his Department in conjunction with the Motor Insurers' Bureau, over any invalidated taxi operator's insurance due to breach of regulations, (i) on how many occasions has compensation been paid to victims in these circumstances; (ii) what was the cost involved; and (iii) for his assessment of the impact of this scheme on the insurance policy premiums for all other drivers and road users.

(AQW 28916/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department is not involved in any compensation claims from victims of uninsured or untraced drivers, other than in the event of a dispute between the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) and the claimant, in which case the limit of the Department's involvement is to appoint an arbitrator to review the case. At no time does the Department have knowledge of the details of any case or the parties involved, nor does the Department have sight of the sums involved. Requests for specific details regarding types of cases and sums involved should be directed to MIB.

The overall cost to law-abiding motorists of uninsured driving is estimated to be between £15 and £30 per policy per annum. I am continuing to work with my Assembly colleagues and relevant interests to do what I can to bear down on the cost of motor insurance.

Classifications of Taxis

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to list the current classifications of taxi; and what functions each class is (i) permitted; and (ii) not permitted to carry out.

(AQW 28954/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Currently taxis are licensed as one of the following:

- (a) Belfast Public Hire
- (b) Public Hire Outside Belfast
- (c) Private Hire¹
- (d) Taxibus

The functions each class is permitted and not permitted to carry out is set out on NI Direct at <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/taxis-and-private-hire-services> and is summarised below:

Permitted

Belfast Public Hire – permitted to ply for hire, stand at stands anywhere in Northern Ireland & carry passengers for reward;

Public Hire Outside Belfast – permitted to ply for hire outside the Belfast City Centre limits & carry passengers for reward;

Private Hire – permitted to carry passengers for reward;

Taxibus – permitted to operate as defined in their Road Service Licence (typically on fixed routes).

Not permitted

Public Hire Outside Belfast – not permitted to ply for hire inside the Belfast City Centre limits;

1 Wedding and funeral cars are currently licensed as private hire but are given internal plates rather than external. Therefore they are only permitted to operate in conjunction with a wedding or funeral.

Private Hire – not permitted to ply for hire;

Taxibus – not permitted to ply for hire or carry passengers for reward other than as permitted by the Road Service Licence under which they operate.

Legal Advice: Video Footage

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28201/11-15, AQW 28378/11-15 and AQW 27856/11-15, (i) to provide a copy of the legal advice obtained on this matter; (ii) to list the dates and times of the meetings and correspondence on the legal advice sought; (iii) whether any legal advisors were shown any video-footage; and (iv) if so, did they deem these examples of evidence as lawful.

(AQW 28955/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Following Departmental operational activity, officials sought and received legal advice on the operation of taxi services around Ravenhill Rugby Ground. As a result, it was determined that those services fell within the relevant legislation and therefore no offences were being committed.

The concept of legal professional privilege safeguards the rights of a person or organisation, including the Department, to obtain legal advice on a confidential basis and not to disclose such information in the interests of the wider administration of justice. It has been the settled view that in this context, legal advice is not disclosed and that privilege applies to the information sought in parts (i) to (iv) of the question. The Department is, therefore, unwilling to waive the legal professional privilege vested in it, and provide the information sought.

Requirements of the Habitats Directive

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether his Department has complied with the requirements of the Habitats Directive by carrying out a review of all extant planning permissions which were likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, either individually or in combination with other development, following the designation of the River Faughan and Tributaries Special Area of Conservation; (ii) at what stage in the process of designation was the required review undertaken; (iii) whether any applications were modified, revoked or discontinued as a result; (iv) which competent authority was responsible for the review; and (v) whether the information is held and is readily accessible to the public.

(AQW 28983/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Since its designation on 9 May 2008 as a possible Special Area of Conservation (SAC) a Habitats Regulations Assessment has been carried out on all planning applications considered likely to have a significant effect on this SAC, either individually or in combination with other developments. These assessments continued to be carried out at each subsequent stage in the designation process.

As regards extant planning applications that received permission prior to designation, assessments were carried out in relation to further applications that were associated with earlier planning permission. A full review of all extant planning permissions was not carried out.

The information sought in relation to applications modified, revoked or discontinued can only be provided at disproportionate cost to the public.

Planning NI is deemed to be the Competent Authority in relation to planning applications, but assessments are carried out on its behalf by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Information held is readily available for individual requests, but the provision of all related information could only be provided at disproportionate cost to the public.

Single Tier Taxi System

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment how many taxi classifications are included in the single tier proposal; and what tasks each classification will be (i) permitted; and (ii) not permitted to undertake.

(AQW 29035/11-15)

Mr Durkan: It is my intention that there will be four classes of use contained within the new Taxi Licence Regulations, two of which relate specifically to conventional taxis and deal with the single tier proposals. This distinction will allow for wheelchair accessible vehicles to be licensed separately to non-wheelchair accessible taxis.

It is the Department's intention that Belfast ranks will continue to be restricted to wheelchair accessible vehicles. Consideration will be given to whether it is appropriate to roll this requirement out to other areas of Northern Ireland, or if the disabled community is better served by promoting a more mixed fleet. Beyond this specific ranking issue, there will be no difference to how wheelchair and non-wheelchair accessible taxis can operate throughout Northern Ireland.

The other two classes will allow for separate licensing of taxibus vehicles and contracted chauffeur services (including wedding and funeral cars), to allow each to operate without a roof sign or taximeter, which would be inappropriate given the services being provided.

Unlike the current regulations, the new Taxi Licence regulations will not explicitly name each class, but will simply define the permitted uses of each. The tasks each classification will be permitted and not permitted to undertake are outlined below:

Permitted

Class A (non-wheelchair accessible vehicles) – will be permitted to ply for hire, stand at stands outside the Belfast City Centre limits, carry passengers for reward, and to operate a tour service when contracted to do so;

Class B (wheelchair accessible vehicles) – will be permitted to ply for hire, stand at all stands, carry passengers for reward, and to operate a tour service when contracted to do so;

Class C (chauffeur / contract services) – will be permitted to carry passengers for reward only when a contract has been made in advance for the service; and

Class D (taxibus) – will be permitted to operate under a permit issued by DRD under the Transport Act 2011, and to operate a tour service when contracted to do so.

Not permitted

Class A (non-wheelchair accessible vehicles) – will not be permitted to stand at stands inside the Belfast City Centre limits or to advertise as wheelchair accessible, or operate a tour service when the contract requirements have not been met;

Class B (wheelchair accessible vehicles) – will not be permitted to operate a tour service when the contract requirements have not been met;

Class C (chauffeur / contract services) – will not be permitted to carry passengers for reward when the contract requirements have not been met, or to ply for hire or stand at stands; and

Class D (taxibus) – will not be permitted to operate a tour service when the contract requirements have not been met, ply for hire or stand at stands or carry passengers for reward beyond the fixed route approved in the permit issued by DRD.

Economic Development: Planning

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of the Environment to outline his plans to improve the planning system to better support economic development.

(AQO 5202/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The key aim of the planning reform programme is to enable the planning system to play its part in contributing to growing a dynamic, innovative and sustainable economy, while promoting inclusion and equality of opportunity.

Planning has a critical role to play in promoting economic development but it also has an equally important role to play in protecting the environment and both of these commitments need to be fully considered in making planning decisions.

As a result of vigorous action by my predecessor, action which I intend to continue, the planning system is now much better placed to deliver quicker decision-making and provide greater certainty on outcomes and timeframes for managing applications.

I recognise that the planning system can, and should, do much more to unlock development potential, support job creation and aid economic recovery.

I intend to continue to make prompt and sound planning decisions and to create a planning system that is fast, fair and fit for purpose. A planning system that delivers for business but not at the expense of the environment. As Environment Minister I want to help create a better environment and a stronger economy.

As I have outlined, I intend to bring forward the new single Strategic Planning Policy Statement which will be shorter, clearer and more accessible regional planning policy and consolidate existing policies into one document.

I recognise the important contribution the construction industry makes to the economy and have reinforced to Planning Officials that, where appropriate, they seek to balance the economic advantages of proposals with appropriate development.

I am keen to emphasise that front-loading the planning application process with pre-application discussions is highly beneficial, resulting in a more efficient process and predictable outcome. As such, I am committed to continuing engagement with the construction industry and other stakeholders in identifying relevant planning issues so as to ensure the submission of high quality planning applications. This in turn allows for faster processing of applications through the statutory process.

I am also committed to getting all of this right in preparation for handing planning powers to local government in 2015.

Causeway Coast and Glens Council Grouping

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of the Environment what action he can take to prevent the brand name of "Glens" being removed from the domain name of the Causeway Coast and Glens council grouping.
(AQW 29246/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The new councils will be able to make decisions on their names immediately after the next local government election in 2014, during the shadow period. Statutory Transition Committees will be able to make recommendations to the new councils in respect of their names. However, the final decision on the name of the new council and any related website names will be taken by the councillors elected in 2014.

Departmental Head of Planning: NI Ombudsman

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 28600/11-15, (i) why his Department's Head of Planning informed the NI Ombudsman on 7 September 2012 that the application was withdrawn; (ii) why this position was adopted at that time; and (iii) whether his Department has

since informed, or intends to inform the Ombudsman that the application is no longer withdrawn and that a deemed refusal was issued on 5 November 2013.

(AQW 29279/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Planning application A/2009/0400/F was deemed refused on 4 June 2010 due to the applicant failing to submit further environmental information required to forward the assessment of the proposal. While a procedural error was made in accepting the withdrawal of this application, a letter has now issued to the agent advising of the deemed refusal, with the Planning Portal updated to reflect this corrected position.

While this correction does not in my opinion, alter the conclusions expressed by the then Head Planner Anne Garvey, in her response to the Ombudsman you refer to, I have instructed my officials to advise the Ombudsman of the same.

Rural Transport

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of the Environment how Rural Transport Community Associations will be affected by proposed licensing changes.

(AQO 5195/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Whilst my Department is currently in the process of developing proposals for a new bus operator licensing regime no final proposals have been brought forward or final decisions on this made.

Since 2010 officials have actively been engaged in developing proposals with a view to supporting a vibrant bus passenger transport sector. All stakeholders have agreed that the current scheme, which is 46 years old, is outdated and no longer able to support the diversity of passenger transport being delivered in the 21st Century.

In developing the policy proposals my Department has taken into consideration a number of key objectives namely:

- (i) The need to regulate for a safe, fair and fit for purpose sector;
- (ii) The need to allow a vibrant and innovative community transport sector to continue to flourish;
- (iii) The need to ensure a level regulatory playing field, with rights and duties for the various groups within the sector being kept in appropriate balance;
- (iv) The need to develop a licensing regime with clear distinctions between categories of licence and which is enforceable.

My officials are currently engaging with stakeholders on proposals for a two tier licensing regime which will replace the current licensing scheme.

The upper tier will be an unrestricted licence which allows holders to undertake any bus passenger transport activity. The lower tier licence will be available to those for whom passenger transport is exclusively non-commercial or ancillary to their main purpose or activity, such as scout or church groups.

My Department is aware of the vital role that the Rural Community Transport Partnerships play in delivering transport which addresses rural and social isolation, and is committed to ensuring that this important work is supported in any new licensing regime. We are therefore continuing our engagement to ensure that all key points have been addressed in the proposals before they are finalised.

Road Safety

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the current road safety campaigns.

(AQO 5198/11-15)

Mr Durkan: My Department has a statutory duty to promote road safety. It does this through a wide range of road safety education activities, which include road safety public information campaigns and education programmes.

The principal objective of my Department's road safety advertising is to contribute to reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. The road safety campaigns therefore continue to address those behaviours that contribute most to road deaths and serious injuries.

DOE has commissioned in the region of 200 independently conducted benchmarking and tracking surveys since 1994. In the surveys, the DOE advertising campaigns have produced exceptionally high public awareness levels for each TV campaign and consistently high levels of personal influence in reducing road carnage.

Oxford Economics has, based on the Department for Transport's estimated cost of each road casualty, calculated the impacts of my Department's road safety advertising campaigns. The latest Oxford Economics report concluded that 21,977 men, women and children in Northern Ireland have been saved from death or serious injury on the roads as a result of DOE's advertising between 1995-2011, compared to previous trends. The economic payback was £10 per £1 invested by DOE in advertising, excluding human costs, and £42 per £1 invested by DOE in advertising, including human costs.

The road safety campaigns play a significant part in our ambition of working towards zero road deaths in Northern Ireland. This aspiration means that we do not accept that anyone should ever die on our roads; and the above initiatives support this by encouraging the community to adopt safer behaviours on the roads. We allow and encourage all road users to sign up to a pledge supporting this at www.sharetheroadtozero.com

I recognise the continuing challenges of preventing road deaths and serious injuries and as such my Department will continue to address the issues through various activities.

RPA: Minority Rights

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment how his Department will protect and guarantee minority rights within the new eleven council model as part of local government reform.

(AQO 5199/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As I have said previously, I am committed to ensuring that equality of opportunity will be a key feature in the new councils. The Local Government Bill that I introduced into the Assembly on 23 September 2013, and which is currently at Committee Stage, provides for new governance arrangements for the councils. These new arrangements will ensure the protection of the rights of all people, and provide for fair, transparent and efficient decision-making.

The sharing of positions of responsibility across the political parties represented on councils will be a cornerstone of the new arrangements. I am proposing that councils will be able to select from either the d'Hondt or Sainte-Laguë divisor methods or Single Transferrable Voting to achieve this aim. Provision will also be made to ensure that, as far as practicable, the membership of committees will also reflect the political balance of the council.

The governance arrangements will also include the use of a call-in procedure to ensure a system of checks and balances is in place in relation to the decision-making process to provide protection for the rights of minority groups. For example, a number of councillors who have an issue with a specific decision will be able to join together to request that the decision is reviewed. The call-in procedure may be used where an issue has been raised in relation to the procedures followed in making a decision or where there is an issue in relation to the protection of political minorities in the local government district. I am proposing that the trigger to initiate the call-in procedure should be 15% of the total council membership. For example, in a council with 40 members, a call-in would require the support of 6 councillors.

The introduction of qualified majority voting for specified strategic decisions, and as part of the call-in procedure, will also provide a further check and balance in relation to council decision-making. Rather

than a system of cross-community voting (such as the one operated by the Northern Ireland Assembly), a straightforward threshold of 80% of council members present and voting will apply.

RPA: Rates Convergence

Mr Mitchel McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the progress made with Rates Convergence modelling for new councils in advance of the Review of Public Administration. **(AQO 5200/11-15)**

Mr Durkan: Earlier this year, the Executive agreed to provide councils with a reform funding package of £17.8 million over the 2013 to 2015 period, with a commitment of up to £30 million for rates convergence beyond 2015. This funding is being made available for managing rates convergence as a consequence of councils merging and other boundary changes arising from implementation of local government reform.

My Department has been working closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel on potential models for administering a rates convergence relief system. The preferred model is to provide for a district rate adjustment at bill level for each ratepayer account. This involves a lower rate being applied to the individual rates bills of those ratepayers who would otherwise face increases as a result of reform. Under this model, the rate relief that will be applied in a Council area will depend on the specific rate increases faced by ratepayers as a result of the level district rates settle at in the initial years of the new council. As the rates for the new councils have not yet been set, it is too early to determine which ratepayers will be eligible for rate relief and the quantum of rate relief that will apply. While the detailed workings of this scheme have yet to be finalised, it should be noted that the district rate adjustment methodology also has the endorsement of the Institute of Rating, Revenue and Valuation who conducted an external assessment of the various options prior to Ministerial agreement.

DFP and DOE will continue to work on finalising the details of the scheme to manage rates convergence, within the cost envelope of £30m, which will protect those ratepayers who otherwise would face sudden and excessive increases as a direct consequence of councils merging or due to other boundary changes.

The primary legislative powers to give effect to a rates convergence scheme is included in the Local Government Bill. When the scheme is finalised, the details will be set out in Regulations, for Assembly approval in due course.

RPA: Update

Mrs McKevitt asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Review of Public Administration. **(AQO 5201/11-15)**

Mr Durkan: The Local Government Reform programme remains on target for 1 April 2015. The new councils will be equipped with a tested, robust and comprehensive legislative and operational framework.

The Local Government Bill was introduced into the Assembly on the 23 September and following second stage debate, on the 1st October was passed to the Environment Committee for scrutiny. An extension to Committee Stage has been granted and is due for completion by 20 February 2014. The Committee held a stakeholder event on 28 November which sought views on aspects of the Bill. This has been a major step in the legislative process that will make local government reform a reality and will provide the legislative framework necessary to give effect to the Executive's decisions on the future shape of local government.

A Commencement Order, which will bring the boundaries of the 11 new local government districts into effect for the purposes of holding the next local government elections and to allow the new councils to prepare an annual budget and strike a rate for the 2015/16 financial year, was made on the 3 October.

The Regulations which introduced the severance scheme for councillors came into operation on 1 August 2013. The main components of the scheme include a minimum eligibility period of 12 years (cumulatively), graduated yearly payments to ensure that those with longer periods of service are treated fairly and proportionately, and a cap on individual payments of £35,000.

Ten of the eleven Statutory Transition Committees are meeting, with the Belfast STC expected to be formed shortly. They are driving convergence between the merging councils and also preparing for the new incoming councils operating in shadow form next year. The work of the new Committees includes corporate, financial and business planning and also the appointment of chief executives to lead the change management process. The Department has issued guidance to the STCs, particularly to provide operational advice and direction to enable them to discharge their duties. Their work is monitored by the Regional Transition Committee, which I chair.

Councils will operate in shadow form for a period of time; that is, from the date of the elections on the 22 May 2014, until the date when the new councils assume full powers and responsibilities in April 2015. The newly elected councils, acting in shadow form, will have the statutory authority and democratic mandate to make policy decisions that will shape the direction of the new councils before they become fully operational.

The advertisement for 10 Chief Executive Posts was placed in the press on the 22 November 2013. The Belfast Chief Executive post wasn't included and will be advertised at a later date.

Planning: Enforcement

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to decrease the time taken to deal with planning enforcement complaints.

(AQO 5203/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department is mindful of its duty to enforce planning legislation and to ensure that development is managed in a proactive and proportionate manner. In determining the most appropriate course of action in response to alleged breaches of planning control, the Department will take into account the extent of the breach and its potential impact on the environment.

I have set challenging targets for enforcement for all parts of the process within our control and there has also been considerable investment in our enforcement capabilities, supporting IT systems and management information to support this work. Each local office has a dedicated enforcement team of planning officers with caseloads monitored on a monthly basis to ensure their prompt progress.

Enforcement performance is also now published within the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin which allows public scrutiny of the work done.

Hydraulic Fracturing: Health Impact

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment why the joint Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources/Northern Ireland Environment Agency research programme into Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction will not incorporate a Health Impact Assessment.

(AQO 5204/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In response to the public consultation on the 'Proposed Terms of Reference' for the research programme, observations were made in submissions received that:

- The Terms of Reference should examine the overall issue of human health protection in environmental decision making and ought to, as a priority, give urgent attention to the further consideration of issues associated with the introduction of Health Impact Assessment.
- Comments were made that should the Study be limited to the environment and the environmental factors that have the potential to impact on human health, it would be appropriate to carry out a separate study on the public health aspects of Unconventional Gas Exploration and Extraction (UGEE) activities.

The Steering Committee for the research programme, which includes officials from my Department, responded by stating that:

'Well planned and managed environmental-health research offers a very effective way to respond to emerging issues. The draft Terms of Reference did refer to the need to consider the role of Health Impact Assessment in regulation of UGEE projects/operations. There is now an additional requirement in the Revised Terms of Reference (Project C, Task 3) to specifically consider the potential role of Health Impact Assessment in regulation of UGEE projects/operations based on the experience in other countries and to make recommendations towards developing a protocol in the island of Ireland context.'

The Steering Committee response document, to the submissions received, is available to download from the Environmental Protection Agency (Ireland) website.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Number of Law Graduates Unable to Find Employment

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he is concerned about the decline in employment opportunities for law graduates in solicitors' offices; and to outline the action he will take to increase opportunities.

(AQW 28574/11-15)

Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): I do share the Member's concern in relation to the fact that the current recession has restricted the number of places in solicitors' offices as compared with places available on the academic part of the course.

While I have no direct role in relation to increasing opportunities in solicitors' offices, I have recently met with the Law Society and was encouraged by the tentative signs of recovery it is seeing in certain parts of the market. I also note that it is overseeing the training of more solicitors now, despite the difficult times, than it has ever done before. The latest figures I have show that 116 graduates were trained in 2012, as compared with a figure of 95 in previous years.

I also understand that the Society has been proactive in accrediting a number of solicitor masters, including some in the public sector, and has brought forward initiatives to offset the cost to solicitors' firms in training an apprentice. Coupled with the recovery that solicitors are currently beginning to see, I am hopeful that the opportunities for law graduates will improve over the coming years.

Making the Civil Service Estate Carbon Neutral

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail any action he intends to take to make the Civil Service estate carbon neutral.

(AQW 28575/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: I can only answer for the DFP government office estate for which I have responsibility. The NICS does not have any target to be carbon neutral and I have no plans to make the DFP office estate carbon neutral. Even if such a target existed it could only be achieved by offsetting emissions which would mean money allocated to the NI Block being sent outside NI as offsets would require to be purchased.

Reassessment of Commercial Town Centre Rates

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the reassessment of commercial town centre rates prior to 2015.

(AQW 28596/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The reassessment of commercial town centres for rates is part and parcel of the ongoing revaluation of all commercial property in Northern Ireland.

Land & Property Services (LPS) is making good progress on the validation of the rental evidence it received and the detailed market analysis has started.

The valuation process will then follow in March next year and by late 2014 LPS will produce a draft Valuation List which will inform individual ratepayers of their new assessments, before the new bills issue in April 2015.

Individual Commercial Ratepayers: Rates

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the arrangements in place to ensure that rates paid by individual commercial ratepayers reflect the goods sold on the property.

(AQW 28597/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: As a general rule there are no arrangements in place to vary the rates paid by reference to the amount of goods sold with the notable exception of charity shops. Charity shops' exemption is granted in proportion to sales of donated goods versus non-donated goods.

Therefore, if any charity shops are selling significant amounts of non-donated goods for a period then this should trigger a rate liability. Land & Property Services (LPS) is already in the process of reviewing all charitable exemption awards and will be writing out to all charity shops as part of this exercise. Questionnaires will be issuing to relevant premises as soon as practicable, over the coming months.

Royal Bank of Scotland Report: Ulster Bank

Mr Wilson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action he intends to take in relation to the Royal Bank of Scotland Report into the debt management practices by Ulster Bank.

(AQW 28657/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Business Secretary has referred the debt management findings of both the RBS Independent Lending Review report and the Lawrence Tomlinson report on Banks' Treatment of Businesses in Distress to the Financial Conduct Authority and to the Prudential Regulation Authority for investigation. I understand that RBS has also commissioned an investigation.

While neither of these reports specifically covered Northern Ireland the RBS's Global Restructuring Group does operate here. I therefore raised my concerns that similar practices might have occurred here with the Financial Secretary to the Treasury when I meet him on the 4 December 2013.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

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

(AQW 28690/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Department of Finance and Personnel has not awarded a contract or provided funding to any organisation in Londonderry to deliver the City of Culture 2013.

Cyclical Element and Structural Element of the Fiscal Deficit

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to (i) identify both the cyclical element and structural element of the fiscal deficit and (ii) outline how he plans to resolve the cyclical element of the fiscal deficit.

(AQW 28865/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: No such estimates are available. The methodology developed as part of the Government Expenditure and Revenue Scotland (GERS) report, which my Department uses to estimate the overall Northern Ireland fiscal deficit, does not separately identify the cyclical and structural elements of that deficit.

Social Investment Fund

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 28470/11-15, to explain the arrangement whereby £80m is still ring fenced for the Social Investment Fund; and how this relates to the budgetary timeframe.

(AQW 29106/11-15)

Mr Hamilton: The Executive remains committed to providing funding of £80 million for the Social Investment Fund and any funding requirements can be considered as part of a future Budget process.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Support for the Homeless

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what support his Department offers to people who are homeless.

(AQW 28580/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The Provision of health and social services for those who are eligible is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety. These services are provided by the 5 Health and Social care Trusts.

Health services are a universal right to all citizens who are ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland. Social care services are provided on the basis on the outcome of assessment of need of individuals.

The provision of accommodation for adults who are homeless sits outside the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services. However their health and social care needs remain the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety.

Where a young person between the ages of 16 and 18 presents as homeless Health and Social care Trusts provide suitable accommodation and support under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

Chair of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to explain the reasons for delay in the appointment of a Chair of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust; (ii) when an appointment will be made; (iii) how many applicants there were in each recruitment campaign; and (iv) how many were interviewed.

(AQW 28606/11-15)

Mr Poots: The delay in appointing a new Chair to the Northern HSC Trust has been due to the small number of applicants who responded to the initial advertisement campaign held in February 2013, resulting in the post being re-advertised in August 2013. Appointment will be made once the appointment process has been completed. Four applicants applied at each recruitment campaign. Three applicants having met the criteria were invited for interview

Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority: Marie Stopes Clinic

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that the Marie Stopes Clinic is required by law to maintain records on each client and patient, why the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) does not, following inspection of those records, produce a compendium of cumulative, but anonymised, information on the number of abortions carried out in the clinic; and whether he will request that the RQIA produce such a compendium.

(AQW 28607/11-15)

Mr Poots: Officials are working to develop a data collection process. It is the intention that any new system will collect robust and consistent information from independent providers in addition to health and social care organisations.

Officials are exploring the best way to achieve this taking into consideration views expressed during the recent consultation.

Engagement has taken place with the Information Commissioner to ensure that the data collected protects a patient's rights to confidentiality.

Any form produced must meet legislative and regulatory requirements in Northern Ireland. It will be necessary to ensure that the form protects a patient's right to confidentiality and the interests of the public, professional bodies and elected members.

The Department continues to collect statistics on the number of terminations of pregnancy carried out in Health and Social Care facilities in Northern Ireland.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Annual Budget

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the annual budget for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 28635/11-15)

Mr Poots: The 2012/13 annual revenue budget for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust was £521.4m.

In addition, the Capital Allocation for the same year was £23.5m.

Opt-Out System of Organ Donation

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has any plans to introduce an opt-out system of organ donation.

(AQW 28639/11-15)

Mr Poots: In February 2013 I announced that I would be progressing work to establish attitudes towards organ donation, including an opt-out system for organ donation. This work was taken forward by the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the initial work on establishing attitudes towards organ donation has just been completed. The report on public attitudes and stakeholder engagement in Northern Ireland was launched on 16 October 2013. I am giving careful consideration to the findings in this important report and the implications for the future development of my Department's policy on organ donation. These are important matters and we therefore need to take time to digest the report to ensure that our future policy is the right policy for the people of Northern Ireland.

I have attended a number of meetings over the past 12 months regarding organ donation, these include meetings with the Public Health Agency, NHS Blood and Transplant, representatives of British Medical Association, meetings with public representatives and most recently I attended a workshop on Organ Donation and Transplantation, which included senior medical staff who are directly involved in organ donation and transplantation.

Opt-Out System of Organ Donation

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what meetings he has had in regard to an opt-out system of organ donation in the last twelve months.

(AQW 28640/11-15)

Mr Poots: In February 2013 I announced that I would be progressing work to establish attitudes towards organ donation, including an opt-out system for organ donation. This work was taken forward by the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the initial work on establishing attitudes towards organ donation has just been completed. The report on public attitudes and stakeholder engagement in Northern Ireland was launched on 16 October 2013. I am giving careful consideration to the findings in this important report and the implications for the future development of my Department's policy on organ donation. These are important matters and we therefore need to take time to digest the report to ensure that our future policy is the right policy for the people of Northern Ireland.

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Accident and Emergency Admittance as a Result of Alcohol Abuse

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the protocols applied in Accident and Emergency Departments when engaging with the relevant agencies when a child under 16 is treated for alcohol intoxication.

(AQW 28643/11-15)

Mr Poots: Children under 16 attending emergency departments under the influence of alcohol are assessed individually and in line with child safeguarding guidance. When emergency department staff identify a concern, a referral is made to the social services/safeguarding team. Appropriate further action will depend on the individual assessment and type of presentation. This may include admission to hospital, referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health or Child and Adolescent Intensive Treatment services, or to volunteer drug and alcohol intervention services.

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Staff and Paramedics: Attacks

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many attacks have been reported against Northern Ireland Ambulance Service staff or paramedics in the last twelve months, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 28647/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not collated in the format requested. The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Trust's untoward reporting system holds data based on the base station of the crew reporting the incident and not the location of the incident.

The following data is based on the base divisional area of staff who were assaulted during the period 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013. There were 274 incidents broken down as follows:

	Physical Assault without a weapon	Physical Assault with a weapon	Verbal Assault	Total
Belfast	37	7	62	106
Northern	13	3	25	41
South Eastern	21	2	32	55
Southern	9	5	31	45
Western	11	2	14	27

Ambulance Call-Out Times

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail the number of times in the last twelve months that it has taken longer than 45 minutes for an ambulance to arrive at an emergency scene in South Down; (ii) what percentage of the total number of call-outs this represents; and (iii) what action he is taking to address the length of time it is taking for ambulances to arrive at an emergency scene in South Down.

(AQW 28654/11-15)

Mr Poots: Ambulances are dispatched by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) in response to 999 emergency calls based on the clinical need of the patient. Calls are prioritised according to the seriousness of the patient's condition as follows:

- Category A – potentially immediately life-threatening;
- Category B – serious but not immediately life-threatening;
- Category C – non-life threatening/serious.

Performance standards are set within the Local Commissioning Group (LCG) area, therefore the standards for the parliamentary constituency of South Down fall within the South Eastern LCG area.

The data below shows the number of emergency responses in South Down which were over 45 minutes, broken down per category, and the related percentage of the total number of responses made within each category during the period November 2012 to October 2013.

	Number of Emergency Responses Over 45 minutes	Percentage of Emergency Responses Over 45 minutes in relation to Total Number of Responses during the Period
Category A	8	0.3%
Category B	62	1.6%
Category C	43	3.7%

NIAS has advised that it continues to revise procedures and processes in an effort to improve performance, service provision and response capacity. Currently NIAS are seeking to use non-emergency ambulance resources more intensively to release emergency resource capacity to improve response performance to the most clinically urgent calls.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Coronary Care

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what changes have been agreed or implemented regarding coronary care in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust within the last twelve months; and whether an appropriate Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on such changes.

(AQW 28656/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust continues to deliver a range of cardiology services across its three main hospital sites. Specific changes introduced in the last twelve months are:

- the opening of a catheterisation laboratory (cath lab) at the Ulster Hospital;
- a new one-stop heart failure pilot service at Lagan Valley Hospital; and,
- roll out of a new primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) service.

The South Eastern Trust is satisfied that the changes did not require equality impact assessments to be carried out.

Downe Hospital: Sewage and Drainage Problems

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much money has been spent dealing with sewage and drainage problems at the Downe Hospital since it was opened in June 2010.

(AQW 28659/11-15)

Mr Poots: The total amount spent on drainage since the Downe Hospital opened in June 2010 is £24,006.87.

Dementia Strategy

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of dementia services since the implementation of the Dementia Strategy in November 2011.

(AQW 28667/11-15)

Mr Poots: The HSC Board and Public Health Agency jointly lead a regional group, which includes people with dementia and their carers, to oversee implementation of the Dementia Strategy and its recommendations across NI. The group has drawn up an Action Plan which is used to report progress in the implementation of the strategy to the Department.

The action plan contains 44 initiatives which are being progressed under various headings such as Reducing the Risk or Delaying the Onset of Dementia, Raising Awareness, Promoting Early Assessment and Diagnosis, Supporting People with Dementia and Supporting Carers.

My department received an update report in June 2013 which detailed significant progress on a majority of the actions. A further update on progress is expected this month.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) tenders awarded; and (ii) funding provided to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013.

(AQW 28692/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety has not awarded any tenders or provided any funding to organisations to deliver the City of Culture 2013.

General Practices: Spend

Mr Wilson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his Department's spend on General Practices in each of the last five years.

(AQW 28706/11-15)

Mr Poots: Expenditure by my Department on General Practices under the General Medical Services (GMS) Contract in each of the last five years is set out in the table below.

2012/13 £m	2011/12 £m	2010/11 £m	2009/10 £m	2008/09 £m
232.7	236.2	234.7	238.3	234.9

Driving Licence Application Forms: Kidney Donation

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will hold discussions with the Minister for the Environment regarding the cost and possible benefits of including an option for kidney donation on all Driving Licence application forms.

(AQW 28716/11-15)

Mr Poots: Whilst I am keen to increase the number of registrants on the organ donor register, any discussions concerning amending driving licences is a matter for the Minister for the Environment, in conjunction with NHS Blood and Transplant.

Health and Social Board: Management Posts

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many management posts have been created in the (i) Health Service; (ii) Health and Social Care Trusts; and the Health and Social Board, since the creation of the Board.

(AQW 28748/11-15)

Mr Poots: This information is not held centrally and could only be obtained from individual Health and Social Care bodies at a disproportionate cost.

Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when a new Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board will be recruited.

(AQW 28755/11-15)

Mr Poots: The recruitment process for the new Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board will commence early January 2014.

Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Wellbeing

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the findings of Asthma UK's report Compare Your Care are being considered as part of the review of the Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Wellbeing.

(AQW 28756/11-15)

Mr Poots: The review of the Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Wellbeing is currently being undertaken by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB).

The HSCB have advised that the "Compare Your Care" report is being taken into account in the review. A workshop has been held to review the Asthma Standard and Asthma UK was represented at that event. In January there are two further workshops for patients and carers. These are being jointly organised by Asthma UK, Chest Heart and Stroke and the British Lung Foundation on behalf of the Service Framework Review Team. The views of patients and carers will be incorporated into the review of the framework.

Number of Additional Outpatient Clinics

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total number of additional outpatient clinics, including weekends and evenings, that have been arranged over the last three years under the waiting list initiative for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 28787/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust that it held the following additional outpatient clinics under the waiting list initiative over the last three years:

2010/11		2011/12		2012/13	
New	Review	New	Review	New	Review
7,945	2,062	7,015	3,852	10,129	6,676

Accident and Emergency Unit at the Ulster Hospital

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the capacity of the Accident and Emergency Unit at the Ulster Hospital.

(AQW 28789/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has been commissioned to provide approximately 83,000 new and unplanned review attendances at the Ulster Hospital emergency department in the current year 2013/14.

Minor Injuries Unit at Bangor Hospital

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been treated at the Minor Injuries Unit at Bangor Hospital, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 28790/11-15)

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

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

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

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

Fracture Liaison Service

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for his assessment of the benefits of a fracture liaison service; (ii) whether such a service is provided locally; (iii) if no such service is provided, to explain the reasons for this position; and (iv) if such a service is provided, to detail the cost of running the service in (a) 2012/13; and (b) 2013/14, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 28793/11-15)

Mr Poots: Fracture care often represents the first opportunity for clinical management of osteoporosis. Early assessment and preventative treatment will reduce or prevent further fracture; reduce suffering; and, reduce loss of independence in fragility-fracture patients.

A fracture liaison service is in place in four of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts. The Northern Local Commissioning Group (LCG) is working with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust to develop the best service model for patients in the Northern area. The identification and management of fragility fractures is now included in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). Practices are incentivised to identify patients who have sustained a possible fragility fracture and follow the relevant NICE guidance. This involves a risk assessment, DEXA scan and, if indicated, treatment. The Northern LCG has recently commissioned a direct access DEXA service for GPs in that area. It may be that this is the appropriate service model to care for patients with fragility fractures in that area (rather than a secondary care based model).

It is not possible to provide the cost of running this service; all fracture units have orthogeriatric input and the cost for this falls to the orthogeriatric service.

The Prevention and Management of Fragility Fractures in Northern Ireland

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Public Health Agency's 2009 report The Prevention and Management of Fragility Fractures in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 28794/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Public Health Agency has advised that progress against the nine recommendations contained in the report is as follows:

- **Recommendation 1** – Regional Public Awareness campaign to promote good bone health. The Public Health Agency (PHA) has a number of campaigns which contribute to good bone health, such as, healthy eating, physical activity and smoking campaigns. It is now recognised that certain groups, including pregnant women, young children and those over 65 years, are at risk of vitamin D deficiency. It is recommended that these groups take a vitamin D supplement. To this end, the PHA has produced a leaflet titled vitamin D and you.

- **Recommendation 2** – Fracture liaison service. A fracture liaison service is in place in four of the five Health and Social Care Trusts. The Northern Local Commissioning Group (LCG) is working with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust to develop the best service model for patients in the Northern area. The identification and management of fragility fractures is now included in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). Practices are incentivised to identify patients who have sustained a possible fragility fracture and follow the relevant NICE guidance. This involves a risk assessment, DEXA scan and, if indicated, treatment. The Northern LCG has recently commissioned a direct access DEXA service for GPs in that area. It may be that this is the appropriate service model to care for patients with fragility fractures in that area (rather than a secondary care based model).
- **Recommendation 3** – All fracture units have orthogeriatric input. This is now in place.
- **Recommendation 4** – All fracture units have an information infrastructure. More consideration on IT infrastructure is required.
- **Recommendation 5** – The prevention of falls. All LCGs have supported work in this area as part of their investments in 2013/14.
- **Recommendation 6** – Directly Enhanced Service in Primary Care. This Directly Enhanced Service has been replaced by the inclusion of the identification and management of fragility fractures in QOF as outlined above.
- **Recommendation 7** – Long Term Condition Monies. This recommendation is no longer relevant.
- **Recommendation 8** – Effective medicines management. A letter to all GPs about the primary and secondary prevention of osteoporosis was issued in June 2013.
- **Recommendation 9** – Establishment of a regional implementation group. This is in place.

Hip Fractures: Cost

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of hip fractures in each of the last five years; and the average cost of a hip fracture in terms of (i) acute hospital care; (ii) subsequent care and support in the community; and (iii) respite and residential care. **(AQW 28795/11-15)**

Mr Poots:

- (i) Information on the number and cost of hip fractures treated in an acute hospital setting is provided below.

Financial Year	Number of episodes	Average cost
2012/13	4,694	-
2011/12	4,346	4,974.74
2010/11	4,127	5,138.06
2009/10	3,941	5,046.57
2008/09	4,264	4,683.50
2007/08	4,747	4,016.30

Source: Hospital Inpatient System; HSC Trust Reference Cost Returns

Note: Costs are not yet available for financial year 2012/13.

- (ii) and (iii): The cost of community, respite and residential care for those patients with a hip fracture is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Immigrants from Romania and Bulgaria

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what contingency plans he has in place to deal with any influx of immigrants from Romania and Bulgaria from January 2014.
(AQW 28796/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department's responsibility rests in the provision of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

There are no specific contingency plans in place to deal with any influx of immigrants from Romania and Bulgaria. Research indicates that it is not expected that the immigration from Romania and Bulgaria will be on the same level as that of Poland and that public services are now better able to meet their needs.

As members of the European Union from 1st January 2014 Romanian and Bulgarian nationals will be entitled to move freely within the European Union. As EEA nationals, citizens of Bulgaria and Romania can enter and live in the UK without needing to apply for permission, as long as they can support themselves and their families in the UK without 'becoming an unreasonable burden on public funds'. If they wish to take up residency within NI and can meet the 'ordinarily resident' test they will be entitled to access healthcare services here in NI.

Immigrants from Non-EU Countries Treated by the Health Service

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many immigrants from non-EU countries have been treated by the Health Service in each of the last three years; and how much of the cost of these treatments has been recovered from their countries of origin.
(AQW 28797/11-15)

Mr Poots: An immigrant is a person who leaves one country to settle permanently in another. A person who has moved to Northern Ireland on a permanent and settled basis would be deemed to be ordinarily resident, i.e. living here lawfully and on a continuous settled basis, and therefore be entitled to free healthcare. Supporting documentary evidence would need to accompany any person's claim to be ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland for example, visa, passport, proof of employment or study.

It is not possible to identify the number or cost attached to the provision of healthcare for immigrants from non-EU countries that are deemed to be ordinarily resident and entitled to free healthcare.

Process for Diagnosing Lyme Disease

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the process for diagnosing Lyme Disease; and how this disease is treated.
(AQW 28813/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested regarding the number of cases diagnosed is not held, as Lyme disease is not a statutorily notifiable disease and medical professionals are not required to report cases to the Public Health Agency. The number of people receiving treatment for Lyme disease in Northern Ireland at this time is not known. Based on laboratory reports only, the PHA is aware of the numbers of cases given in the table below.

Year	Number of laboratory-confirmed cases reported to PHA
2013, to 3rd December	4
2012	2
2011	1
2010	0
2009	2

Year	Number of laboratory-confirmed cases reported to PHA
2008	0

Diagnosis of Lyme disease is complex; the symptoms are non-specific and are shared by many more common conditions. A patient feeling unwell will normally go to their GP. When a patient presents to a GP with non-specific symptoms the GP will take the patient's clinical history and will consider a range of possible diagnoses. If Lyme disease is a possible diagnosis the GP may order a blood test. In Northern Ireland serology testing for Lyme disease is undertaken by the Regional Virology Laboratory at Belfast HSC Trust.

None of the tests for Lyme disease is 100% accurate, however blood tests are only one element of the overall, holistic assessment and eventual diagnosis.

As Lyme disease is an uncommon condition in Northern Ireland, and a GP in Northern Ireland is likely to see few or no cases in the course of their career, the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease need to be discussed with laboratory staff and infectious disease specialists.

Lyme disease is generally treated with antibiotics, however the details of a course of treatment may vary between patients and according to the stage at which Lyme disease is diagnosed. Detailed advice on antimicrobial agents, doses, and treatment durations can be provided by a clinician practising in the area of infectious disease.

Process for Diagnosing Lyme Disease

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the reliability of the clinical testing used to diagnose Lyme Disease.

(AQW 28814/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested regarding the number of cases diagnosed is not held, as Lyme disease is not a statutorily notifiable disease and medical professionals are not required to report cases to the Public Health Agency. The number of people receiving treatment for Lyme disease in Northern Ireland at this time is not known. Based on laboratory reports only, the PHA is aware of the numbers of cases given in the table below.

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2008	0

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None of the tests for Lyme disease is 100% accurate, however blood tests are only one element of the overall, holistic assessment and eventual diagnosis.

As Lyme disease is an uncommon condition in Northern Ireland, and a GP in Northern Ireland is likely to see few or no cases in the course of their career, the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease need to be discussed with laboratory staff and infectious disease specialists.

Lyme disease is generally treated with antibiotics, however the details of a course of treatment may vary between patients and according to the stage at which Lyme disease is diagnosed. Detailed advice on antimicrobial agents, doses, and treatment durations can be provided by a clinician practising in the area of infectious disease.

Process for Diagnosing Lyme Disease

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with Lyme Disease in each of the last five years; and how many people are currently receiving treatment for the disease.

(AQW 28815/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested regarding the number of cases diagnosed is not held, as Lyme disease is not a statutorily notifiable disease and medical professionals are not required to report cases to the Public Health Agency. The number of people receiving treatment for Lyme disease in Northern Ireland at this time is not known. Based on laboratory reports only, the PHA is aware of the numbers of cases given in the table below.

Year	Number of laboratory-confirmed cases reported to PHA
2013, to 3rd December	4
2012	2
2011	1
2010	0
2009	2
2008	0

Diagnosis of Lyme disease is complex; the symptoms are non-specific and are shared by many more common conditions. A patient feeling unwell will normally go to their GP. When a patient presents to a GP with non-specific symptoms the GP will take the patient's clinical history and will consider a range of possible diagnoses. If Lyme disease is a possible diagnosis the GP may order a blood test. In Northern Ireland serology testing for Lyme disease is undertaken by the Regional Virology Laboratory at Belfast HSC Trust.

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As Lyme disease is an uncommon condition in Northern Ireland, and a GP in Northern Ireland is likely to see few or no cases in the course of their career, the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease need to be discussed with laboratory staff and infectious disease specialists.

Lyme disease is generally treated with antibiotics, however the details of a course of treatment may vary between patients and according to the stage at which Lyme disease is diagnosed. Detailed advice on antimicrobial agents, doses, and treatment durations can be provided by a clinician practising in the area of infectious disease.

Medicine Wastage from Pharmacies

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps are being taken to reduce medicine wastage from pharmacies.

(AQW 28821/11-15)

Mr Poots: On the 20th November I formally launched the 2013/2014 “Don’t Use It? Don’t Order It” media waste campaign. The campaign, which is now in its fourth year, aims to influence individual patient behaviours and activities which contribute to the over-ordering and sub-optimal use of prescription medicines. The campaign involves TV advertisements and outdoor visuals; in addition leaflets have been distributed to all GP practices and community pharmacies in Northern Ireland.

The aim of the campaign is to remind people to stop and check the medicines they already have at home before ordering more, especially at this time of year when they may be placing orders to cover the Christmas holidays.

Specialist Parkinson’s Disease Nurses

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many specialist Parkinson’s Disease nurses are employed in each Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 28827/11-15)

Mr Poots: The numbers of specialist Parkinson’s Disease nurses in each Health and Social Care Trust are shown in the table below.

Trust	Headcount	WTE
Belfast	1	1.0
Northern	1	1.0
South Eastern	1	1.0
Southern	1	1.0
Western	2	2.0

Source: HSC Trusts

Medicines Management Requirements

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions he has had with Health and Social Care Trusts concerning training nurses and social care workers to be aware of Medicines Management requirements, particularly as they apply to people living with (i) Parkinson’s Disease; and (ii) Diabetes.

(AQW 28828/11-15)

Mr Poots:

Nursing

Medicines management is integral within undergraduate nursing programmes and relevant post graduate programmes delivered by the universities and HSC Clinical Education Centre. Community Practitioner Prescribing is integral to the Specialist Practice Programmes of education for District Nurses and Health Visitors.

Specialist nurses working with clients who have Parkinson’s disease or Diabetes would have expertise in medicines management specific to these conditions.

Additionally, all nurses in practice are required to undertake mandatory updates in medicines management. HSC Trusts also complete a range of Audits on different aspects of Medicines Management requirements.

Social Care

All 5 Trusts state that social care staff receive training which is mainly in relation to “assisting” with Medicines as required by the RQIA. This includes Domiciliary Care, Day care, Supported living

Schemes or residential homes for older people or children/young people. This is accordance with RQIA Guidelines.

Regarding assistance with medication for people with Parkinson's Disease or diabetes social care staff are only trained to assist with oral medicines, which is outlined in RQIA Guidance. They are not however permitted to assist in preparation of or administration of insulin as this is not within their level of competence and remains the responsibility of the community nurse should a service user not be able to self-administer and is without family support.

Scheme for Waiting Time Measurement

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when a scheme for waiting time measurement, such as Referral to Treatment used in England and Wales, will be introduced locally. **(AQW 28832/11-15)**

Mr Poots: My Department has no plans at this time to measure waiting time for elective care on the basis of time from referral to treatment. Current targets for elective care are based on waiting times for first outpatient appointments, diagnostic tests and inpatient/day case treatment and the data collection and reporting systems reflect these targets.

Mental Health Issues in North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to (i) prevent; and (ii) raise awareness of, mental health issues in the North Down area. **(AQW 28842/11-15)**

Mr Poots: In the North Down area the Public Health Agency directly commissions a range of organisations to deliver services which prevent and raise awareness of mental health issues. These include:

- Mental health awareness raising and education programmes;
- Crisis response and counselling for high risk groups such as families affected by suicide, young men and people who self-harm;
- Personal development programmes;
- Drama based awareness/education interventions; and
- Development of community emergency response plans to respond to potential suicide clusters in the area.

In addition to these local services, residents and groups in North Down have access to a number of regional projects which include: awareness raising and stigma reduction programmes; Lifeline; Deliberate Self Harm Registry services and the Card Before You Leave (CBYL) protocol; and training on suicide/mental health awareness.

Mental health promotion also goes beyond the health and social care sector given the wide range of social factors that influence mental health and wellbeing. Emotional resilience is promoted in schools through the curriculum and the iMatter programme; job creation activity promotes positive mental health; sports contribute to good mental health and wellbeing; libraries and the arts have a role; as does the maintenance of clean, secure community neighbourhoods with good access to green spaces.

New Health and Care Centre: North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether a new health and care centre is planned for North Down. **(AQW 28843/11-15)**

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is planning to deliver a new health and care centre in the North Down area.

The consultation document on “Transforming Your Care: Vision to Action” included an illustrative model of “hub and spoke” Health and Care Centres across the region including North Down.

The Health and Social Care Board, through its Local Commissioning Groups and in association with all the HSC Trusts, has been undertaking detailed analysis to determine the most appropriate locations for the various hubs and spokes and identify priorities for the associated primary care infrastructure requirements. This work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Following that process, an exercise will be undertaken to develop business cases and prioritise within the available funding which will determine how work on individual hubs and spokes will progress.

Patients Removed by GP Practices

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 27529/11-15, how many patients have been removed by GP Practices from their practice list in each month of the last three years; and for what reason.

(AQW 28849/11-15)

Mr Poots: Table 1 below details the number of patients removed from GP practice lists, at the request of the practice, by month for the three years from April 2010 to March 2013.

The figures have been presented by reason for removal – either removal due to the patient being violent, or removal at the GP’s request due to other reasons.

These other reasons mainly fall into two categories: patients may be removed from a practice list if they move out of the catchment area covered by the practice; and GP practices may apply to remove patients from their list if the relationship between the doctor and the patient has broken down.

A more detailed breakdown of the reasons for which patients were removed from their practice list is not available.

Under Regulation 20 of the Health and Personal Social Services (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 a GP Practice has the right to remove a patient from their practice list if they have reasonable grounds which do not relate to race, gender, social class, marital status, age religion, political opinion, sexual orientation, appearance, disability, medical condition or whether or not the patient has dependents.

Table 1: The number of patients removed from GP practice lists, at the request of the practice, by month for the three years from April 2010 to March 2013.

Month	Year	Number of patients removed for being violent	Number of patients removed at GP’s request for other reasons
April	2010	4	124
May	2010	3	129
June	2010	2	149
July	2010	2	159
August	2010	2	114
September	2010	3	180
October	2010	2	143
November	2010	2	163
December	2010	1	193
January	2011	2	133

Month	Year	Number of patients removed for being violent	Number of patients removed at GP's request for other reasons
February	2011	3	115
March	2011	2	168
April	2011	3	162
May	2011	2	152
June	2011	3	138
July	2011	1	150
August	2011	2	162
September	2011	2	204
October	2011	4	196
November	2011	4	315
December	2011	5	354
January	2012	1	168
February	2012	1	149
March	2012	2	274
April	2012	3	280
May	2012	1	205
June	2012	4	209
July	2012	2	189
August	2012	1	238
September	2012	3	189
October	2012	4	256
November	2012	1	257
December	2012	2	284
January	2013	4	174
February	2013	8	286
March	2013	3	262

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

Children with Leukemia in the North West

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what services are in place in the North West for children with leukemia.

(AQW 28854/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that all children in the Western Health and Social Care Trust are managed under the care of the Regional Paediatric Oncology Unit in Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC). In the case of emergency presentations to Altnagelvin these patients are stabilised and

transferred to the RBHSC under their guidance; overnight stays are also conducted under RBHSC guidance.

Radiography Students

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how radiography students are placed on employment lists; (ii) whether radiography students can track their progression on employment lists; (iii) whether a radiography student can be offered a job without first undergoing an interview; and (iv) in instances where a radiography student receives temporary employment, whether they go back to the same position on the employment list when the temporary employment ends.

(AQW 28862/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) A radiography student (or other applicant) must first apply for an advertised Band 5 position and will be assessed in line with regional recruitment arrangements. If successful they will be placed on the regional waiting list.
- (ii) There is no formal mechanism to 'track progression' on the regional waiting list. Applicants will be informed if they have been successful and where requested may be advised of their position on the list, for example, top, middle or bottom range.
- (iii) In 2013, an Occupational Based Test was used as a selection method in place of an interview.
- (iv) When an individual is offered temporary employment, they are retained on the waiting list in their rank order for any permanent opportunities which arise. They will not be offered further temporary work whilst already in a temporary position. When the individual notifies that their temporary employment has ended, then they will be returned to the list for temporary work also in their original ranked position.

Belfast Genitourinary Medicine Clinics

Ms Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 27996/11-15, how Belfast Genitourinary Medicine clinics compare with similar clinics around the UK in terms of running costs; and which of those clinics operate a walk-in service.

(AQW 28876/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department does not hold information on Genitourinary Medicine Clinics in other regions of the United Kingdom.

As set out in my response to AQW 26835/11-15, there is a facility for emergency appointments in the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust's GUM clinic, whereby emergency cases are seen as walk-in after triage.

Stoma Care Appliances and Accessories

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the reasoning behind the recent changes in the arrangements for the prescribing of stoma care appliances and accessories in primary care.

(AQW 28908/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Board that there have been no recent changes to the arrangements for the prescribing of stoma care appliances and accessories in primary care.

The HSC Board has recently issued guidance reinforcing the existing arrangements for the prescribing of stoma care appliances and accessories to ensure that they are safely and effectively prescribed and dispensed to patients.

Stoma Care Appliances and Accessories

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consultation took place with stoma patients on the recent changes in the arrangements for the prescribing of stoma care appliances and accessories in primary care.

(AQW 28909/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Board that there have been no recent changes to the arrangements for the prescribing of stoma care appliances and accessories in primary care.

The HSC Board has recently issued guidance reinforcing the existing arrangements for the prescribing of stoma care appliances and accessories to ensure that they are safely and effectively prescribed. The Board shared the draft guidance with a regional working group of stoma specialist nurses before the guidance was finalised and issued. As this was a reinforcement of existing guidance, no formal consultation was considered necessary.

Number of Patients in Hospital, Nursing Home or Residential Home

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail, as of the 28 November 2013, the number of patients remaining in hospital, nursing home or residential home in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area, where a home care package is available but no private provider can be identified.

(AQW 28910/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not available centrally and was therefore requested from the Northern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust. Their reply can be found below.

As of the 28 November 2013, 6 clients across the Northern Trust were waiting for a home care package.

Health and Social Care Trust: Home Care Packages

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how long a home care package will remain available for a patient, where the package cannot be used because a Health and Social Care Trust cannot identify a private sector provider.

(AQW 28911/11-15)

Mr Poots: In circumstances where, following an assessment of need, a need for home care is identified, the allocation of a home care package will remain available for the duration of the individual's continuing eligible need.

Minor Injuries Unit in Bangor

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact of the temporary weekend closure of the Minor Injuries Unit in Bangor.

(AQW 28922/11-15)

Mr Poots: I regret the inconvenience which the temporary weekend closure may cause some people, but the South Eastern Trust has advised that it is necessary because of a staff shortage. The decision to close the minor injuries unit at weekends is designed to minimise the impact on patients, as fewer people use it at weekends. The Trust has indicated that the small number of patients requiring treatment for minor injuries at weekends can be managed in the Ulster Hospital's Emergency Department.

Safeguarding Measures to Protect Vulnerable Adults

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what safeguarding measures are in place to protect vulnerable adults; (ii) how these compare to international best practice; and (iii) whether he has any plans to review or improve the current safeguarding practices.

(AQW 28924/11-15)

Mr Poots: Safeguarding adults at risk of harm is not the sole responsibility of one Department and this is reflected in the Programme for Government, which includes keeping adults safe from harm as a commitment.

My Department, and its arm lengths bodies, have a range of adult safeguarding measures in place. A generic Safeguarding People standard has been developed for inclusion in all current and future Departmental Service Frameworks. The standard requires that people of all ages are safeguarded from harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect.

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) undertakes inspections of regulated services to ensure the care provided reaches the minimum standards set by my Department for providers of residential, nursing and domiciliary care facilities and their staff. RQIA can apply sanctions where they consider standards have not been met. The RQIA also has a range of responsibilities relating to people with a mental illness and those with a learning disability.

There are also a range of legislative safeguards in place, aimed at providing protections for those who are resident in, or attend, care facilities. The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, the Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 require criminal record checks to be carried out on staff working in care facilities, including a check of the list of those barred from working in specified activities with adults by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007, the DBS makes barring decisions based on information provided to it by employers and a range of other bodies. Individuals found to have harmed a vulnerable adult, or placed them at risk of harm, will be considered by the DBS for inclusion in its barred lists.

The Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) is the key multi-agency partnership working since 2010 to bring together organisations and communities of interest who have a significant contribution to make to safeguarding adults. The NIASP Strategic Plan 2013-18 provides a strategic approach to safeguarding adults based on local, national and international research; best practice guidance; the views of actual and potential service users; the views of NIASP member organisations and consultation with expert practitioners. NIASP is currently updating The Regional Adult Protection Policy and Procedural Guidance and the Protocol for the Joint Investigation of Alleged and Suspected Cases of Abuse of Vulnerable Adults.

Jointly with the Department of Justice, DHSSPS is taking forward the development of a Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy Framework. It will stipulate a number of policy objectives ranging from the prevention of adult abuse through implementation of good safeguarding arrangements to effective protective responses from lead protection agencies (principally the police and social services) when adult abuse occurs or is suspected. Our aim is to shift the balance of emphasis towards prevention (keeping adults safe and helping them to keep themselves safe) and away from protection (being reactive to abuse), without exposing any vulnerable adult to unnecessary risk.

The policy will be informed by national and international best practice. Our consent driven, person centered approach to delivering the outcome preferred by the adult is also found across their adult safeguarding practices.

Finally, in April 2009 my Department commissioned the Volunteer Development Agency (Volunteer Now since 2010) to develop standards and guidelines for organisations working with vulnerable adults in the voluntary, community and independent sectors.

Transforming Your Care

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he will ensure that Transforming your Care aligns with housing strategies.

(AQW 28933/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland recognised the need for coordinated delivery of government services to address health inequalities and in the area of housing.

This requirement was echoed by respondents to the subsequent “Transforming Your Care: Vision to Action” public consultation.

The TYC theme “to support people to live independently at home for as long as possible” is reflected in the second theme of the DSD Housing Strategy “Facing the Future” – “Meeting housing needs and supporting the most vulnerable”.

My Department has an ongoing engagement with the Department for Social Development (DSD), who have overall control and responsibility for preparing and directing social housing policy in Northern Ireland, and with other agencies, to ensure that we understand and share plans on housing.

It is important that this collaborative approach continues so that all Departments work positively together in order to improve the lives of people across Northern Ireland.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Outpatient Clinics

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of outpatient clinics cancelled in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, over the last four years.
(AQW 28970/11-15)

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

Information on the number of consultant-led appointments cancelled by the hospital is published on an annual basis and is available to view or download from:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/outpatients.htm

The number of appointments cancelled by the hospital by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust over the last four years can be found on p.20 of the current publication.

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust: Outpatient Appointments

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of outpatient appointments missed over the last four years in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.
(AQW 28971/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of consultant-led appointments missed by the patient (Did Not Attend) is published on an annual basis and is available to view or download from:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/hospital-stats/outpatients.htm

The number of appointments missed by the patient (DNAs) in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust over the last four years can be found on p.20 of the current publication.

Department of Justice

Mediation: Public Support

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total cost of public support for (i) family mediation; (ii) the Bar Mediation Service; and (iii) collaborative law, in each of the last five years, including a breakdown of the number of individual cases involved for each.
(AQW 28615/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (the Commission) does not currently fund Collaborative Law Mediation.

The Commission does not fund the Bar Mediation Service.

The total cost of payments made by the Commission for Family Mediation is detailed in Table A, with the volume of certificates paid detailed in Table B.

Table A – Family Mediation payments made:

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
Total	£1,467	£13,753	£18,033	£26,607	£8,930

Table B – Volume of certificates against which payments were made:

	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
Total	6	29	35	51	19

Mediation: Success Rates

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice whether any research has been carried out to determine the performance and success rates of publically funded (i) family mediation; (ii) Bar Mediation Service; and (iii) collaborative law cases.

(AQW 28616/11-15)

Mr Ford: As discussions in mediation are confidential and the results are not disclosed to either the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission or the courts, the information requested is not available.

Cost of Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 27702/11-15, whether such a levy would (i) assist in off-setting the overall annual Legal Aid bill; and (ii) make offenders, particularly repeat offenders, partially responsible for their defence.

(AQW 28637/11-15)

Mr Ford: The introduction of an offender levy to contribute to the legal aid fund could be used to assist in off-setting the overall annual legal aid bill. However, enforcing the payment of contributions from offenders who have insufficient funds to pay for their own representation, would come at a cost to the fund which is currently unknown. I have asked my officials to consider this matter further and I will write to you when this further consideration has been completed.

Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland: Anonymity Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the action that his Department is taking, through the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service or relevant agency, to make all relevant people in courts, including legal practitioners and the judiciary, aware of the judgement by the Lord Chief Justice on Anonymity Orders delivered on 8 July 2013; and to confirm whether this judgement will also apply to the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 28642/11-15)

Mr Ford: A summary of the judgment in this case was issued on 7 August 2013 by the Office of the Lord Chief Justice to media organisations and all judges. The summary was also published on the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service website. The defendant in this case pleaded guilty on 28 August 2013 and the full judgment was published on 5 September 2013. A copy of the judgment was forwarded to the Law Society, Bar Library and the Public Prosecution Service. A further copy has also been published on the British and Irish Legal Information Institute website.

The judgment sets out the procedure for judges considering an application for an order for anonymity and is relevant to both the prosecution and the defence.

Anti-Human Trafficking in Schools Programme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the success of the anti-human trafficking in schools programme; and what plans he has to expand and further develop this initiative. **(AQW 28649/11-15)**

Mr Ford: On 7 August 2013, I launched an education resource pack on human trafficking in Parliament Buildings. Over 90 people attended the launch, including teachers, young people and representatives from the Belfast Education and Library Board and the North Eastern Education and Library Board.

All post primary schools in Northern Ireland have received correspondence to notify them of the pack and a number of events across Northern Ireland have been organised by members of the Human Trafficking Engagement Group to promote the resource pack.

Since its launch, the pack has been accessed 537 times on the Department of Education's C2k website and six schools have contacted my Department to say that they plan to incorporate the resource into their lessons. I am aware of a further three schools that have received presentations from my officials or members of the Engagement Group. A Further and Higher Education College is also using the resource pack with its full time students.

Building on the launch of this resource pack, my Department encouraged schools to mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2013. Over twenty schools and one Further and Higher Education College held events in October to raise awareness of human trafficking.

My Department and its partners on the Engagement Group are continuing to build networks with post primary schools across Northern Ireland and the education subgroup will seek ways to further raise awareness of the issue and promote use of the resource pack, in schools.

The Engagement Group plans to carry out further assessment of the resource pack at the end of the academic year. This assessment will include both quantitative and qualitative analyses of its impact.

The Engagement Group aims to develop further plans for engagement with third level students on the issue of human trafficking during the 2014-15 business year.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) tenders awarded; and (ii) funding provided to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013. **(AQW 28693/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice (DOJ), including its Agencies but not its arm's length bodies, has not awarded tenders or provided funding to organisations in Derry to deliver the City of Culture 2013.

However, the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) spent £3,558 hosting its own event for young people, as part of the City of Culture celebrations, called 'Making a Difference, Loving Our Lives: MAD lol'. The purpose of the event was to showcase all the good that young people do within their own communities that rarely gets the recognition it deserves.

Also, the Prison Arts Foundation (which is a charitable trust) is holding an exhibition of current and ex-prisoners art work at the Playhouse, Derry, during December and the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is providing some practical support in the organisation of this event.

YJA and NIPS are both Executive Agencies of the DOJ.

Legal Aid: Professions

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice for a breakdown of the professions, that are used as experts in legal cases, that are in receipt of Legal Aid payments through disbursements.

(AQW 28698/11-15)

Mr Ford: It is a matter for the Court to determine whether any individual can give evidence in the capacity of an expert witness. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide a definitive list of professions that are used as expert witnesses. The attached list is comprised of those who have been paid as an expert witness in the past.

List of Experts paid from Legal Aid

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ■ A&E consultant | ■ Meteorologist |
| ■ Accountant | ■ Midwife |
| ■ Anaesthetist | ■ Neonatologist |
| ■ Architect | ■ Neurologist |
| ■ Cardiologist | ■ Neuropsychiatrist |
| ■ Cell telephone site analysis | ■ Neuroradiologist |
| ■ Child psychiatrist | ■ Paediatric Neurologist |
| ■ Child psychologist | ■ Neurosurgeon |
| ■ Computer expert | ■ Nursing expert |
| ■ Consultant engineer | ■ Obstetrician |
| ■ Dentist | ■ Occupational therapist |
| ■ Dermatologist | ■ Oncologist |
| ■ Doctor (GP) | ■ Orthopaedic surgeon |
| ■ Drug expert | ■ Paediatrician |
| ■ Engineer | ■ Pathologist |
| ■ ENT surgeon | ■ Pharmacologist |
| ■ Facial mapping | ■ Physiotherapist |
| ■ Fingerprint expert | ■ Plastic surgeon |
| ■ Fire investigation | ■ Process server |
| ■ Firearm expert | ■ Psychiatrist |
| ■ Forensic scientist | ■ Psychologist |
| ■ General surgeon | ■ Radiologist |
| ■ Geneticist | ■ Rheumatologist |
| ■ GP (records report) | ■ Risk assessment expert |
| ■ Gynaecologist | ■ Speech therapist |
| ■ Haematologist | ■ Surgeon |
| ■ Handwriting expert | ■ Surveyor |
| ■ Interpreter | ■ Telecoms expert |
| ■ Lip reader/Signer | ■ Toxicologist |
| ■ Mediator | ■ Urologist |
| ■ Medical consultant | ■ Vet |
| ■ Medical microbiologist | ■ Voice recognition expert |

Legal Aid: Disbursements

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Justice to detail how much was paid through Legal Aid in disbursements, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 28699/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below details the disbursements paid under all of the Legal Aid schemes over the past three financial years. It is not possible to break down the individual components paid as disbursements.

Year	LAA	ABWOR	Children Order	Civil	Criminal	Total
10/11	£411,689	£57,281	£598,910	£3,689,427	£3,061,565	£7,818,872
11/12	£349,501	£66,260	£713,743	£4,969,259	£2,354,672	£8,453,435
12/13	£222,588	£57,782	£568,549	£5,216,098	£2,272,543	£8,337,560

Private Hire Taxis: Breaches of Regulations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for (i) operating as a taxi driver without the appropriate licence; (ii) taxi driver carrying more passengers than licence or vehicle permits; and (iii) operating as a taxi without the required insurance, in each of the last three years, broken down by court division,

(AQW 28760/11-15)

Mr Ford: Offences relating to convictions for operating as a taxi driver without the appropriate licence may be prosecuted under Article 13 of the Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and previously Article 79A of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 or, as having no PSV licence, under Article 3(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. Offences relating to convictions for carrying excess passengers may be prosecuted under Article 62(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. Offences relating to convictions for no insurance may be prosecuted under Article 90(4) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

In relation to most of these offences, information held by my Department does not specify whether a conviction related specifically to taxis, or to taxi drivers, so, for parts (ii) and (iii) of the question, it has not been possible to provide the information requested.

The table below gives the number of convictions for operating as a taxi driver without the appropriate licence/no PSV licence by court division, for 2007, 2008 and 2009. These are the most recent three years for which the information requested is available.

Table: Convictions for operating as a taxi driver without the appropriate licence/no PSV licence by Court Division

Year	Convictions by Court Division
2007	Belfast (1), Fermanagh and Tyrone (1)
2008	Antrim (1), Armagh and South Down (1), Belfast (1)
2009	Antrim (1)

- (1) Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

People on Bail on Committing Offences

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many persons on bail, in respect of a charge, or charges, that was proceeding through the court system, were charged with committing a further offence, or offences, whilst subject to bail, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 28761/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information in respect of offences committed while on bail may be available on an individual case basis. However, information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Proposed Changes to Legal Aid

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many representations his Department has received on the proposed cuts to Legal Aid; and how many of these expressed concern or opposition over the proposals.

(AQW 28774/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department has received 123 representations in response to consultations on proposals for legal aid reform. Of the 69 who expressed concern or opposition 47 were from members of the legal profession or their representative bodies. The Department has also received 11 requests to meet with the Minister of Justice and 20 items of correspondence on this subject.

Prisoners Requiring Treatment from an Outside Hospital

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 27906/11-15, on how many occasions has a prisoner required treatment from an outside hospital in each of the last two years; and how many of these were regarded, or latterly regarded, as vulnerable prisoners.

(AQW 28810/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service records self harm incidents (including suicide attempts) where the prisoner attended outside hospital immediately following the incident. From 1 December 2012 to 30 November 2013 there were 83 incidents and for the same period in 2011/12 there were 61 incidents.

In all but one of these incidents, the prisoner was either being supported under the Supporting Prisoners at Risk (SPAR) procedures at the time of the incident or the SPAR procedures were subsequently commenced.

Prisoners: Medical and Emotional Support Services

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 27906/11-15, what assurances he can give that all vulnerable prisoners are afforded care and access to the appropriate medical and emotional support services, within the stipulated time frame, identical to that afforded to people in the community with the same issues.

(AQW 28811/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am satisfied that the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) provides all vulnerable prisoners with access to appropriate medical and emotional support services.

As the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust are responsible for healthcare in prisons, the Member may wish to write to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in respect of the comparison between service delivery in prisons and in the community.

Prisoners: Keys to Their Own Cells

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 27405/11-15 whether all prisoners currently holding their own cell keys do so under strict supervision; and whether any prisoners are self-regulating, or similar, due to staff being in fear of patrolling landings or due to staff shortages
(AQW 28812/11-15)

Mr Ford: All prisoners currently holding their own cell keys are closely supervised. Staff hold a master key for all cells and remain in control at all times. There is no self regulation.

People Charged and Convicted of Serious Sexual Offences

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice what steps his Department can take to help ensure that people charged and convicted of serious sexual offences are not housed in close proximity to schools.
(AQW 28818/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department issues guidance to agencies, with responsibility for assessing and managing the risks posed by serious sexual and violent offenders, in discharging their functions under the public protection arrangements for Northern Ireland.

Convicted sex offenders are subject to a range of statutory measures aimed at reducing their risk of reoffending. These can include post-release licence conditions, sex offender notification requirements and sexual offences prevention orders which may place restrictions on residence as part of the offender's risk management. For those who present the highest level of risk, the public protection arrangements offer a combined approach to both risk assessment and management drawing on the knowledge and expertise of a range of relevant agencies to work collectively on individual cases.

Risk management plans are individually tailored to address the specific risks identified on a case by case basis. All relevant factors, including location, are taken into consideration in the approval of accommodation. The key consideration for those agencies managing offenders must be that it is appropriate in terms of meeting an individual's ongoing supervision requirements and minimises the risk of harm to the public.

Reporting of Super-Injunctions

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Justice what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the UK Ministry of Justice concerning the reporting of Super-Injunctions.
(AQW 28830/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no legal definition of the term 'super-injunction'. However the question has been interpreted as seeking information on orders prohibiting publicity on the granting of injunctive relief.

I have not discussed the reporting of such orders with the Secretary of State for Justice, or any other Minister in the Ministry of Justice.

An Injunction Order includes provision to vary or discharge the order through an application to the High Court. However, should an individual decide to initiate an appeal, they must serve the appropriate notice on all parties within 21 days (if it is an interim order) or six weeks (if it is a final order) from the date the order was filed.

Within seven days of service the appeal should be entered for hearing by lodging the following documents and fee in the Central Office, Royal Courts of Justice:-

- two copies of the Notice of Appeal, one of which must be endorsed with service details.
- a copy of the Order of the Court to be appealed and
- the requisite fee of £500.00.

Reporting of Super-Injunctions

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Justice to outline the system for appealing against the application of a Super-Injunction.

(AQW 28831/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no legal definition of the term ‘super-injunction’. However the question has been interpreted as seeking information on orders prohibiting publicity on the granting of injunctive relief.

I have not discussed the reporting of such orders with the Secretary of State for Justice, or any other Minister in the Ministry of Justice.

An Injunction Order includes provision to vary or discharge the order through an application to the High Court. However, should an individual decide to initiate an appeal, they must serve the appropriate notice on all parties within 21 days (if it is an interim order) or six weeks (if it is a final order) from the date the order was filed.

Within seven days of service the appeal should be entered for hearing by lodging the following documents and fee in the Central Office, Royal Courts of Justice:-

- two copies of the Notice of Appeal, one of which must be endorsed with service details.
- a copy of the Order of the Court to be appealed and
- the requisite fee of £500.00.

Purchase and Use of Paintball Guns

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Justice what is the current age restriction for the purchase and use of paintball guns; and whether the plans to lower the age at which a young person may have supervised access to firearms includes the use of paintball guns.

(AQW 28861/11-15)

Mr Ford: A paintball marker (gun) is defined by the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 as a firearm and as such requires to be held on a firearm certificate (FAC). To apply for a FAC, a person must be at least 18 years of age.

Paintball clubs operate as firearms clubs approved by the Chief Constable. They are marshalled and the minimum age for participants is 16 years.

The Department of Justice's recent consultation on young shooters dealt with young people having access to shotguns and airguns under appropriate supervision. I have no plans to reduce the age at which young people can access paintball guns at this juncture. The matter has not been raised with me before and if it were to be considered it would need to be the subject of consultation.

Appeals Against Super-Injunctions

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Justice how many appeals against super-injunctions have been successful in since 1 January 2010.

(AQW 28881/11-15)

Mr Ford: There is no legal definition of the term “super injunction”, however the question has been interpreted as seeking information on orders prohibiting publicity on the granting of injunctive relief. There has been one successful appeal in a case of this type since 1 January 2010.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice when he will bring the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission into his Department as an agency; and whether he intends to take similar action in relation to the Taxing Master and Very High Cost Cases.

(AQW 28913/11-15)

Mr Ford: The necessary primary legislation to transfer the functions and staff of the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission into my Department will be introduced in the Assembly early in 2014. The agency will be established as soon as Royal Assent is received.

I have proposed that the Taxing Master's functions in respect of the assessment of fees for legally aided assistance in civil cases will transfer to the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission. This will deliver annual savings of £3m in administration costs. I have no plans to make any other change to the office of the Taxing Master, which will remain within the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service. The Taxing Master will remain a member of the independent judiciary, as at present.

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 28349/11-15, will he reconsider this response given that any such case would be within the court system and therefore under the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service's remit and the wording of the application is stated as to the nature of the reason for the application before a District Judge.

(AQW 28915/11-15)

Mr Ford: As at 9 December 2013 there are no current applications for Sexual Offences Prevention Orders. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service may hold the information requested in part two of AQW 28349/11-15. However this could only be obtained by a manual review of the originating hardcopy documents for each application. On this basis, the information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Disclosure of Criminal Convictions

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the recent discovery of two foreign national convicted sex-offenders residing in close proximity to a school, which would not have occurred if their past convictions had been known, what legislation or interim legislation will he bring forward to ensure foreign nationals are subject to the same restrictions and monitoring as Northern Ireland's nationals in these circumstances; and for his assessment of need for the disclosure of all criminal convictions, particularly sexual and violence offences, before foreign nationals arrive in Northern Ireland, if they intend to stay, and for Northern Ireland nationals leaving the jurisdiction to reside elsewhere.

(AQW 28917/11-15)

Mr Ford: Sex offenders with convictions from other jurisdictions are currently made subject to the notification requirements under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 by virtue of a notification order. This order is made by the court on application by the police when they know that an offender with convictions for sexual offences is coming to stay in the jurisdiction, or as soon as they are made aware that such an offender is in Northern Ireland.

I have already taken steps in the Criminal Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 to tighten the arrangements for sex offenders coming to Northern Ireland. On commencement, section 4 of the 2013 Act will amend the Sexual Offences Act to make it a statutory requirement for an offender with convictions from other jurisdictions to notify to the police after spending a qualifying period of 7 days within Northern Ireland. Failure to do so constitutes an offence and can result in a prison sentence of up to five years.

Other issues relating to border controls and immigration are not devolved matters.

Department's Register of Gifts and Hospitality

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

(AQW 29007/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Special Adviser has registered one offer of hospitality in the Department's Register of Gifts and Hospitality since his appointment. The offer was declined.

Criminal Records Checks: Disclosure of Convictions

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Justice whether he is aware of the Court of Appeal ruling in January 2013, *R on the application of T, JB and AW v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, Secretary of State for the Home Department and Secretary of State of Justice* [2013] EWCA Civ 25, that the mandatory and blanket disclosure of convictions as part of a criminal records check was incompatible with Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights on the right to respect for private life; and what action he has taken in regard to this ruling.

(AQW 29036/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am aware of the case referred to. In her 2011 Part 1 report, "A Managed Approach - A Review of the Criminal Records Regime in Northern Ireland", Sunita Mason recommended that AccessNI should routinely disclose informed warnings, cautions and details of diversionary youth conferences on Standard and Enhanced checks. She also recommended that the Department should bring forward proposals to filter out convictions which are both old and minor, and criminal information such as cautions for disclosure purposes. These recommendations were the subject of a public consultation carried out between May 2012 and August 2012. Both received broad support from respondents.

The Department had planned to run a further public consultation on the precise nature of a filtering scheme here. In view of legal advice which I sought following the ruling in November 2012 by the European Court of Human Rights that the disclosure of a caution in the case of *MM v United Kingdom* (Application No 24029/07) was a violation of Article 8 (right to privacy), and the judgment by the Court of Appeal in England and Wales in the cases you refer to, I have decided to introduce legislation as soon as possible to provide for the introduction of a filtering scheme. The scheme will be comparable to that which came into effect in England and Wales on 29 May 2013. It will also allow for the routine disclosure of informed warnings, cautions and details of diversionary youth conferences on Standard and Enhanced checks.

At this is a cross cutting issue I have obtained the agreement of the Executive to the introduction of the scheme. Work to prepare the necessary legislation is now underway.

Criminal Records Checks: Disclosure of Convictions

Dr McDonnell asked Minister of Justice whether he has considered introducing a filtering mechanism to prevent old or minor convictions appearing on a criminal records check, similar to the The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2013 and The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Record Certificates: Relevant Matters) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2013, which came into effect on the 29 May 2013 in England and Wales.

(AQW 29037/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am aware of the case referred to. In her 2011 Part 1 report, "A Managed Approach - A Review of the Criminal Records Regime in Northern Ireland", Sunita Mason recommended that AccessNI should routinely disclose informed warnings, cautions and details of diversionary youth conferences on Standard and Enhanced checks. She also recommended that the Department should bring forward proposals to filter out convictions which are both old and minor, and criminal information such as cautions for disclosure purposes. These recommendations were the subject of a public consultation carried out between May 2012 and August 2012. Both received broad support from respondents.

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to that which came into effect in England and Wales on 29 May 2013. It will also allow for the routine disclosure of informed warnings, cautions and details of diversionary youth conferences on Standard and Enhanced checks.

At this is a cross cutting issue I have obtained the agreement of the Executive to the introduction of the scheme. Work to prepare the necessary legislation is now underway.

Part-Time Reserve Support Programme

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 27033/11-15, in light of the limited time until the end of the current financial year, whether his Department has finalised the administration, funding and audit arrangements for the Part-Time Reserve Support Programme.

(AQW 29108/11-15)

Mr Ford: Officials from my Department have been engaging with a number of the policing charities to work on the arrangements for administering the Part-Time Reserve (PTR) Support Programme, and this work is continuing. It is anticipated that part of the monies will be disbursed in the current financial year.

Independent Monitoring Report: Her Majesty's Prisons in Northern Ireland

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether the independent monitoring report regarding Her Majesty's Prisons in Northern Ireland is ready for publication; and to explain the reasons for any delay in the publication.

(AQW 29154/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Annual Reports of the Independent Monitoring Boards for Maghaberry Prison, Magilligan Prison and Hydebank Wood Prison & Young Offenders Centre were electronically published on 6 December 2013, the planned publication date. They can be viewed or downloaded from www.imb-ni.org.uk.

HM Prison Service: Uniform Survey

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline (i) why HM Prison service has launched a uniform survey; and (ii) any plans to remove the letters MPM or the symbol of the crown from the uniforms.

(AQW 29190/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service has launched a uniform survey at the request of the Whitley B Committee. This Committee forms part of the Whitley Council industrial relations framework between management and Trade Union Side and it meets quarterly to deal with any issues relating to uniform or health and safety matters. The aim of the survey is to get the views of staff on the suitability of the current uniform items issued to operational grades within NIPS.

The letters MPM do not appear on prison uniforms. A note to staff on the Prison Service intranet stated specifically that the survey does not include insignia on uniform.

Children Identified as Victims of Human Trafficking

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the 17 children identified as victims of human trafficking, to provide (i) the countries of origin involved; and (ii) the average age of the children.

(AQW 29220/11-15)

Mr Ford: From 1 April 2013 to 9 December 2013, 17 minors have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism as potential victims of human trafficking, for assessment of whether they are victims of human trafficking.

To date, three of these potential victims have received conclusive determinations confirming them to be victims of human trafficking and five of the individuals have received conclusive determinations that they have not been identified as victims of human trafficking. Of the remaining cases, two have been withdrawn and decisions are still pending in seven cases.

In order to protect the identities of victims, it is not possible to provide more specific information about the three individuals who have been confirmed as victims of human trafficking.

National Crime Agency

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice to outline any further progress in having the National Crime Agency fully operational locally.

(AQO 5212/11-15)

Mr Ford: I set out the position on my engagement with Sinn Féin and the SDLP on this issue during Questions on 19 November. Significant progress had been made but we have not concluded our exchanges. I wrote to the parties again on 25 November impressing the urgency upon them.

I want to stress again that we need the NCA to operate in Northern Ireland in the devolved arena with all the necessary powers available to it. I have offered assurances that its operation would be with the full knowledge and agreement of the Chief Constable and would be subject to appropriate oversight from our policing architecture.

We need to resolve this matter.

Prisoners/Prison Officers: Number

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Justice to outline the number of prisoners and prison officers in 1998 compared to 2013.

(AQO 5214/11-15)

Mr Ford: On 1 April 1998 the prisoner population in Northern Ireland was 1507. On 1 April 2013 it was 1793.

On 1 April 1998 the Northern Ireland Prison Service employed 2824 prison staff. On 1 April 2013 it employed 1288 staff.

Justice/Home Affairs

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the UK Government's decision to opt out of the EU third pillar, justice and home affairs measures.

(AQO 5215/11-15)

Mr Ford: I expressed reservations to the UK Government about their intention to exercise the opt-out prior to the decision being made. I also made my views known to a Joint House of Lords Committee Inquiry set up to consider the 2014 Opt Out.

My concern is that while some measures in the list of 130 are less used than others, some of them are important tools for our criminal justice agencies. Some of the measures also help to combat cross-border crime and facilitate the excellent cooperation that exists with the Irish Republic on these matters. I expressed particular concern about the European Arrest Warrant which is one of the 130 measures that the UK will opt out of from 2014.

I am however pleased that the European Arrest Warrant is included in the list of 35 measures that the UK will seek to rejoin but I remain concerned that there is no agreed process or timetable in place for the negotiation process and the potential for an operational gap after December 2014.

I am exploring with MOJ the possibility of the UK having access to the measure that would recognise probation orders. This is not currently on the list of 35 measures

The Home Secretary and UK Ministers are aware of my views on the opt-out and I will continue to press for assurances that there will be no operational gap. My officials are also engaged with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice on this important matter.

Policing Districts

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Justice to outline any discussions he has had with the Chief Constable regarding the need for Policing Districts to be co-terminus with the new council structures.

(AQO 5216/11-15)

Mr Ford: The reorganisation of local government is the responsibility of the Minister of the Environment, and I have not had any discussions with the Chief Constable on this matter to date. The proposed new council structures will not be co-terminus with current PSNI district boundaries, and this has a range of implications for policing governance and accountability arrangements, which my officials will explore with the PSNI and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Asset Recovery Community Scheme

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the Asset Recovery Community Scheme.

(AQO 5217/11-15)

Mr Ford: Since it was first launched in 2011, the Asset Recovery Community Scheme has awarded in excess of £1.7 million to projects aimed at fighting crime and the fear of crime. The latest award will be formally announced next week.

The schemes being supported include diversionary activities for the young, making the elderly more secure in their own homes and projects aimed at reducing drug and alcohol abuse in our communities. They are based throughout Northern Ireland and are benefitting both urban and rural areas.

Not only are these projects bringing something positive to our community but there is an added sense of justice in that they are being funded through assets recovered from criminals.

Troubles: Prosecutions

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Justice to outline any discussions he has had with the Attorney General following his public comments regarding the ending of prosecution for criminal offences arising out of the Troubles.

(AQO 5218/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have not had any discussions with the Attorney General on the comments he made recently about ending prosecutions for criminal offences arising out of the Troubles.

Prisoners: Annual Costs

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the average annual cost per prisoner, in each of the last three years. (AQO 5219/11-15)

Mr Ford: As published in the Northern Ireland Prison Service's Annual Report and Accounts, the average cost per prisoner place in last three years was £73,762 in 2010/11, £71,398 in 2011/12 and £66,494 in 2012/13.

This cost is calculated by dividing the annual Operating Expenditure (excluding non-standard costs) by the average total number of places, defined as Certified Normal Accommodation.

Department for Regional Development

Percentage of Budget Spent on Cycling

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what percentage of his budget was spent on cycling in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 26785/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): The table below shows the percentage of my Department's Capital budget spent on cycling measures in each of the last ten years (2003/04 to 2012/13) and planned for 2013-14. The recently established Cycling Unit, will seek to coordinate and promote the work being taken forward in relation to cycling and as such, spend on this activity is expected to increase in future years.

Percentage of Department Expenditure on Cycling

	2003/ 04 %	2004/ 05 %	2005/ 06 %	2006/ 07 %	2007/ 08 %	2008/ 09 %	2009/ 10 %	2010/ 11 %	2011/ 12 %	2012/ 13 %	2013/ 14 %
Cycling Projects	0.34	0.25	0.21	0.29	0.24	0.22	0.17	0.07	0.32	0.24	0.48

Charges in Car Parks Owned by Department in Lurgan and Portadown

Mr Moutray asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to abolish charges in car parks owned by his Department in Lurgan and Portadown, to allievate the effect of charges on local businesses.

(AQW 28299/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Member will be aware I have made a number of important decisions relating to parking charges including freezing the current off street tariffs, rejection of the proposal to introduce on street charging and the introduction of a cashless payment system for parking, Park Mobile. These decisions have been very beneficial to local business and were made against a backdrop of the requirement to recover costs and the need to effectively manage town centre parking, by promoting greater turnover of spaces and enhancing accessibility to businesses and services in our local towns and cities.

I have also recently announced the introduction of a new Christmas parking rate of five hours parking for just one pound, in 95 of my Department's car parks in 25 towns. Lurgan and Portadown are included in this scheme and I am confident this scheme, along with the other measures I announced, will provide a welcome boost for traders and encourage the public to continue to support their local economy by shopping locally.

I am continuing to work with my officials to explore other ways in which I can improve the parking experience to the benefit of local businesses. These include, allowing greater involvement by local councils, who may reimburse my Department, if they wish to promote free or reduced cost parking promotions.

The initiatives already in place and consideration of other potential improvements, continue to demonstrate my commitment to supporting local businesses.

Dualling of the A6 from Derry to the M22

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development why AQW 27642/11-15 remains unanswered.
(AQW 28398/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I can advise the Member I responded to Assembly Question 27642/11-15 on 19 November 2013.

Dualling of A6 Between Dungiven and Castledawson

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 27642/11-15, whether there is a scheme planned to dual the A6 between Dungiven and Castledawson.

(AQW 28508/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has no current scheme to dual the A6 between Dungiven and Castledawson.

Road Resurfacing in the Dellmount and Fairfield Areas of Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the timescale for road resurfacing in the Dellmount and Fairfield areas of Bangor.

(AQW 28595/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department is currently undertaking a footway reconstruction scheme within the Dellmount and Fairfield areas of Bangor. During the course of this work the kerb-line is being set to a height that will enable the carriageway to be resurfaced, without disturbing the new footway surface. Whilst there is currently insufficient funding available to proceed with resurfacing of the carriageway, the situation will be reviewed if extra funding is secured.

Decentralise Functions to Derry

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to 28012/11-15, to detail (i) why there are only 64 civil servants from his Department based in Derry and (ii) whether he intends to decentralise any functions to Derry to aid economic growth in the North West region.

(AQW 28608/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's staffing structure reflects the manpower required to deliver its essential functions to the public in the most effective and efficient way.

In accordance with the terms of the question, my response to AQW 28012/11-15 was restricted to posts in non-industrial grades. I should, however, point out that in addition to the 64 non-industrial posts shown as being based in the Derry City Council area at 1 January 2013, DRD also employed 25 industrial staff in the same area on that date.

Given the need to manage and maintain the regional road network, DRD is already one of the Departments with the highest proportions of staff based at locations outside the Greater Belfast area. The Department is continuously reviewing its structure and operations to optimise economic growth across Northern Ireland. At present, however, there are no plans to decentralise further jobs within DRD to the North West or to other centres outside Belfast.

A509 Between Enniskillen and Derrylin: Realignments

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on planned realignments to the A509 between Enniskillen and Derrylin.

(AQW 28625/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has two schemes planned for the A509 between Derrylin and Enniskillen, one at Derryhawlaght and one at Derryallen, details of which are contained in the Draft Local Transport & Safety Measures programme 2014 – 2016, which was presented to Fermanagh District Council on 18 Nov 2013.

The scheme at Derryhawlaght will involve carriageway realignment, both vertically and horizontally, over a distance of approximately 800 metres. It is estimated the works will in the region of £1.2 million. Detailed design is at an advanced stage and it is expected that land purchase will take place in 2014/15. Progression to construction will, however, be subject to successful acquisition of the land and the availability of funding.

The scheme at Derryallen will involve horizontal carriageway realignment over a distance of approximately 1,100 metres and at an estimated cost of £300,000. Whilst land has been acquired, delivery of this scheme will be dependent upon the availability of funding and its prioritisation within the works programme for the Fermanagh area.

Funding Allocated for Roads: North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the funding allocated for roads in his departmental budget for the North Down area.

(AQW 28626/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: £3.7m of my departmental budget has been allocated for roads in the North Down area.

Roads Service: Consultations on Planning Applications

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average length of time it takes for Roads Service to reply to a consultation on a planning application.

(AQW 28634/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department does not maintain details of the average length of time taken to reply to planning application consultations. Response times for consultations vary according to factors such as, the scale and complexity of the application and the quality and completeness of the information provided in the application.

However, my Department's Roads Service has a target, agreed with DOE Planning, to return 70% of all planning application consultations to the relevant Divisional Planning Office within 15 working days of receipt.

To date in the 2013/14 year, Roads Service has achieved performance of 82%.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

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

(AQW 28694/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department contributed £16k to Derry City Council to support the City of Culture 2013.

The Department did not award any tenders in respect of the City of Culture 2013.

Park and Ride Facility for the 212 Service

Mr Ó hAisín asked the Minister for Regional Development whether a survey on the usage of the Park and Ride facility for the 212 Service has been carried out at the stop in Dungiven; and if so, to detail the results.

(AQW 28728/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: A survey of the informal park and ride at Dungiven Castle and Dungiven Health Centre was undertaken in April 2010, as part of the planning process for the Londonderry to Dungiven dual carriageway. Approximately 26 vehicles were recorded as being parked in the morning and remaining for the whole day and approximately 14 vehicles dropped off bus passengers in the morning and 14 vehicles picked up bus passengers in the evening.

A new park and share/ride site at Magheraboy Terrace will be provided as part of the Londonderry to Dungiven dual carriageway. This site is located about 200 metres east of the Dungiven East roundabout, where the dual carriageway terminates.

Retrospective Planning Application at Mobouy Road

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 28016/11-15, what consideration he is giving to the assessment by Roads Service, on 12 April 2012, on retrospective planning application A/2011/0210/F, where it stated that the excavation works have been carried

out in close proximity to Mobuoy Road with the result that the structural stability of the road may be affected and that the proposed works are totally unacceptable.

(AQW 28739/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Application A/2011/0210/F relates to a retrospective planning application for the extraction of sand and gravel without on-site processing. The application is still under consideration by the Department of the Environment.

Initially, excavation works had been carried out in close proximity to Mobouy Road. However, since the matter was raised, an embankment has been constructed. My officials recently inspected Mobouy Road and there are no visible defects to suggest that the structural stability of the road has been affected.

Review into the A5 Scheme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the review into the A5 scheme.
(AQW 28745/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: There are currently four reports being developed to inform Habitats Regulations Assessments of the potential impacts on the various designated sites arising from the project. It is proposed consultation on these reports will commence in spring 2014.

The issues and timing associated with updating the Environmental Statement are still being considered and developed, and it is not possible to finalise a programme at this time.

Park and Ride and Park and Share Improvements

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what park and ride and park and share improvements are planned over the next three years.

(AQW 28852/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am aware that there is an increasing demand for Park & Ride and Park & Share facilities. This increased demand highlights the success brought about by my Department's investment in public transport in recent years and it is something that I would like to continue to build upon.

In August 2011 I endorsed my Department's 'Strategic Review of Park & Ride' report and approved the proposed way forward. The report presented recommendations for the delivery and prioritisation of Park & Ride facilities.

My Department has established a Park & Ride Programme Board with responsibility for co-ordinating and prioritising the implementation of Park & Ride projects in line with the Departmental Strategy. The Programme Board has produced a Park & Ride Strategic Delivery Programme for 2013-15 which aims to create at least 1,000 additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces across Northern Ireland in the next 2 years. The Programme has already delivered over 350 spaces this year.

The Programme is available on my Department's website at: <http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/publications/publications-details.htm?docid=8996>

My Department is currently considering the options for the delivery of additional Park & Ride and Park & Share facilities post 2015, when the current programme expires. This future programme is likely to include the completion of some sites from the current programme together with the development of other new facilities. The scale of the Park & Ride proposals post 2015 will be dependent on the availability of finance.

Extension of the Current Rail Network

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he is considering any extension of the current rail network; and when he plans to make any related decisions.

(AQW 28853/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I launched a public consultation exercise on Future Railway Investment earlier this year. The majority of those who replied, considered that the priority in spending should be given to maintaining the existing rail network and introducing measures to make best use of the current lines. There were suggestions for extensions of the network to a wide variety of destinations, and a significant volume of correspondence, in support of restoration of the line between Portadown and Armagh.

The key issue is the availability of funding. An analysis of the information gathered from the public consultation is continuing, alongside the ongoing work to determine the prioritisation of future investment in the wider transportation infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

It is planned that a report on the railways analysis will be published soon.

Proposed Legislation on Reservoirs

Mr Frew asked Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 27876/11-15, whether the reservoirs named are currently up to the standard required under the forthcoming legislation on reservoirs.

(AQW 28860/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that there is no existing statutory provision relating to the management of reservoirs in Northern Ireland. However, all of the reservoirs listed under AQW 27876/11-15 have been managed by NIW in the spirit of the GB Reservoirs Act 1975 which does not extend to Northern Ireland.

NIW understands that in view of this arrangement the reservoirs should satisfy the requirements of the forthcoming Northern Ireland legislation, subject to any changes during the Assembly process.

Council Areas: Public Transport Use

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the 26 council areas in order of those in which people most use public transport.

(AQW 28886/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: This information is not currently available as there is no measure of the availability of public transport at Local Government District or Ward level and Translink do not record this information. However a question was asked in the 2011 Census on the 'Method of Travel to Work or Place of Study' and options included Public Transport. Results and analysis of this question is available on the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System (NINIS). This data can be broken down into administrative geographies including Local Government District (Table KS702NI). The department will be considering this going forward.

The relevant link is:-

<http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=136&themeName=Census 2011>

Car Parks in Magherafelt

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Regional Development in which car parks in Magherafelt has the new 40p for 3 hours tariff been introduced.

(AQW 28937/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: In October 2013, the 40p for one hour parking tariff was changed to 40p for three hours in Central South car park in Magherafelt. This is the upper tier of the car park on King Street and is the only car park in Magherafelt with the 40p for 3 hours tariff. Parking in the lower tier of the car park on King Street remains free of charge.

Park and Ride Facilities: Increase in Use

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to increase Park and Ride facilities.
(AQW 29000/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am aware that there is an increasing demand for Park & Ride and Park & Share facilities. This increased demand highlights the success brought about by my Department's investment in public transport in recent years and it is something that I would like to continue to build upon.

In August 2011 I endorsed my Department's 'Strategic Review of Park & Ride' report and approved the proposed way forward. The report presented recommendations for the delivery and prioritisation of Park & Ride facilities.

My Department has established a Park & Ride Programme Board with responsibility for co-ordinating and prioritising the implementation of Park & Ride projects in line with the Departmental Strategy. The Programme Board has produced a Park & Ride Strategic Delivery Programme for 2013-15 which aims to create at least 1,000 additional Park & Ride and Park & Share spaces across Northern Ireland in the next 2 years. The Programme has already delivered over 350 spaces this year.

The Programme is available on my Department's website at: <http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/publications/publications-details.htm?docid=8996>

Car Parking: Lurgan/Portadown

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to review car parking provision at Lurgan and Portadown Translink Railway Stations.
(AQO 5226/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have liaised with Translink officials who advised that they are currently looking at potential schemes for both Lurgan and Portadown as part of its Park & Ride programme.

The scheme under consideration in Lurgan would add 70 further spaces to the 145 already there. In Portadown there are currently 84 spaces; the potential scheme there aims to add another 200 spaces.

My Department also has its own Park & Ride Strategic Delivery Programme 2013-15' which is a prioritised schedule of new Park & Ride projects in the next 2 years. Portadown is included in this programme as a 'project under consideration'.

Funding has been set aside for Park & Ride in my Department's budget. However, the implementation of Park & Ride schemes will take place in a constrained budgetary context.

Public Transport: Infrastructure

Mr McCallister asked the Minister for Regional Development whether current infrastructure is sufficient to deal with the growing numbers using public transport.
(AQO 5227/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has invested heavily to develop infrastructure to deal with the growing numbers using public transport.

In recent years, my Department has funded £560 million of capital works on railways and bus infrastructure, delivering new buses, new trains, new maintenance facilities for trains, station upgrades and platform extensions and track upgrades and continued capital investment in public transport remains a priority. The member will be aware of the new facilities provided at Newry train station.

Public transport has been a major success story in recent years. Passenger journeys across the bus and rail network are at record levels and continue to increase annually. The last year alone saw over 2 million more journeys made on public transport.

In addition, funding has been provided for rail and bus based park and ride sites and for the development of bus priority measures in Belfast.

For example, there are 50km of bus lanes operating in the greater Belfast area, which allows scope for further growth in bus patronage. Our Park and Ride sites are becoming increasingly popular. The sites on the M1 at Sprucefield and Blacks Road are approaching capacity and the flagship site at Cairnshill is regularly more than 50% full. There are plans to double the capacity at Sprucefield and provide a new large Park and Ride site at Dundonald in the near future.

Winter Weather: Newtownabbey

Ms Brown asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Roads Service has developed a specific policy to tackle adverse weather conditions in Newtownabbey this winter.

(AQO 5228/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service operates and implements a long standing policy, which has been approved by the Assembly, which delivers winter service right across Northern Ireland, including the Newtownabbey area.

Whilst it has not developed a specific policy for the Newtownabbey area, or any other area of Northern Ireland that may be affected by adverse weather conditions, I can confirm that, for the current winter season, my Department has agreed contracts with five external snow clearance contractors and is hopeful of signing up a further three, for potential deployment in the Newtownabbey area. This will help to supplement the resources which Roads Service has already earmarked for the current winter season.

In addition my Department has entered into an arrangement with Newtownabbey Borough Council, along with 23 of the other 25 Councils, to provide salt, to allow Councils, where their resources permit, to salt busy town centre footways in times of prolonged ice and snow to help keep the local economy moving.

I am therefore confident my Department's Roads Service will be able to deal effectively with the prevailing wintry conditions in line with its policy.

Blue Badge: Renewal Backlog

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the recent back log in Blue Badge renewals that resulted in badge holders being granted a month's extension on their out of date badges.

(AQO 5230/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I am pleased to report the resourcing issues, which led to backlogs at the end of August 2013, have now been resolved. Good progress has been made and I am pleased to confirm the backlog has now been cleared.

However it remains my intention to continue to grant one month's grace on expired Blue Badges.

Roads: M1/A1 Sprucefield Bypass

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the M1/A1 Sprucefield bypass.

(AQO 5231/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Sprucefield Bypass scheme has been proposed to provide grade separated linkage, between the A1 and the M1 at Sprucefield, in order to improve traffic flows in this area.

Initial feasibility work resulted in the completion and publication of the Stage One Scheme Assessment, which identified two corridors to be taken forward for further development.

At present, no funding has been identified for the Sprucefield Bypass.

Roads: Service Trenches

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he plans to lay service trenches at the sides of new road developments to prevent future road opening.

(AQO 5232/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department already seeks to minimise the risk of future road openings on new road developments by ensuring, where possible, services are located in trenches in the hard shoulder or verge.

Detailed consultation takes place with utility companies during the design stage to determine the nature and location of existing services, and any foreseeable utility company requirements.

In the event that existing services are affected by new road developments, measures are in place to allow diversion of those services away from the line of the carriageway. Where utility companies identify any future requirements, additional ducts are placed at their expense.

Car Parking: Christmas Charges

Mr Clarke asked the Minister for Regional Development for an assessment of the loss of revenue by reducing car parking charges over the Christmas period.

(AQO 5233/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The special parking rate of £1 for five hours parking that I introduced, specifically for the busy Christmas period, has been warmly welcomed by trading organisations, businesses and Chambers of Commerce. This special rate is supporting businesses and facilitating shoppers, who usually wish to spend more time browsing in town centre shops during the Christmas shopping period. Shoppers should therefore have fewer concerns about receiving a parking ticket for overstaying their permitted time.

I will look closely at the full range of benefits that accrue from this scheme and consider the impact, once that analysis is complete.

Department for Social Development

Common Waiting List: Housing Executive District Office Areas

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 27763/11-15, whether there are targets for the number of people on the Common Waiting List for each Housing Executive District Office area.

(AQW 28328/11-15)

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): I assume the Member is asking whether there are targets for reducing the number of applicants on the Common Waiting List. The Housing Executive has advised that while they have no specific targets, they manage the Common Waiting List as efficiently as possible.

The Housing Executive's annual District Housing Plans represents their statutory annual consultation engagement with local government. The Plan gives a comprehensive account of the Housing Executive's performance in the District Council area over the past year. It also sets out their funding, plans and strategies for the year ahead to address any imbalances identified in the analysis of the local housing market and the Housing Executive's obligations under government policies.

The Housing Executive's District Housing Plans are based on the objectives outlined in their Corporate and Business Plans. They give details of all issues and initiatives which the Housing Executive believes will affect the local housing environment over the coming year. They provide an opportunity for the Housing Executive to report the previous year's performance and to consult with local representatives on proposed housing schemes and investment for the year to come. The Housing Executive publishes the District Housing Plans for each of the District Councils each year and they are also available on their website – www.nihe.gov.uk

Derry District Housing Plan 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development why only 788 new builds are planned in the Derry District Housing Plan 2013, when the Housing Need Assessment states 1540.

(AQW 28489/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The data to which the question refers to relates to the District Housing Plan, which is based on March 2012 figures. At this time, the housing need projection of 1540 units refers to a five year period (2012-2017). The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) outlined plans for 788 units over a three year period (2013/14-2015/16). The shortfall is included in the unmet housing need prospectus and detailed by specific location. This prospectus directs housing associations' searches for sites for social new build to meet need.

People Registered as Homeless

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are registered as homeless in each constituency.

(AQW 28577/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Homelessness is not the same as rooflessness which means that you are without shelter of any kind and sleeping rough. You don't have to be living on the streets to be homeless and even if you have a roof over your head you can still be homeless. This may be because your home is unsuitable or you don't have any rights to stay where you live. The figures below show the number of households registered on the waiting list as statutory homeless (Full Duty Applicants) by housing district at the 1st November. It is not possible to produce figures by constituency.

Reduction of Homelessness Figures

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development what action his Department is taking to reduce the homelessness figures.

(AQW 28578/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In response to homelessness in Northern Ireland, the Housing Executive and its partners in the Promoting Social Inclusion Homelessness Partnership have been developing and producing a range of homeless prevention measures under the auspices of the Homelessness Strategy 2012/2017.

The Housing Executive launched the Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland on 1 May 2012. This followed an extensive consultation and redrafting process throughout 2011 to establish agreement among the Statutory and Voluntary Agencies who would be delivering the strategy.

The Homelessness Strategy 2012-17 sets out our strategy for tackling homelessness over the next five years and establishes the guiding principles for the development and delivery of homelessness services. At this time of economic uncertainty and financial constraints it is more important than ever that homelessness services are appropriate, timely and effective.

The aim of this homelessness strategy is that long term homelessness and rough sleeping is eliminated across Northern Ireland by 2020. The strategy aims to ensure the risk of a person becoming homeless will be minimised through effective preventative measures. Through enhanced inter agency co-operation, services to the most vulnerable homeless households will be improved.

Support for the Homeless

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development what support his Department offers to people who are homeless.

(AQW 28579/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive's Supporting People Team funds a range of homelessness services that are provided by voluntary, statutory and private organisations. These services provide

housing related support for up to approximately 5,000 individuals who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

There are two primary homelessness service delivery models:

1. Short term accommodation based services e.g. hostel accommodation for people who are homeless and have no accommodation that they can occupy and;
2. Short term floating support services. This service delivery model aims to prevent people becoming homeless by providing housing related support that helps them to remain living independently in (primarily) their own homes.

A summary of the number of supported units and level of funding 2013/14 is given in the table below:

	Units	Budget Spend 2013/14	Scheme Count
Floating Support	3,120	£6,527,315	42
Accommodation	1,836	£21,743,661	112

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Location and Capacity of Homeless Shelters

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the location and capacity of each homeless shelter.

(AQW 28581/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are three types of homeless shelter used by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – NIHE hostels, voluntary hostels and private single lets. The attached table shows the number of NIHE and voluntary sector hostels that are currently used as temporary accommodation. The number of bed spaces can vary, as accommodation schemes are re-aligned to meet demand and needs as particular circumstances arise.

In addition to the hostel accommodation below, the Housing Executive also uses 1118 private sector properties (private single lets) across Northern Ireland. In general the properties tend to have 1 and 2 bedrooms but there are a number of 3 and 4 bedroom properties also used. The number of properties in the private sector is fluid and is dependent on demand.

The up to date location of the private single lets is not readily available, as it is subject to change.

District	Hostel	NIHE	Voluntary	Management	Bedspaces
Belfast West	Grosvenor House	1		NIHE	58
Belfast West	Moyard House	1		NIHE	58
Belfast West	414 Falls Rd			Simon Cty	20
Belfast East	Hosford House		1	East Belfast Mission	22
Belfast East	Inverary House		1	Inverary mgt	12
Belfast East	Templemore	1		NIHE	28
Belfast North	Antrim Rd		1	Simon Cty	10
Belfast North	Deerpark Rd		1	Womens aid	45
Belfast North	Glenalva		1	Salv Army	60

District	Hostel	NIHE	Voluntary	Management	Bedspaces
Belfast North	Thorndale		1	Salv Army	70
Belfast North	Carrick House	1		NIHE	4
Belfast North	Grainne House	1		NIHE	70
Belfast North	Centenary		1	Salv Army	118
Belfast North	Mater Dei		1	De paul	13
Belfast North	Stella Maris		1	De Paul	23
Belfast North	Simon Cliftonville		1	Simon Cty	20
Belfast North	Rosemount House		1	Rosemount mgt	20
Belfast North	Foyer		1	Flax	37
Belfast South	LIFE		1	LIFE	6
Belfast South	Ormeau Centre		1	Extern	33
Belfast South	Utility St		1	NIAD	60
Belfast South	Roseville House		1	Ark	60
Belfast South	Ulsterville Ave		1	Womens aid	0
Belfast South	Foyer		1	Simon Cty	42
Belfast West	Regina Coeli		1	Legion of Mary	20
Belfast West	Ardmoulin		1	First Homeless	42
Belfast West	Conway Court		1	Simon Cty	60
Belfast West	Morning Star		1	Legion of Mary	39
Belfast West	Springwell House		1	Springwell	18
Antrim	Greystone NIHE	1		NIHE	15
Ballymena	Chichester Pk NIHE	1		NIHE	44
Ballymena	Lighthouse		1	Lighthouse	20
Ballymena	Simon Mill House		1	Simon Cty	13
Ballymena	Virginia House		1	Womens aid	32
Ballymoney	Carnary	1		NIHE	2
Carrickfergus	New Haven	1		NIHE	27
Carrickfergus	Selah Services		1	Selah	9
Coleraine	Ballysally Estste	1		NIHE	25
Coleraine	Lodge Rd		1	Simon Cty	14
Coleraine	Mount St Mew		1	Simon Cty	16
Coleraine	Castlerock rd		1	Womens Aid	11
Cookstown	Cookstown			Womens aid	30

District	Hostel	NIHE	Voluntary	Management	Bedspaces
Castlereagh	Saintfield Rd		1	Simon Cty	22
Larne	Larne Comm Care		1	Larne Com Care	6
Larne	Curran Way		1	Simon Cty	18
Newtownabbey	Hillview House	1		NIHE	24
Newtownabbey	Loughview House	1		NIHE	15
Bangor	Balligan Gardens	1		NIHE	27
Bangor	Dufferin Ave		1	Womens Aid	7
Bangor	Central Ave		1	Simon Cty	21
Downpatrick	Glebetown Drive	1		NIHE	13
Downpatrick	Saul St		1	Simon Cty	8
Fermanagh	Enniskillen		1	Womens aid	3
Lisburn	Killaney Ave	1		NIHE	25
Lisburn	Beechland Drive		1	Womens Aid	0
Lisburn	Flush Pk		1	Simon Cty	20
Lisburn	Laburnum Walk	1		NIHE	70
Lisburn	Cloverhill Hostel		1	De Paul	18
Newtownards	Beaufort Walk	1		NIHE	15
Armagh	Linen Court		1	Simon Cty	22
Dungannon	Castlehill		1	De Paul	28
Newry	Cuan Mhuire		1	Cuan Mhuire	6
Newry	Lyne Lodge		1	Womens Aid	30
Newry	Bridge st		1	Simon Cty	17
Portadown	Edward St		1	Simon Cty	29
Portadown	Tandragee		1	Womens Aid	11
Fermanagh	Castle Erne		1	NIHE / Fold	25
Londonderry	Drummard	1		NIHE	29
Cookstown	MUST		1	MUST	16
Omagh	Omagh Town		1	Womens Aid	15
Omagh	Sl -eight		1	Sl-eight mgt	11
Strabane	Dillon Court		1	Dillon Crt Mgt	8
Strabane	Lisnafin		1	First Homeless	6
Londonderry Cityside	Bridge St	1		NIHE	18

District	Hostel	NIHE	Voluntary	Management	Bedspaces
Londonderry Cityside	Bradley Park	1		NIHE	15
Londonderry Cityside	Pump St		1	Womens Aid	13
Londonderry Cityside	McCrea Chambers		1	Methodist Miss	47
Londonderry Cityside	Clarendon Sh		1	Clarendon Mgt	23
Londonderry Cityside	Jefferson Ct		1	First Homeless	25
Londonderry Cityside	Foyle Valley House		1	Foyle Valley Mgt	10
Londonderry Cityside	House of the Wells		1	House of the wells	29
Londonderry Cityside	Damian House		1	First Homeless	12
Londonderry Waterside	Clooney Mews	1		NIHE	30
Londonderry Waterside	Ashleywood		1	Womens Aid	18
Londonderry Waterside	Bonds Hill		1	Simon Cty	15
Londonderry Waterside	Shepherds View		1	First Homeless	32
		21	63		2178

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Support Group to the Work Related Activity Group

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 28090/11-15 (i) whether moves from Support Group to the Work Related Activity Group can be actioned without assessments being carried out; and (ii) what a review consists of, outlining what information on the individual claimant is used.

(AQW 28648/11-15)

Mr McCausland:

- (i) All Employment and Support Allowance claimants who are in the Support Group cannot be moved to the Work Related Activity Group without an assessment by a health care professional being undertaken.
- (ii) The WCA assessment consists of the completion of a medical questionnaire by the claimant, along with an assessment by a trained health care professional to establish the claimant's capability for work. The information used for the assessment includes the completed questionnaire and any evidence from the claimant's doctor (GP) and/or medical professional (e.g.

Consultant). There may also be a requirement for a face to face assessment where capability cannot be established from the available evidence.

Housing Association: Good Practice Tenant Engagement

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any plans to introduce regulation to ensure that good practice tenant engagement by housing associations becomes common practice.
(AQW 28680/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The current regulatory standards ensure housing associations engagement with tenants are evaluated against best practice by the Department's Inspection team.

My Social Housing Reform Programme is also looking at regulation and tenant engagement in the provision of social housing in the future and will bring forward proposals in due course.

Housing Executive Properties

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development whether there is a cost in transferring Housing Executive properties to housing associations.
(AQW 28695/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Each transfer scheme will be subject to an economic and technical appraisal and approval process to demonstrate that the proposed refurbishments deliver the necessary value for money and appropriate level of quality for tenants.

As with all programmes of a similar nature there will be costs attributable to the Stock Transfer process from a Project Management perspective including staff salaries (NIHE, DSD and SIB) and associated administrative costs.

To manage the Programme NIHE will appoint consultants to take forward economic appraisals for each scheme, an independent tenant adviser and an agency to undertake the tenant ballots. There will also be a number of other costs, for example, statutory fees, legal fees and hire costs for venues for public consultation events for each scheme in the programme. All of these costs will be absorbed by the Housing Executive and will not be passed on to the Housing Associations or tenants.

The Housing Associations will also incur costs in preparing bids for schemes as part of the procurement process and subsequently the successful bidders will incur development and construction costs in taking schemes through to conclusion.

Housing Executive Tenants: Rules

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the rules that tenants must adhere to when they become a Housing Executive tenant.
(AQW 28700/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the tenancy rules are contained in their General Conditions of Tenancy and are also available to view on their website at www.nihe.gov.uk. When an applicant accepts an offer of tenancy, an appointment is made with them to call in to the local office for a comprehensive sign up interview. The interview is structured to include the following:

- Receive Proof of Identity
- The new tenant signs a Tenancy Agreement and is issued with the keys to their new home. This includes issuing them with a Statutory Obligations Notice. The Notice explains that they will be issued with a copy of the General Conditions of Tenancy and also includes a warning of potential possession proceedings if they or anyone residing in or visiting their home is guilty of causing a nuisance. The Statutory Obligations Notice also gives examples of nuisance, annoyance and disturbances.

All new tenants are also issued with a Home Information Pack that contains the following:

- A copy of the General Conditions of Tenancy;
- The new tenant is advised that it explains their obligations and NIHE obligations in relation to the Tenancy Agreement. They are also advised, subject to paying the rent and observing and performing all the Tenant's obligations under this Agreement, they may quietly enjoy the dwelling without any interruption;
- A Tenants Handbook – gives more details in relation to their legal rights and responsibilities as a Tenant;
- A copy of the Customer Charter – This sets out the standard of services they should receive from NIHE;
- Additional leaflets for example home contents insurance;
- Electoral form;
- Energy price tariffs;
- Telephone number of service providers including electricity providers and NIHE repairs telephone number;
- Sign a Good Neighbours Agreement and issued with same;
- Complete Housing Benefit application form;
- Advised of Rent and Rates and issued with a Temporary Payment Card.

Social Housing New Builds: South Antrim

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline any plans for social housing new builds in South Antrim.

(AQW 28709/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Table attached details the social housing new builds that are currently programmed to be delivered within South Antrim over the period 2013/14 – 2015/16.

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Need Group
2013/14			
Clanmil	369-371 Antrim Road, Glengormley	21	Elderly (Cat1)
Oaklee	Ballyduff Primary School (Extension), New Mossley	30	General Needs
Trinity	Northern Trust Mental Health Resettlement (Moylinney Closure, Antrim)	24	Supported Housing
Total 2013/14		75	

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Need Group
2014/15			
Connswater	Milewater, New Mossley (T)	20	General Needs
Oaklee	4-6 Main Street, Crumlin	4	General Needs
Total 2014/15		24	

Housing Association	Scheme Name	Units	Need Group
2015/16			
Clanmil	The Old Mill, Mill Road, Crumlin	32	General Needs
Fold	Chaine Court, Ballycraigy, Antrim (T)	10	General Needs
Not nominated	Northern Trust LD	20	Supported Housing
Not nominated	Northern Trust MH	20	Supported Housing
Total 2015/16		82	

The Social Housing Development Programme is managed on the basis of a three year rolling programme. The Housing Executive is currently in the process of formulating the new draft Social Housing Development Programme for the period 2014/15 – 2016/17 which subject to my approval will be published on the Housing Executive's website early in 2014.

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Homes Above the Action Level for Radon Gas

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department provides remediation grants to householders whose homes are above the Action Level for radon gas; and how many such grants his Department has awarded over the last two years.

(AQW 28736/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Although there is no specific provision in respect of radon gas my Department makes available assistance, through the Housing Executive, to homeowners to make repairs, improvements and adaptations to their dwellings. The Housing Executive has confirmed that no grants have been sought or made to address excess levels of radon.

City of Culture 2013: Tenders and Funding

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

(AQW 28765/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is provided in the attached table.

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Extraspace Solutions Ltd	Events Pavilion	City of Culture Resource Funding Project	4,865,000	On behalf of Ilex, DFP's Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) tendered for the provision of the demountable pavilion now known as the Venue 2013. The successful tender was Extraspace Solutions Ltd., who tendered for sub – contractor services. The Department was not involved in or holds details of the sub-contract tender. CPD also tendered for the provision of Event Management for the Venue. The successful tender, Smallworld Music Ltd., tendered for the Venue ancillary services. The Department was not involved in or holds details of the ancillary services tender.	Provision of demountable pavilion – Extraspace Solutions Ltd. Event Management for the Venue – Smallworld Music Ltd.
Sohan S Kular Ltd	Custom House, Queens Quay	City of Culture Capital Grant project – Urban Development Grant	345,000	The applicant carried out tendering for the project.	Stewart & McConnell Building Contractors Ltd
Messrs D Carlin & J Burke T/A Premier Developments Ltd	9 Artillery Street	City of Culture Capital Grant project – Urban Development Grant	103,058	Applicant carried out the build for this project himself.	Premier Developments Ltd

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Mr Damien Douglas	46 Spencer Road	City of Culture Capital Grant project – Urban Development Grant	62,675	Applicant's architect carried out tendering for the project. The Department holds details of the highest, lowest and winning tender (if different from the lowest tender).	Benchmark Construction
Messrs K Burke & P O'Connor T/A Concrete Velvet Architects	155 Spencer Road	City of Culture Capital Grant project – Urban Development Grant	41,860	Applicant carried out the build for this project himself.	Concrete Velvet Architects
City Council of Londonderry	Guildhall Restoration Project	City of Culture Capital Grant Project	1,000,000	Tendering carried out by City Council of Londonderry. The Department does not hold tender competition details but has details of the successful tender.	H & J Martin
City Council of Londonderry	Waterside Greenway	City of Culture Capital Grant Project	250,000	Tendering carried out by City Council of Londonderry. The Department does not hold tender competition details but has details of the successful tender.	F.PMcCann
City Council of Londonderry	City Dressing	City of Culture Capital Grant Project	145,000	Tendering carried out by City Council of Londonderry. The Department does not hold tender details.	
City Council of Londonderry	Park'n'Ride project	City of Culture Resource Funding Project	101,242	Tendering carried out by City Council of Londonderry. The Department does not hold tender details.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
City Council of Londonderry	City Factory Art Gallery	City of Culture Resource Funding Project	141,000	This project was just for rental costs so no tendering required.	
City Centre Initiative	Restore Pilot project	City of Culture Capital Grant Project	266,000	Tendering carried out by property owners' architects. The Department holds details of the tenders on file.	<p>This project involved 15 properties. The successful tenders were as follows:</p> <p>6,8 & 10 Spencer Road –Louerne Construction;</p> <p>51 – 53 Spencer Road - Michael O'Hara Building Construction</p> <p>1,2,4,5&5A Bank Place & 43/43A Linenhall St – PK. Construction</p> <p>3 Bank Place – Velton Ltd</p> <p>1,3,4 Union Hall Place -Benchmark Builders; 2& 5 Union Hall Place- Stewart & McConnell Building Contractors.</p>

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
City Centre Initiative	Restore Mainstream project	City of Culture Capital Grant Project	95,820	Tendering carried out by property owners' architects. The Department holds details of the tender on file.	This project involved 14 properties as follows; 74A,76 & 84,98 Duke St – Irwin Construction; 4,6,&8 Castle Street - S.J.McKean; 78 Duke St - JM Jefferson & Sons Ltd;82 Duke St – Benchmark Builders; 90 Duke St - Magilligan Ltd; 96 - JA Gamble & Co Ltd; 19 William St - Benchmark; 23 William St -Hugo Gallagher.
City Centre Initiative	Shutters Up	City of Culture Capital Grant Project	15,000	This £15,000 grant was broken down into 15 x £1000 awards to individual shop owners to improve their window display as an incentive to take part in the Shutters Up pilot.	
DRD Roads Service	Park'n'Ride project	City of Culture Resource Funding Project	300,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
DRD Roads Service	Variable Messaging Signage Boards	City of Culture Resource Funding	300,000	Tendering for this specialist equipment was carried out by DRD Roads Service. . The Department does not hold tender details.	
DRD Roads Service	Queens Quay	City of Culture Capital works	280,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Baronet Street Lighting and Road Resurfacing	City of Culture Capital works	24,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Spencer Road	City of Culture Capital works	184,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Foyle St	City of Culture Capital works	225,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Strand Road / Police Court Link	City of Culture Capital works	150,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	John St	City of Culture Capital works	52,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	High St & Harvey St	City of Culture Capital works	73,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
DRD Roads Service	Lower Clarendon St	City of Culture Capital works	62,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Strand Rd	City of Culture Capital works	48,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Water St	City of Culture Capital works	65,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Foyle Embankment	City of Culture Capital works	220,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Patrick St	City of Culture Capital works	110,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Foyle St Foyle side	City of Culture Capital works	35,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Clarendon St Conservation Area	City of Culture Capital works	336,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DRD Roads Service	Cathedral Quarter	City of Culture Capital works	50,000	Tendering not required - project carried out by DRD's Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
DSD	Queens Quay Riverside Walkway	City of Culture Capital works	458,000	Tendering not required - project carried out through DFP's Central Procurement Directorate Branch by their Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
DSD	Baronet St	City of Culture Capital works	119,000	Tendering not required - project carried out through DFP's Central Procurement Directorate Branch by their Measured Term Contractor	Whitemountain Quarries Ltd.
Ilex URC Ltd	Waterside Theatre	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	8,021	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Void Gallery	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	106,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	University of Ulster	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	250,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Ilex URC Ltd	St. Columb's College	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	54,031	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	St Columb's Park House	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	31,376	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Playhouse Theatre	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	£ 79,924	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	NW Carnival	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	82,300	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Nerve Centre - Enhancement	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	80,297	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Nerve Centre - 10 Schools	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	100,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Ilex URC Ltd	City Council of Londonderry - Mobile Digital	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	14,610	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Liberty Consortium	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	133,757	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Leafair Community Association	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	69,571	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	John Mitchells GAC	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	150,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Inner City Trust	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	260,870	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	In Your Space	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	68,140	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Ilex URC Ltd	Gasyard Trust	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	£ 224,590	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Foyle Search & Rescue	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	50,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Eglinton Community Association	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	243,090	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Eden Place Arts Centre	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	39,287	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Echo Echo Dance Company	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	£ 300,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Derry Theatre Trust	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	59,610	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Ilex URC Ltd	Derry Print Workshop	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	49,648	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	DCC Loughs Agency	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	175,347	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Creggan Enterprises	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	176,950	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Creative Village Arts	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	140,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	City Council of Londonderry –Ballyarnett Country Park	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	223,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	City Council of Londonderry - Tower Museum	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	152,821	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Ilex URC Ltd	City Council of Londonderry - Brooke Park	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	147,801	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Churches Trust	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	256,423	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Centre for Contemporary Art	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	70,545	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	CAW Cultural Centre	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	68,374	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Aras Colmcille	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	14,000	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	
Ilex URC Ltd	Apprentice Boys	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	89,089	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex in Partnership with Arts Council of Northern Ireland.	

Organisation	Project	Type of Project	Level of City of Culture funding (£s)	Comments on tendering process	Successful tender
Ilex URC Ltd	Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Community & Capital Infrastructure projects	399,711	No tender information is held by the Department - Project delivered by Ilex.	

Registered Carers in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many carers in North Down are over 60 years old. (AQW 28771/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available as my Department does not hold a list of carers.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many homes in North Down have benefitted from the Warm Homes Scheme in the last twelve months.

(AQW 28772/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive does not collect information at parliamentary constituency level. The North Down parliamentary constituency comprises the council areas of North Down & Ards. In those council areas a total of 469 homes have had Warm Homes measures installed during the period 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2013.

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

Regeneration Work: Crumlin Road Area

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Social Development to provide the details of any regeneration work planned for the Crumlin Road area, including a timetable for completion.

(AQW 28792/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is actively working to regenerate the Crumlin Road area of north Belfast. A wide range of initiatives are currently ongoing or planned, including the Masterplan Conceptual Framework for Girdwood Park, a Development Study for Crumlin Road Courthouse, Clifton Gateway Public Realm Scheme and assistance to a private developer for a whiskey distillery at Crumlin Road Gaol through my Department's Urban Development Grant scheme. A number of new build schemes for social housing are also planned. Further details on each of these projects can be found at Annex A.

Annex A

Conceptual Framework for Girdwood Park

The Masterplan Conceptual Framework for Girdwood Park was launched in May 2012 and represents an agreed plan for the shared development of this key strategic site in north Belfast. This plan includes a Community Hub at the heart of the site which will provide high quality leisure and community facilities and an agreed housing development for 60 units.

Development of the Community Hub is due to start in late January 2014 with a completion date end of March 2015. Full site infrastructure works will start in April 2014 with an estimated completion date of October 2015. It is hoped that construction of the housing development, which is subject to planning approval, will begin in March 2014 with an estimated completion date of October 2015.

DSD as the Accountable Department has responsibility for Peace III Priority 2 Contributing to a Shared Society, Theme 1 Creating Public Shared Spaces. Belfast City Council as lead applicant has recently been issued a Letter of Offer under this Priority for £9,595,249 in respect of The Girdwood Community Hub on the Girdwood Barracks site.

Development Study for Crumlin Road Courthouse

DSD, with ministerial support from across the NI Executive, has been working in co-operation with OFMDFM, SIB, NIEA (DOE) and BCC to identify a sustainable end use for the Crumlin Road Courthouse.

Following a procurement competition, a Consultancy Team was appointed in July 2013 to complete a Development Study. The consultants have engaged a wide range of stakeholders, carried out a comprehensive condition report on the building and conducted considerable research into potential end uses.

A number of options were presented at a consultation event on 21 November and public feedback is being sought up to and including 6 December. A full report is expected early in the New Year.

Clifton Gateway Public Realm Scheme

DSD is working with other statutory agencies and local communities to deliver a programme of environmental improvements to the public realm in targeted areas across Belfast which fall outside the City Centre.

The Clifton Gateway scheme spans the Crumlin Road from the junction of Agnes Street to Carlisle Circus and carries on through Clifton Street on to the junction of Donegall Street and York Street.

The proposed works include natural stone footpath resurfacing, installation of ornate street lighting, uplighters for historic buildings, planting of semi-mature trees and the installation of interpretive signage and sculptures.

It is estimated that work, which is subject to final approval by Belfast City Council (BCC) under the Reform of Local Government, could start in July 2014 and be completed by January 2016.

Distillery at Crumlin Road Gaol

Urban Development Grant (UDG) is a discretionary grant with the objective of promoting job creation, inward investment and environmental improvement by the stimulation of development of vacant, derelict or underused land or buildings in specific priority urban areas. DSD has awarded UDG to a developer to refurbish part of the Gaol to provide a whiskey distillery. Construction is due to commence in January 2014.

Social Housing

The Housing Executive has advised that the following new build schemes are planned for the Crumlin Road area:-

2013/14

- Lower Oldpark rehabs, 26 units – on site
- Lower Shankill Phase 1, 21 units – on site
- Girdwood Phase 1, 60 units (as above)

2014/15

- Kinnaird Terrace, 21 units
- Lower Shankill Phase 2, 12 units

Educational Underachievement Working Group

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development what were the social-based policies, that as a participant in the North/South sectoral meeting on education, on 8th November 2013, he agreed as a focus for the educational underachievement working group; and what are the social interventions which he anticipates being advanced by the working group.

(AQW 28801/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As stated in the joint Assembly statement made on the 26 November in relation to on the North/South Ministerial Council Education. The Council agreed that the Education Underachievement Working Group would focus on three strands of work which should have a greater focus on social-based policies with an intended educational outcome.

The three strands of work to be taken forward are

- international benchmarking studies;
- school-based and social interventions to address underachievement; and
- the impact of pre-school placements on primary level performance.

I welcome this change in focus which complements my department priorities for improving the quality of life and life chances for our most disadvantaged children and young people.

Welfare Cuts: Local Economy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development what assessment has been made of the extra money in the local economy each month as a result of not implementing welfare cuts; and what figure has been reached.

(AQW 28804/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There is no extra money in the local economy as a result of not implementing the reform of the welfare system.

People Charged and Convicted of Serious Sexual Offences

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what steps his Department can take to help ensure that people charged and convicted of serious sexual offences are not housed in close proximity to schools.

(AQW 28819/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Allocations of social housing accommodation by the Housing Executive and Housing Associations are made based on rules contained within the Housing Selection Scheme.

Restrictions in the Housing Selection Scheme are in place which allows the social landlord considering the allocation of accommodation to restrict any offer of housing to a person who has been charged or found guilty of a relevant sex offence. One of the factors taken into account when applying this restriction would be the proximity of a child centred facility such as a school. Other information provided by police and/ or the Probation Board for Northern Ireland with regards to the proximity of a victim or a relative of the victim would also be considered.

Housing Associations in Northern Ireland provide specialist accommodation for people charged and convicted of serious sexual offences. Allocations to these properties are carried out according to the Housing Selection Scheme which is managed by the Housing Executive. Housing Associations take direction from the Housing Executive with regard to the suitability of any potential allocation. Risk assessments with regard to applicants and the allocation of properties would be carried out by the Housing Executive.

The Housing Executive is one of the signatory agencies of the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland and is fully committed to co-operation with other agencies within these arrangements. The Housing Executive shares information and takes account of the risk assessment and management

plans of serious sexual and violent offenders when making decisions on the suitability and reasonableness of accommodation.

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations has recently met with the Probation Board to discuss the role of housing associations in providing accommodation for ex-offenders and continues to work with statutory and voluntary agencies in this area.

Convictions for Benefit Fraud

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development how many people were (i) prosecuted; and (ii) convicted of having been fraudulently in receipt of benefits, in 2012.

(AQW 28850/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is set out in the table –

Year ending 31st March 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013	Number prosecuted	Number convicted
	570	567

The Information provided is an Official Statistic. The production and dissemination of all Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Fortnightly Payments of Benefits

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any plans to implement fortnightly payments of benefits.

(AQW 28884/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The current position is that a large number of the existing benefits already are being paid fortnightly. There are no plans to implement fortnightly payments for other current benefits that are paid monthly: namely, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Carers Allowance.

I have previously announced in the Assembly that I have agreed with Lord Freud, Minister for Welfare Reform, a number of operational flexibilities for Northern Ireland in the payment arrangements for Universal Credit. These flexibilities include proposals for twice monthly payments. The details of this are being taken forward as part of the Welfare Reform package of measures which I have developed to help reform the Welfare System and which are subject to agreement at the Executive.

Welfare Reform Bill

Mr Lunn asked the Minister for Social Development when he will return the Welfare Reform Bill to the Assembly.

(AQW 28885/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I fully intend to bring the Welfare Reform Bill back to this Assembly for Consideration Stage as soon as there is the political consensus to do so.

I told this house on the 22 October that I had concluded my work on a package of measures aimed at offsetting some of the more negative aspects of the reform agenda.

I intend to convene a meeting of the Executive Sub Committee on Welfare Reform before Christmas, to try to move forward before Treasury impose any financial penalties.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Heating System

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development what action is taken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive when a tenant reports an air lock in their central heating system.

(AQW 28936/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that when a tenant reports a problem with their central heating system the Housing Executive sends out their heating contractor to diagnose the fault and determine what remedial action is required. If the contractor finds that the reported problem is due to an air lock, the contractor determines the cause, repairs any faults, removes the air lock and ensures that the heating system is operational.

Derry District Housing Plan 2013: The Playground Site, Glenowen

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 28466/11-15, why the programmed new build scheme at The Playground Site, Glenowen by Apex is included in the Derry District Housing Plan 2013 but omitted from the current Social Housing Development Programme.
(AQW 28991/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Apex Housing has not been able to progress this scheme sufficiently to achieve a start on site during 2015/16. The scheme has therefore slipped to 2016/17.

Derry District Housing Plan 2013: Rathmore Road

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 28466/11-15, why the programmed new build scheme at Rathmore Road by Apex is included in the Derry District Housing Plan 2013 but omitted from the current Social Housing Development Programme.
(AQW 28992/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The proposed new build scheme at Rathmore Road in Londonderry was not included in the Social Housing Development Programme as the Housing Association was not successful in acquiring the site for development.

Derry District Housing Plan 2013: Creggan Country Park

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 28466/11-15, why the programmed new build scheme at Creggan Country Park by Apex is included in the Derry District Housing Plan 2013 but omitted from the current Social Housing Development Programme.
(AQW 28993/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The proposed new build scheme at Creggan Country Park in Londonderry was not included in the Social Housing Development Programme as the Housing Association was not successful in acquiring the site for development.

Derry District Housing Plan 2013: New Build Schemes at Buncrana Road and Springfield Road

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 28466/11-15, why the programmed (i) Phase 1; and (ii) Phase 2 of the new build schemes at Buncrana Road and Springfield Road are included in the Derry District Housing Plan 2013 but omitted from the current Social Housing Development Programme.
(AQW 28994/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Clanmil Housing was unable to acquire the site.

Community Planning in 2015

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development what arrangements are in place to ensure that there is adequate Community Development Infrastructure in the community and voluntary sector to support meaningful community involvement in Community Planning in 2015 and beyond.
(AQW 28995/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Local Government Bill introduces the legislative basis for community planning, a council-led process to provide a framework for councils to work in partnership with other public service

providers in their district to plan and implement a shared community vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being and development of the area. The involvement of representatives of relevant voluntary bodies in community planning is specified in the Bill.

My Department, through its regional infrastructure support arrangements, will support the Voluntary and Community Sector to help ensure that the sector functions effectively and efficiently, makes a valued and effective contribution to policy development across Government and contributes to community development and engagement across Northern Ireland.

Departmental Staff: Transfer

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Social Development why Personnel staff from the Department for Social Development are not transferring to local government under the same terms as Planning Service staff.

(AQO 5197/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Under the Reform of Local Government the Department for Social Development (DSD) will confer on councils the powers that give authority to carry out functions in relation to regeneration and community development. The Department will also place a duty on councils to undertake responsibilities relating to houses in multiple occupation and housing unfitness (currently undertaken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive) and will transfer responsibility for management of the Laganside Weir.

As regeneration and community development work will represent a conferral of new powers on councils, rather than a transfer of functions, DSD staff currently exercising these powers will not transfer to local government as part of the reform.

As management of the Laganside Weir is a transfer of function, staff will transfer on the basis of NICS staff transfer arrangements which are still under consideration.

As part of capacity building/preparatory work for the reform changes DSD plans to initiate work with councils over the coming months to establish a scheme that would allow councils access to DSD staff with regeneration/community development experience.

Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in Coleraine

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the progress being made in the two Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in Coleraine, since the Annual Report was submitted.

(AQW 29002/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Coleraine Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report for 2012-13 demonstrates the commitment made by the Department to communities, to work in partnership with them to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty. Currently in the 2013-14 year a total of £969,302 has already been allocated to projects in the Coleraine Neighbourhood Renewal areas.

Social Housing Admissions Criteria

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development what discussions his Department has been involved in with regard to changing the social housing admissions criteria.

(AQW 29005/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In 2012, I announced a fundamental review of social housing allocations in Northern Ireland, delivering on a commitment set out in my Housing Strategy and Facing the Future Action Plan.

My Department commissioned independent research and three reports, prepared by the Universities of Ulster and Cambridge have been published (see link below), providing the academics' views on the future of social housing allocations.

When public comments have been received on the reports, the feedback will be considered and proposals developed, which will in turn be subject to full public consultation.

<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/hsdiv-housing/allocations-research.htm>

Restoration of Derelict Homes for Letting Accommodation

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development how many housing associations will restore derelict homes for letting accommodation in 2014; and for an estimate of the number of properties that will be restored, and let, by January 2015.

(AQW 29049/11-15)

Mr McCausland: One of the aims of the Building Successful Communities pilots will be to address blight and stigma, for example through the provision of new or refurbished social housing. In areas where vacant properties in a community are holding back regeneration, the Department envisages working in partnership with the owner to bring those properties back into use. For properties owned by a social landlord, this could mean working with NIHE and Housing Associations to refurbish the vacant home and let it.

There are, as yet, no estimates of how many properties could be involved over the pilot period (at least three years). A Regeneration Forum, to be established in each of the six pilot areas, will be tasked with investigating the needs of the pilot area and developing an action plan specific to that location. As a result, the number of properties brought back into use will depend on the priorities identified by each Regeneration Forum. It is envisaged that the six Regeneration Fora will be established early in the New Year.

One Housing Association has been awarded funding under the Affordable Home Loans Fund to bring empty homes back into use. However, this initiative will refurbish homes for onward sale as affordable homes and not for letting.

Disability Living Allowance Claimants

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development how many cases involving Disability Living Allowance claimants, who have been in receipt of DLA for five or more years, have had their award adjusted downward or removed following assessment by Atos Healthcare since it took over medical examinations; and how many were subsequently returned to the original award (i) following representations; and (ii) on appeal.

(AQW 29060/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available as the Department for Work and Pensions IT system used by the Social Security Agency to administer Disability Living Allowance does not capture this specific level of detail.

Entitlement to Disability Living Allowance is determined by Decision-Makers in the Social Security Agency who consider and weigh up all the available evidence in reaching a decision. This includes information on the claimant's application form and reports from Health Care Professionals who the claimant has identified on the form. In a small number of cases the Medical Service Provider is requested to complete a report which gathers information on the diagnosis, the history of the condition, treatment and the severity and likely disabling effects of the condition on day-to-day living. In virtually all cases this entails a home visit to the claimant during which the report is completed.

Hostel Accommodation Places

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of hostel accommodation places provided to people who were homeless in the last twelve months, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 29066/11-15)

Mr McCausland: This information cannot be supplied by constituency, the closest information that can be given is for those presenting as homeless by Northern Ireland Housing Executive District Office. The

figures given provide those for the first five months of 2013/14, from April 2013 through to the end of August 2013, as the temporary accommodation computer systems was recently changed in September 2013 and reports for the months of September 2013- November 2013 are still in development and testing. Further figures provide for the period April 2012 - March 2013. Therefore two tables have been provided as follows:

Table 1: The figures for April 2012 - March 2013:

District	Voluntary Sector Hostels	NIHE Hostels	Total
Antrim	41	11	52
Armagh	4	0	4
Ballycastle	3	0	3
Ballymena	63	16	79
Ballymoney	14	2	16
Banbridge	3	0	3
Bangor	16	24	40
Belfast South/East	136	32	168
Belfast North	129	34	163
Belfast West	229	77	306
Belfast Shankill	18	4	22
Housing Service Unit	164	41	205
Carrickfergus	23	21	44
Castlereagh	60	2	62
Coleraine	122	15	137
Collon Terrace	65	31	96
Cookstown	25	2	27
Downpatrick	9	21	30
Dungannon	15	0	15
Fermanagh	2	0	2
Larne	9	4	13
Limavady	25	0	25
Lisburn Antrim Street	35	31	66
Lisburn Dairyfarm	62	38	100
Lurgan	4	1	5
Magherafelt	7	0	7
Newry	10	0	10
Newtownabbey 1	7	11	18
Newtownabby 2	7	19	26

District	Voluntary Sector Hostels	NIHE Hostels	Total
Newtownards	6	34	40
Omagh	12	0	12
Portadown	5	0	5
Strabane	8	0	8
Waterloo Place	50	14	64
Waterside	41	33	74
Grand Total	1429	518	1947

Table 2: The figures for April 2013 -August 2013:

District	Voluntary Sector Hostels	NIHE Hostels	Total
Antrim	14	5	19
Armagh	2	0	2
Ballycastle	1	1	2
Ballymena	32	7	39
Ballymoney	9	0	9
Banbridge	3	0	3
Bangor	9	17	26
Belfast South/East	79	19	98
Belfast North	77	18	95
Belfast West	123	59	182
Belfast Shankill	8	1	9
Housing Service Unit	81	29	110
Carrickfergus	13	8	21
Castlereagh	23	0	23
Coleraine	41	2	43
Collon Terrace	43	18	61
Cookstown	5	2	7
Downpatrick	8	15	23
Dungannon	7	0	7
Fermanagh	1	0	1
Larne	9	4	13
Limavady	8	0	8
Lisburn Antrim Street	15	26	41

District	Voluntary Sector Hostels	NIHE Hostels	Total
Lisburn Dairyfarm	36	26	62
Lurgan	2	0	2
Magherafelt	7	0	7
Newry	2	0	2
Newtownabbey 1	4	11	15
Newtownabby 2	4	10	14
Newtownards	5	11	16
Omagh	8	0	8
Portadown	5	0	5
Strabane	6	0	6
Waterloo Place	36	8	44
Waterside	36	15	51
Grand Total	762	312	1074

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

Job Seekers Allowance

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development to quantify, for each of the last three years, the number of people that have stopped claiming contribution based Job Seekers Allowance as a result of being in receipt of that benefit for six months or more.

(AQW 29082/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information requested is not available. The Jobseeker's Allowance Computer System (JSAPS) does not record information that would identify contribution based Jobseeker's Allowance claims that have been terminated because benefit has been in payment for six months.

Housing Executive Budget: North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development what is the Housing Executive's budget for the North Down area for the next financial year.

(AQW 29089/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that its budget for 2014/15 has not yet been finalised.

Social Housing Development Programme 2013/14-2015/16

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 28330/11-15, why he stated that there are 788 units in the current Social Housing Development Programme 2013/14-2015/16 when his answer to AQW 28466/11-15 states that there are 454.

(AQW 29102/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Social Housing Development Programme operates on the basis of a 3 year rolling programme which is reviewed annually. The purpose of the roll-on process is to re-assess housing needs, review progress with the delivery of the development programme (to meet previously identified

housing needs) and establish programming requirements in response to newly identified housing needs to assemble a robust programme for the next three years.

Each year (August) the Housing Executive's Development Programme Group (DPG) invites Housing Associations to submit bids for schemes they wish to develop over the next three years. Bids received by DPG are assessed by the Housing Executive's Regional Planners against housing need at a regional, and district level and a draft programme is prepared. The draft programme is approved by the Housing Executive's Board and subsequently by DSD and the Minister for Social Development prior to being published on the Housing Executive's website.

The process of formulating the development programme is informed by the production of District Housing Plans, and the subsequent round of consultation with each of the 26 District Councils, which recurs annually during May to September. The District Housing Plans are effectively a prospectus of housing-related activity by District Council, which in each case include a section detailing planned development programme activity by Associations, together with a summary of unmet housing needs.

The published programme (January) includes both the new projects selected from the bids plus any slippage from the previous year. This composite programme represents the full extent of programmed social housing development activity for the new 3-Year SHDP

Responsibility for the actual development of social housing for rent rests with registered Housing Associations. Housing Associations typically commence work on site assembly, designing schemes and submitting planning applications post Programme publication (January). In order to obtain Housing Association Grant (HAG) associations are required to submit detailed project applications to the Housing Executive for formal approval of the scheme before the work is tendered and contractors start on site.

As the Programme year progresses, associations may lose or slip schemes due to site acquisition / assembly difficulties, procurement issues, or failure to obtain planning approval within the anticipated development timetable.

Consequently the Housing Executive is required to exercise a high degree of flexibility in the interchange of schemes between all three years of the programme. Whilst the priority is always to deliver schemes listed in the Year 1 programme, the Housing Executive is aware that delays can occur. In those circumstances, a facility exists, outside of the formal bidding process, to add new schemes to the programme throughout the year or to bring forward schemes from later years.

At the point of publication, the Derry District Housing Plan detailed the 788 units included in the SHDP for Derry City Council area at that time. The SHDP is updated weekly to reflect programme amendments and these changes are also detailed on the published programme.

At the point in time that a response was provided to AQW 28466/11-15 the 3 year SHDP 2013/14 – 2015/16 had reduced to 454 units and details of the programmed schemes were provided.

The Table below details the programme amendments within the Derry City Council SHDP over this period of time and also facilitates a reconciliation of the two figures referred to.

	Derry City Council SHDP at publication date	788
Association	Scheme details	
Apex	Londonderry Rehabs (new addition)	3
Apex	Cedar Villa replacement(units increased)	3
Apex	ESPs Phase 20D (new addition)	4
Apex	ESPs Phase 20F (new addition)	5
Clanmil	Foxhill, Londonderry (units increased)	5

Oaklee	Braehead, Nixons Corner (units increased)	4
Oaklee	Fahan Street, Londonderry (units increased)	3
Trinity	Nelson Drive, Londonderry Ph1 (new addition)	17
Apex	St Peters School Creggan (units reduced)	-3
Apex	EMI Foyleville Londonderry (need to be confirmed)	-30
Apex	Glen Court / Cedar Court (units increased)	2
Apex	Community Integration Cityside (included with St Peters)	-6
Clanmil	Bayview Terrace (site lost)	-13
Clanmil	Buncrana Road / Springtown Road Ph2 (site lost)	-125
Clanmil	Creggan Country Park (site lost)	-52
Apex	Rathmore Road (site lost)	-16
Apex	Playground site Glenowen (slipped to 2016/17)	-10
Clanmil	Buncrana Road / Springtown Road Ph1 (site lost)	-125
	Derry City Council SHDP at November 2013	454

Note: Losses to the SHDP are highlighted in yellow.

The SHDP is published on the Housing Executive's website at www.nihe.gov.uk. And is updated on a weekly basis to reflect amendments.

Department's Register of Gifts and Hospitality

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

(AQW 29157/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Special Adviser has made no entries in the Register of Gifts and Hospitality since he has been appointed.

Randalstown: Town Centre Environmental Works

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail any correspondence his Department has received from traders in Randalstown stating their objection to further town centre environmental works.

(AQW 29233/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department received a letter from Randalstown Chamber of Trade on 18 September 2013 stating that they believed the disruption caused by the proposed environmental improvements would have a detrimental impact on their businesses, and requested that the scheme be 'shelved'.

Randalstown Town Centre

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development what funds his Department has available for improving Randalstown town centre.

(AQW 29234/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is currently working with Antrim Borough Council and representatives from local traders and businesses to develop a Revitalisation scheme for the town centre up to a value of £150,000. The purpose of the scheme is to improve shop frontages, address dereliction and

gap sites and to support and sustain businesses through the promotion and marketing of the town centre. In addition the Department has a discretionary Urban Development Grant programme to provide financial assistance to developers and owner/occupiers in the construction of new buildings and redevelopment or refurbishment of properties within the town centre.

Funding for any schemes is subject to a satisfactory appraisal being completed and sufficient cover being available within the Department's budget.

Fusion21

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development when he has had meetings with Fusion21 since taking office.

(AQO 5239/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Member may wish to note my answer to Assembly Question 13779/11-15 which explained when I met with Fusion 21. However, for the benefit of the Member today I will repeat it - in relation to the Glass and Glazing Federation I met with the Managing Director and the General Manager of Turkington Holdings on 16 April 2012. I also met with the Managing Director, Chief Executive and Independent Chair of Fusion 21 on 23 April 2012.

Licensing Law Consultation

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the outcomes of his licensing law consultation.

(AQW 29314/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A public consultation on "Proposed changes to the law regulating the sale and supply of alcohol in Northern Ireland" ended on 12 November 2012. The consultation included a wide range of proposals and attracted a large volume of responses from a wide variety of key stakeholders, including the alcohol industry, health bodies and the general public.

Officials have carefully considered the wide spectrum of strongly held views received in response to the proposals and briefed the Social Development Committee on this on 12 September.

I am currently considering the draft report on the outcome of the consultation before deciding the way forward on the proposed reforms.

Shankhill Gateway Public Realm Scheme

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Shankhill Gateway public realm scheme.

(AQW 29319/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The proposed Shankill Gateway public realm scheme (between Peter's Hill and Agnes Street) involves the creation of distinct entrance features that portray a sense of arrival to the neighbourhood, the use of high quality materials, distinct street furniture and lighting columns that introduce style and character and provide a cohesive local appearance to the street-scape that can set the tone for the rest of the Shankill. Initial scheme design drawings are currently being prepared for further consideration and community consultation and estimated cost of the scheme cost is in the region of £3m. RPS PLC has been awarded the contract and it is planned that work will commence early in the New Year. As this scheme is due to run beyond the local government reform implementation date of 1 April 2015 Belfast City Council's endorsement of the scheme will be sought. The STC for Belfast met for the first time on 10 December 2013 and the process for project approval still needs to be established.

Housing Executive: Board Appointments

Mr Sheehan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the selection/recruitment process for applicants which led to the recent appointment of Board members of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

(AQO 5242/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The selection/ recruitment process for any appointments to the Board of the Housing Executive must be made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Northern Ireland.

I appointed a new Board member in April this year following a public appointment competition and in November I re-appointed two members from the Housing Council to the Board of the Housing Executive to serve a second term.

Ballymoney Town Centre Masterplan

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Town Centre Masterplan for Ballymoney.

(AQO 5243/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The consultants appointed by my Department to prepare a Masterplan for Ballymoney town centre have completed all the initial preparation and research work, carried out a public consultation exercise on the draft masterplan proposals and have submitted a draft document to the project steering group. This steering group was formed to oversee the work of the consultants and comprises officials from Ballymoney Borough Council, DRD Roads Service, DOE Planning Service and my Department. A final draft of the masterplan is being prepared for consideration by Ballymoney Borough Council.

It is anticipated that the final version of the masterplan will be published in early 2014, subject to its endorsement by the Council.

Newsagents: Community Access

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any plans to use small newsagent shops as community access points.

(AQO 5244/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Whilst I have no plans to expand the use of small newsagent shops as community access points, currently, many of them play an important role in providing vulnerable customers with the means to access benefit payments which have often been made to meet an emergency situation. Small newsagents shops are an integral part of most local communities, and utilising this access will be considered as part of the Departments communications plans on welfare reform.

I can also confirm that there are plans to locate internet access points in all of my department's Jobs & Benefits and Social Security offices for claimants to use and is also intended that online benefits such as Universal Credit will be available as 'mobile apps' so claimants can have access from their smart phone.

Fuel Poverty: Rural Areas

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister for Social Development what efforts his Department is making to ensure the Warm Homes Scheme is published widely in rural areas, to tackle fuel poverty in rural communities.

(AQO 5245/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In order to raise public awareness in rural areas, the Warm Homes Scheme is promoted at all relevant rural and energy related external seminars and presentations. Warm Homes leaflets and advice was offered at the Balmoral Show in May 2013 and at a Rural Energy Seminar on 20 November 2013.

The Warm Homes Scheme is delivered by Bryson Energy and H&A Mechanical Services. They are responsible for delivering the Warm Homes Scheme measures to at least 9,000 households annually, 40% of which are to be in rural areas. The Scheme managers produce an annual Marketing Plan outlining their proposed promotional activities and they report on these activities at their monthly monitoring meeting with the Housing Executive. These marketing activities range from press releases and adverts, to attendance at local events and direct mail promotion to target households on qualifying benefits. Each of the Scheme managers maintains a database of community groups and organisations in their area, including Rural Community Networks, and they regularly promote the Scheme to these groups.

The Scheme managers also receive referrals from two key home visiting projects, Western Home Environmental Assessment Project (WHEAP) and Maximising Access in Rural Areas (MARA).

The Rural Energy Seminar was organised specifically to explore with rural community groups any potential mechanisms to help reduce energy consumption and cut energy bills in an effort to tackle fuel poverty. The Housing Executive's Rural and Energy Conservation Units came together to organise this event in association with external partners involved in the energy industry as well as rural stakeholders who could support and promote the event. A Warm Homes stand was also featured at the event with representatives from Bryson Energy in attendance to offer advice and information on the Scheme.

Awareness of the Warm Homes Scheme is also raised through communication with the Housing Executive's Rural Residents Forum who has access to community groups, tenants and residents in their areas and can ensure that information is circulated specifically to those who are most likely to benefit from the Scheme.

The Housing Executive, through its Rural Action Plan 2013/15 aims to ensure there is a cross divisional effort to keep rural communities aware of the various grants and initiatives which are available to them. This is communicated through the Housing Executive's website; it's bi-annual publication "Rural Matters"; published reviews of its Rural Action Plan and the availability of information leaflets at local Housing Executive offices. NI Direct also contains up to date information regarding the Warm Homes Scheme and details of how to access the Scheme.

Cavity Wall Insulation

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the measures being taken to address the lack of cavity wall insulation in Housing Executive properties.

(AQO 5246/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that cavity wall insulation has been installed in around 75,000 of its stock where it has been feasible to do so, apart from a small number of properties where tenants refused work. However, they have in the region of 14,000, traditional and non traditional property types which do not have cavity walls (such as No Fines, Orlits or Easiform).

Some recent developments that the Housing Executive has been involved in regarding the insulation of their properties include for example, the recently provided external wall insulation to three rural cottages outside Coleraine. It cost just under £13,000 per unit, including 200 millimeters external insulation, new doors, windows, rainwater goods and fascias and warm deck roofs to two of the properties which had a side extension. The Housing Executive is now monitoring the performance of the dwellings over this coming winter season.

The Housing Executive is also at the start of a larger and more detailed analysis of their No Fines concrete properties. A consortium has been formed to establish the best solution to improve their No Fines concrete stock of some 5,600 dwellings in terms of external insulation to improve the thermal efficiency of the dwellings.

The project will look initially at providing external insulation to seven No Fines properties in Antrim. The outcome of this will be to provide new policy for energy improvement measures for this construction type. It is hoped that this solution can be rolled out across the UK where there are over 300,000 No Fines properties.

In relation to cavity wall insulation, a recent report from University of Ulster suggested that there may be a problem in some dwellings where mineral wool or fibre based insulation was installed. The Housing Executive commissioned their own research into this to undertake a minimum of 300 technical surveys of its own dwellings. These surveys should determine whether the cavities have blown fibre, loose bead, bonded bead, insulation board or other and identify the current condition of the insulation. The surveys began in October 2013 and will complete in March 2014. Until they are complete, the Housing Executive would have no way of knowing if there is a wider problem with cavity insulation and, if so, the extent of it.

The Housing Executive will carry out an evaluation of the results to determine if there is substandard insulation within their properties and will develop whatever action plan is indicated with new strategies and policies.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the number of applicants for the Warm Homes Scheme to date.

(AQO 5247/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Warm Homes Scheme was first introduced in 2001. During this period information was collected detailing the number of installations. Between 2001 and June 2009 a total of 73,842 households had measures installed.

A new Warm Homes Scheme was introduced on 1 July 2009. Between 1 July 2009 and 31 October 2013 a total of 157,631 applicants contacted the Warm Homes Scheme. Of these, 66,777 were eligible for referral to the Warm Homes Scheme. This means these customers answered “yes” to the eligibility questions asked. Of these, 41,909 eligible customers had Warm Homes measures installed. It should be noted that some people decide for personal reasons not to proceed with installation of measures.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr Newton asked the Minister for Social Development how many homes have benefited from the Warm Homes Scheme.

(AQO 5248/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Between 1 July 2009 and 31 October 2013, 41, 909 homes have had Warm Homes measures installed.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Parliament Buildings: Public Transport

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission to outline any plans in place to increase public transport links with Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 28867/11-15)

Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): At present, Translink has not made the Assembly Commission aware of any plans in place to increase public transport links with Parliament Buildings.

However, the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission remain consortium members of the Stormont Area ‘Workplace Management Plan’ group who meet to discuss a number of transport related issues including increasing public transport links within the Stormont Estate.

Currently, the following services are available;

Metro Services

- 20A
- 23
- 29

Goldline (direct from Europa bus station)

- 208

Ulsterbus

- 6B

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 13 December 2013

(AQW 28691/11-15)

The information requested is detailed in the table below.

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	Total
Capital	8,429,425	8,123,126	10,217,603	26,770,154
Maintenance	4,074,520	4,581,502	5,691,734	14,347,756
Other Spend*	121,148,134	122,782,083	122,029,706	365,959,923
Total	133,652,079	135,486,711	137,486,711	407,077,833

* includes spend on schools, school meals kitchens, youth clubs, transport, Sure Start, special needs etc.

(AQW 28172/11-15)

I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the promotion of water efficiency as a means of managing consumption and reducing water taken from the environment is recognised in its Water Resource Management Plan. (i) It is acknowledged that water efficient appliances and devices, such as dual flush toilets, when installed and used appropriately can contribute to reduced water consumption in households. This is reflected by the requirements embodied in The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 which came into effect on 3 August 2009.

There are so many unquantifiable variables that a detailed and meaningful assessment of the total reduction in water consumption if all dwellings were equipped with dual flush toilets has not been undertaken. Any assessment would be expected to take account of the number, type and size of cisterns currently installed in households in order to evaluate any relative change in water consumption and there are no such statistics available. Further, anecdotal commentary within the UK Water Industry, in relation to the use of dual flush toilets, suggests a risk of householders practicing double flushing either due to insufficient water to clear the contents of the toilet pan, or users not being familiar with dual flush options. It is known that a modern dual flush cistern discharges a full flush of approximately 6 litres and a partial flush of 4 litres. In contrast, toilet cisterns produced before 1993 generally discharge a flush of 9 litres, while those produced between 1993 and 2001 generally produce a flush of 7.5 litres, and those after 2001 typically discharge a flush of 6 litres.

(ii) There are currently no plans to offer incentives to households to install or convert to dual flush toilets.

(AQW 28801/11-15)

As stated in the joint Assembly statement made on the 26 November in relation to on the North/South Ministerial Council Education. The Council agreed that the Education Underachievement Working Group would focus on three strands of work which should have a greater focus on social-based policies with an intended educational outcome.

The three strands of work to be taken forward are

- international benchmarking studies;
- school-based and social interventions to address underachievement; and
- the impact of pre-school placements on primary level performance.

I welcome this change in focus which complements my department priorities for improving the quality of life and life chances for our most disadvantaged children and young people.



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