

Written Answers to Questions

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They should be sent to:

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

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 31 May 2013

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Appeal Applications

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 22646/11-15, what is the average length of time taken for a decision to be made on an appeal application.

(AQW 23053/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The Planning Appeals Commission is an independent tribunal Non-Departmental Public Body. Given its status, we have asked its Chief Commissioner to provide a response directly to you.

Planning Appeals Commission: Temporary Staff

Mr Agnew asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why temporary staff were not appointed to the Planning Appeals Commission to oversee planning appeals when decisions were delayed due to a backlog in workload.

(AQW 23428/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Planning Appeals Commission is an independent Tribunal which operates at arm's length from Government and exercises its functions independently of our Department.

While OFMDFM holds sponsorship responsibility for the Commission and provides financial and administrative support, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for day to day operation of the Commission and for deployment of its resources to meet the prevailing workload.

However, in recognition of the challenges and pressures facing the Commission we made a commitment through the previous Programme for Government to deliver increased resources to enable it to address increases in workload.

We allocated significant additional funding to the Commission over the three year period 2008 to 2011; this enabled us to appoint an additional 14 fee-paid Panel Commissioners to address the backlog of planning appeals, and to increase the Commission's capacity at senior levels to manage this process.

As a result, the planning appeals backlog has reduced from over 3,000 in 2007 to 212 at the end of April 2013.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Fishing Fleet Assistance

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the Hardship Fund being established for the farming community affected by the severe weather crisis, what measures can be put in place to assist the fishing fleet to deal with the severe weather that it has experienced.

(AQW 21973/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): The Hardship Fund being established for the farming community is aimed at assisting a sector that has experienced actual stock losses that have to be replaced. I appreciate that vessels have had difficulty getting to sea over the last few months, however, fishing opportunities in terms of quota and days at sea remain for 2013. Therefore I believe that matters will improve and fishing opportunities will be taken.

However, I have recently announced a package of financial measures that will assist the fishing industry to respond to Common Fisheries Policy reforms. Financial resources will be made available through the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) to include the establishment of a "research and development fund" specifically to develop fishing gear with very low catch rates of unwanted fish. In addition further financial assistance will be provided to the industry to improve skills and safety. Finally and subject to the completion of a business case, I will consider support for the full cost of replacing the fishing fleet's current vessel satellite monitoring systems with new multifunctional systems.

Fishing Fleet: Light Dues

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she plans to pay light dues on behalf of the fishing fleet, given the stance of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Republic of Ireland's authorities.

(AQW 21974/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have no current plans to pay for light dues. Light dues are payable by all owners of fishing vessels over 10 metres in length and vessel owners here and in Scotland pay light dues. DEFRA agreed to pay for light dues in 2008 on behalf of their fishermen, as part of their hardship package in response to the economic downturn and other pressures facing the industry at that time. Each Administration took a different approach and here we funded harbour charges for one year whilst England did not. I understand that whilst DEFRA have paid for light dues since 2008 and including 2013, the matter is currently under review.

Fishing Industry: Light Dues

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why local fishermen are required to pay Light Dues themselves, in contrast to the rest of the British Isles; and why her Department does not offer assistance, particularly in view of current hardship in the industry.

(AQW 21978/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Light dues are paid by owners of fishing vessels over 10 metres in length to the General Lighthouse Authorities, and are the responsibility of the Department of Transport (DTR). Fishing vessels here and in Scotland pay light dues. DEFRA agreed to pay for light dues in 2008 as part of their hardship package in response to the economic downturn and other pressures facing the industry at that time. Each Administration took a different approach and here we funded harbour charges for one year whilst England did not. I understand that whilst DEFRA have paid for light dues since 2008 and including 2013, the matter is currently under review.

However, I have recently announced a package of financial measures that will assist the fishing industry to respond to Common Fisheries Policy reforms. Financial resources will be made available through the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) to include the establishment of a "research and development fund" specifically to develop fishing gear with very low catch rates of unwanted fish. In addition further financial assistance will be provided to the industry to improve skills and safety. Finally and subject

to the completion of a business case, I will consider support for the full cost of replacing the fishing fleet's current vessel satellite monitoring systems with new multifunctional systems.

Pet First Aid Training Courses

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she is aware of any pet first aid training courses.

(AQW 22942/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: While I am aware that there are a number of organisations which provide training in pet first aid across Britain and Ireland I do not have any details regarding the accreditation of particular courses nor the standards of the training provided.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provides training in veterinary nursing but does not run a specific course on pet first aid.

Rural Development Funding

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what progress has been made in establishing a new round of rural development funding.

(AQW 22961/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: To keep to the EU Commission timetable for the development of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme it has been necessary to begin policy development in the absence of knowing the final agreed regulation and the available budget. Internal policy groups were established in January 2012 to take forward policy development for both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. A Rural Development Programme Stakeholder Consultation Group was established in November 2012 and independent programme evaluators appointed in February 2013. Proposals for the next round of funding have been discussed at three meetings of the Stakeholder Group. My officials will continue to refine these proposals in conjunction with our stakeholders and the programme evaluators in preparation for a full public consultation later this year.

Single Farm Payment Applications in 2010 and 2012

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many staff were employed in processing Single Farm Payment applications in (i) 2010; and (ii) 2012.

(AQW 22991/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The number of permanent administrative staff employed to process Single Farm Payment (SFP) applications as of April 2010 and April 2012 are 66 and 76 respectively. These staff are located in Orchard House.

The above figures include those staff directly responsible for the processing of approximately 37,800 Single Application Forms (SAF) including the acknowledgement of these forms, transferring claim information from application forms to the Department's databases, carrying out administrative checks on all claims, resolving queries by telephone or letter, applying inspection findings to claims, applying adjustments and reductions and authorising payments. These figures also include those responsible for processing applications to trade SFP entitlements and any changes to farm business details or membership details.

A small number of staff are also employed on a casual basis for a few months each year to cover seasonal activity such as the initial handling of Single Applications submitted in April to June each year.

The figures do not include those staff based in local DARD offices who are involved in carrying out and recording the results of on-farm checks and the associated mapping work, those involved in other work linked to the process such as the testing and development of computer systems or staff employed to review decisions under the Departments Review of Decisions Procedures.

Bovine TB

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how her Department is working to reassure the farming community that bio-security is viewed by the EU as a major factor in combating Bovine TB.

(AQW 22999/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has a robust EU Commission approved TB eradication programme that is based on testing to detect infected cattle, removing infected animals and reducing the risks of disease spread through movement controls and other biosecurity measures.

Good biosecurity is important in disease control and can help reduce the spread of all diseases. To encourage better biosecurity, the Department publishes generic information for use by all herdkeepers and provides specific advice to those who have a TB herd breakdown. The "Biosecurity Code for NI Farms" was drafted in association with industry stakeholders and issued to all farmers in 2006. The publication "TB in your Herd" is issued to all herdkeepers who have a TB herd breakdown. These publications are available on the DARD website. In addition, DARD Veterinary Officers and Animal Health and Welfare Inspectors give on-farm advice to farmers in relation to specific biosecurity issues particularly relevant to them.

The importance of biosecurity is also reflected in DARD commissioned research projects. The results of the TB Biosecurity Study, which is being finalised by AFBI, may help inform future biosecurity advice to herdkeepers. AFBI is also undertaking DARD commissioned research to establish the extent of badger-cattle interactions at pasture and within farm buildings. The results of this AFBI research will inform badger exclusion biosecurity advice. Also underway is an assessment of farmers' attitudes to and understanding of biosecurity measures when dealing with diseases.

The initiatives being developed by Animal Health and Welfare NI to deal with production diseases, such as Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and Johne's Disease, also provide advice on biosecurity in protecting animal health more generally.

The Department has also worked closely with key industry stakeholders to produce biosecurity information leaflets for distribution at industry events. Statutory Brucellosis biosecurity guidance has been issued to all cattle herdowners and the advice contained therein will also be relevant to TB.

The new EU Animal Health Law, a draft of which has recently been published, is intended to simplify existing animal health legislation and provide for a more prevention driven and risk based approach. The new law will set down basic principles for animal health responsibilities, which will include biosecurity measures. Formal negotiations are at an early stage and any change to domestic legislation is unlikely for at least another 2 years.

Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the amount of funding awarded to each of the Local Action Groups via the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013.

(AQW 23016/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Funding allocated to the Local Action Groups implementing Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme on behalf of my Department is as follows:-

Cluster	Allocation
GROW	8,890,899
NER	13,181,300
LRP	8,691,556
DRAP	13,498,066

Cluster	Allocation
SOAR	16,731,839
ARC	18,484,112
SWARD	20,522,227
Total	99,999,999

Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the amount of funding awarded to rural communities via the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013.

(AQW 23017/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The amounts of funding awarded to rural communities through various measures in the NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 are detailed in the table attached.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING AWARDED TO RURAL COMMUNITIES BY AXIS AND MEASURE

Axis 1 – Letters of Offer awarded by March 2013	£m
0.1 Vocational Training	3.4
1.2 Processing & Marketing	18.1
1.3 Farm Modernisation including METS	23.9
1.4 Supply Chain Development	0.1

Axis 2 – Agreements to be paid to December 2013	£m
2.1 Less Favoured Areas	165.0
2.2 Agri-environment Programme	174.0
2.3 First Afforestation Schemes	10.8
2.4 Forest Environment Schemes	

Axis 3 – Letters of Offer awarded by March 2013	£m
3.1 Farm Diversification	12.2
3.2 Business Creation & Development	8.6
3.3 Tourism	14.8
3.4 Basic Services including Broadband	26.1
3.5 Village Renewal	7.1
3.6 Conservation of Rural Heritage	4.9

Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) when applications to the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 end; (ii) any projected underspend.

(AQW 23019/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: (i)The information on closure times of the NIRDP 2007-13 is shown in

the table below.

Axis 1 Focus Farm Programme	Closed for applications. However the programme is open for visitors to Focus Farms up until 31 March 2014.
Benchmarking Programme	Open for data collection up until 31 March 2015.
Farm Family Options (FFO) Business Mentoring Programme	Open for applications up until 31 March 2014.
Farm Family Options (FFO) Collective Training Programme	Open for applications up until 31 March 2014.
Processing & Marketing Grant Scheme (PMG)	The final call for applications to the PMG Scheme closed in January 2013. Applications will be processed over the coming months.
Farm Modernisation Programme (FMP)	FMP Tranche 3 opened for application on 4 September 2012 and closed on 19 October 2012.
Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme (METS)	Intention to open Tranche 3 of METS by 31 March 2014. No closing date has yet been set.
Supply Chain Development Programme	Closed for applications at 31 March 2013
Axis 2 Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowances Scheme	15 May 2014
NI Countryside Management Scheme	31 March 2010
Organic Farming Scheme	1 April 2011.
Axis 3	DARD has established a project completion date of 31 March 2015.

(ii) Following a spend review of the Rural Development Programme, I announced my intention in December to increase the value of the programme from approximately £507m to £540m to accommodate;

- A further £5m available for the provision of rural broadband;
- To make provision of around £5m available for a further round of capital grant funding for Axis 1;
- To pay for the Less Favoured Areas Compensatory Allowance scheme in 2014 from the current programme budget.

These proposed changes have been agreed with the Programme Monitoring Committee and my officials will continue to monitor Programme expenditure and make any adjustments to ensure the drawdown of funds is maximised.

Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what programme will replace the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013.

(AQW 23020/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The EU proposals for rural development for 2014-2020 were published as part of the CAP Reform Proposals in October 2011. Each Member State can design their rural development programme from a selection of up to twenty three measures to take into account their own specific needs and in line with the six EU rural development priorities; only the agri-environment-climate measure is compulsory. As with the current programme the EU requires the programme to be developed in conjunction with our partners and stakeholders and proposals for the next round of funding have been discussed at three meetings of the Stakeholder Group. My officials will continue to refine these proposals in conjunction with our stakeholders and the programme evaluators in preparation for a full public consultation later this year. Any agreement with the EU on a future programme of support for rural development will be subject to the outcome of the EU negotiations on CAP Reform which are still on-going.

Single Farm Payment

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the maximum eligible area, in hectares, for Single Farm Payment; and (ii) the number of entitlements.

(AQW 23058/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In order to be paid Single Farm Payment (SFP) a business must hold SFP entitlements. These entitlements were established against each farm business upon application to SFP in 2005. Entitlements can be traded or sold between farm businesses and if not claimed for two consecutive years are confiscated. European Council legislation requires that Member States recover entitlements that have been unduly allocated as a result of factually incorrect applications.

The maximum eligible area, in hectares, for fields included on maps for 2012 SFP, was 1,000,378.63 hectares. The actual eligible area will be lower due to the presence of ineligible features which are not currently included on maps, for example, areas of scrub or tress below 0.1 hectares.

The number of SFP Entitlements held for the 2012 scheme year was 988,837 at 1 May 2013.

Single Farm Payment Claims

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps her Department is taking to ensure that Single Farm Payment claims will be assessed and paid on time.

(AQW 23063/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: This will be a challenging year for the completion of Single Farm Payments. Many farmers have followed the advice provided by my Department in relation to checking their maps and reflected the new mapping area information on their Single Applications. While we would hope that most claims will be accurate, and thus can be paid quickly, we are obliged to assess eligibility in accordance with EU rules and can only make payments when eligibility has been fully established.

The assessment of Single Farm Payment claims is carried out through a series of administrative, land eligibility on-the-spot and cross-compliance checks.

My Department is unable to release any payments until these checks are completed. To enable the release of the first Single Farm Payments (SFP) in early December 2013, my Department is planning to start its land eligibility on the spot checks in late June to ensure that all these are completed by mid-November. This year approximately half of the land eligibility on the spot checks will be conducted using satellite imagery and remote sensing techniques, with the remainder being carried out as field inspections.

As in previous years, my Department will be working to complete as many 2013 Single Farm Payments as possible at the earliest practical date. A payment timetable will be published in November 2013 setting out our payment timeline and processing targets

Shortage of Fodder and Silage

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she intends to put measures in place to alleviate the pressure on the farming community, particularly in relation to the shortage of fodder and silage.

(AQW 23081/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am pleased to confirm that I secured an additional £1m from the Executive on 16th May 2013 that enabled me to introduce a Fodder Transport Scheme.

This scheme will run from midnight on Saturday 18th May until midnight on 31st May 2013, and provides financial assistance towards the cost of transporting fodder into the north. My objective is to increase the supply of fodder in the north to help farmers in difficulty.

In addition I have established a Fodder Taskforce, which will bring together industry stakeholders and the Department to consider medium to long term issues facing the livestock industry and propose interventions.

CAFRE advisers and Veterinary staff will continue to provide advice and support to those farmers that are currently experiencing difficulties on their farms.

Haulage Grant: Transport Fodder and Silage

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development will she consider introducing a haulage grant similar to that in the Republic of Ireland, to assist farmers to transport fodder and silage.

(AQW 23082/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am please to confirm that I secured an additional £1m by agreement of Executive Colleagues on 16th May 2013. I instructed my officials to consider options to deliver a scheme similar to that in the South. From midnight on 18th May 2013 my Department brought into operation a Fodder Transport Scheme that will offset the transport costs of fodder delivered into the North.

Farm Modernisation Schemes

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given that many applicants for farm modernisation schemes cannot fulfill the terms and conditions of the scheme, what trends she has identified in the schemes in the last six months.

(AQW 23083/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The requirements for the Farm Modernisation Programme have been clearly and concisely laid out in the Explanatory Booklets published for each tranche. Farmers were advised to read these carefully before deciding to submit an application. In addition, the Farm Modernisation Programme's managing agent – Countryside Agri-Rural Partnership – operates a helpline to assist farm businesses with queries on the Programme requirements. When submitting an application, farmers were required to declare that they had understood the programme requirements as set out in the Explanatory Booklet. Successful applicants were further advised to carefully read the conditions of financial support of their Letter of Offer and, if in any doubt, to seek advice before accepting the funding offer.

To date, the very few ineligible claims submitted indicate that there are no discernable trends arising as a result of promoters failing to fulfil the terms and conditions of their Letters of Offer. However, the availability of match funding does appear to have resulted in a significant proportion of projects not proceeding or not spending their full funding allocation in each of the first two tranches. Whilst Tranche 3 is still at an early stage of claims processing, initial indications suggest that this trend will be repeated.

Welfare of Farmers

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what assessment has she made in relation to the amount of deceased stock leaving farms, excluding the numbers through the carcass

collection scheme and the severe weather around Easter; and what measures she will take to assist the welfare of farmers.

(AQW 23118/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Since the 1st January to 30th April this year my Department have recorded 34,518 cattle disposed off from farms in the north, excluding the stock disposed of as a result of the severe weather under the carcase disposal part of the 'Severe Weather Scheme'.

My staff have been in contact with Rural Support and the Health Trusts and I am aware of the pressures farmers and their families face during these difficult times. In response to the significant fodder shortage I secured £1million from the Executive for the Fodder Scheme to help those farmers who advise us they have a shortage of fodder.

Apart from this most recent initiative, I have also made earlier payments on some subsidies and with the support of the Assembly established a hardship scheme for those significantly affected by the severe weather.

My officials are available to provide advice and assistance to farmers whose animals are experiencing serious welfare issues and where the farmer him/herself is unable to cope. We actively promote the help available through Rural Support on our website and other interactions with farmers where appropriate.

My Department and I will continue to work closely with the industry as we work our way through the current difficulties facing the sector.

Ballygawley Flood Relief Scheme

Mr Byrne asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when work will start on the Ballygawley Flood Relief Scheme and whether there is an estimated completion date.

(AQW 23207/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am pleased to be able to inform you that construction of the Ballygawley Flood Alleviation Scheme commenced in January 2013.

I can also report that work is progressing well. If this continues it is expected that the scheme will be completed early next year.

Broadband Black Spot Areas

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the steps that residents in areas of West Tyrone such as, Greencastle, Cloughfin, and Broughderg, can take to ensure maximum benefit from, and access to, the recently announced £5m funding package to tackle broadband black spot areas.

(AQW 23209/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: A final review of the postcodes to be considered as not spots and therefore eligible for funding under the BDUK project will be published shortly as part of the final consultation process. I will ensure that Officials from my Department contact you so that you can inform constituents in these areas to take part in the consultation exercise. Additionally my Officials are working with a group from this area to see what can be done to improve access to broadband.

Agri-Food Enforcement Legislation

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW22109/11-15, given that there have been no substantive changes to primary agri-food enforcement legislation in the last five years, why the enforcement training was deemed necessary; and whether the original inspector accreditation in enforcement is no longer sufficient.

(AQW 23220/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: It is important that staff are equipped with the training to perform their roles effectively and that they have opportunity for continued professional development in line with businesses need. This is consistent with my Department's policy as an Investor's in People organisation and indeed NICS policy.

Although there have been no substantive changes recently to agri-food enforcement legislation, processes and procedures are continually reviewed and amended to improve their effectiveness. All staff, and in particular new staff, require ongoing training in all aspects of their work. This is prioritised in Departmental Training Plans and Personal Development Plans.

Agri-food Inspection Branch identified that their staff required either refresher training or initial training in enforcement. They agreed that the accredited course run by Veterinary Service Investigation Branch provided a comprehensive and cost effective programme which met their needs. This course, unlike any previous training provided to their staff in this area, is accredited; provides greater understanding on the whole area of enforcement; and sets the role of the branch and its staff in context with others involved in investigation and enforcement within DARD.

Going for Growth

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why 'Going for Growth' was not made available to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development yet the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment received the publication on 16 May 2013.

(AQW 23224/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: An advance electronic copy of Going for Growth was issued by my office to the Chair of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) on 15 May 2013 and hard copies were made available to ARD Committee members on 16 May 2013.

Northern Ireland Agri-Food Industry

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in light of the publication of the Strategic Action Plan for the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Industry, whether she plans to reduce inspection and cost burdens for farmers who are certified by both the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and the Red Tractor Scheme, whereby one inspection and one fee would be suffice to meet accreditation under both schemes.

(AQW 23255/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The DETI Minister and I are currently considering the many detailed recommendations contained in the Agri-Food Strategy Board's report, Going for Growth. It will take some time to assess the implications of these and we are not in a position at this stage to make any decisions regarding individual issues.

In the meantime, my Department will continue to work closely with industry to deal with any excessive regulatory and administrative burdens identified. We are striving to simplify procedures wherever we can and ensure that the balance between regulation and simplification creates an environment which allows businesses to grow further.

I would, also, point out that both the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme and the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme are voluntary initiatives run by and on behalf of industry. They are not government schemes and therefore DARD has no direct influence or control over their administration.

Shanaghy Road, Ballymoney: Flooding

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures the Rivers Agency is taking to prevent a repeat of the flooding of residential property on Shanaghy Road, Ballymoney.

(AQW 23270/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The recurring flooding problem at this location is caused by overland flow and inadequate undesignated internal drainage within and through the site. Rivers Agency has responded to a number of flooding incidents since 2008 and has provided advice on how drainage systems could be improved.

This advice has not been taken. Rivers Agency has recently carried out a comprehensive drainage and CCTV survey at this location and a meeting has been arranged with residents on 6 June 2013 at which further advice will be provided along with an estimate of cost. It is hoped that residents will agree to carry out the necessary works without the Agency having to consider formal enforcement under the Drainage (NI) Order 1973.

Shanaghy Road, Ballymoney: Flooding

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures the Rivers Agency has taken to address the flooding of residential property on Shanaghy Road, Ballymoney, in the last five years.

(AQW 23273/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The recurring flooding problem at this location is caused by overland flow and inadequate undesignated internal drainage within and through the site. Rivers Agency has responded to a number of flooding incidents since 2008 and has provided advice on how drainage systems could be improved. This advice has not been taken. Rivers Agency has recently carried out a comprehensive drainage and CCTV survey at this location and a meeting has been arranged with officials and local elected representatives on 6 June 2013 at which further advice will be provided along with an estimate of cost. It is hoped that residents will agree to carry out the necessary works without the Agency having to consider formal enforcement under the Drainage (NI) Order 1973.

Fishing Fleet: Financial Support

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, following her recent announcement of aid to the farming community, whether she plans to provide financial support to the fishing fleet.

(AQW 23275/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have recently announced a package of financial measures that will assist the fishing industry to respond to Common Fisheries Policy reforms that will bring new challenges, including an obligation to land all catches of fish.

Financial resources will be made available through the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and will include the establishment of a "research and development fund" specifically to develop fishing gear with very low catch rates of unwanted fish. In addition I also announced further financial assistance to the industry to improve skills and safety. Finally and subject to the completion of a business, I will consider support for the full cost of replacing current satellite monitoring systems with new multifunctional systems.

Fodder Transport Scheme: Londonderry Port and Harbour

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why Londonderry Port and Harbour was not included as a port in her Department's Fodder Transport Scheme.

(AQW 23278/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Ports used for the 2013 Fodder Transport scheme were selected on the criteria that they have a 'roll on roll off' facility and service for road hauliers with mainland Britain.

The Port and Harbour of Derry does not meet these criteria.

Rural Regeneration: Villages in South Tyrone

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much has been spent on rural regeneration in villages in South Tyrone.

(AQW 23280/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Under the 'Quality of Life' Axis (3) of the Rural Development Programme 2007-13, my department has a specific measure relating to Village Renewal. This is aimed at enabling and encouraging residents of villages and surrounding areas to create an integrated action plan to ensure

the full potential of such areas is achieved and to support integrated village initiatives. This measure is being delivered by 7 Joint Council Committees (JCC) working with a Local Action Group (LAG) in each area. Under the Village Renewal measure South West Action for Rural Development (SWARD) set aside a budget of £1.7m to support 31 villages across the cluster area (Magherafelt, Cookstown, Dungannon and Fermanagh councils).

Six villages in South Tyrone (Caledon, Ballygawley, Galbally, Killeeshil Donaghmore and Aughnacloy) have been successful in receiving funding support following an open call for applications. To date £202,269 from the £400,000 awarded has been spent on projects within those villages.

Future Capital Grant Scheme for Farmers

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the work she has undertaken regarding a future capital grant scheme for farmers.

(AQW 23358/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The development of the future Rural Development Programme, which includes a capital grant scheme for Farm businesses, is well underway and the proposals for the new programme have been discussed at the Stakeholder Consultation Group which was established last November. A public consultation on the draft Rural Development Programme is planned for later this year.

As you will be aware EU negotiations on the rural development proposals are continuing and I am working with Defra and the other Devolved Administrations to ensure the Commission's proposals remain flexible enough to meet the needs of the agri-food industry and the other broader rural areas. A key issue is the amount of funding which will be available for the Rural Development Programme and my understanding is that the allocation of the CAP Pillar 2 budget to Member States has still to be finalised.

Flooding in East Belfast

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the capital investment her Department has undertaken in East Belfast since 27 June 2012 to ensure that the flooding, which occurred last summer, is not repeated this summer; (ii) the investment in capital projects to improve the infrastructure that has been allocated by her Department to prevent flooding in East Belfast; and (iii) the investment in capital projects to improve the infrastructure that is being considered by her Department to prevent flooding in East Belfast.

(AQW 23499/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Since the flooding in East Belfast in June 2012 Rivers Agency has undertaken capital works to provide interim improvements to the levels of flood defence in the vicinity of Orangefield. Once completed these works will have cost approximately £490k. In total Rivers Agency have approval to spend in the region of £11.7m on a Flood Alleviation Scheme associated with the East Belfast Greenway project. This will include flood alleviation works scheduled for this year within Orangefield and Victoria parks (approximately £1.4m), and upgrading of major road culverts on the Knock and Loop River systems (approximately £3m). In the longer term Rivers Agency will be investing approximately £5.3m in further flood alleviation works on the Loop and Connswater Rivers planned to commence during 2014-15. Rivers Agency is also considering further additional works along the Knock River upstream of Sandown road to provide increased flood protection to properties in this area.

Fodder Scheme

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the details of the Fodder Scheme.

(AQW 23655/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I implemented the 2013 Fodder Transport Scheme after securing £1m of funds by agreement of my Executive colleagues on 16th May 2013. The scheme started at Midnight on 18th May and closed at Midnight on 31 May 2013

The intervention aid provided was a subsidy towards the cost of transport for fodder imported to the North from Britain and other EU countries. Fodder transported from the South was not eligible. The scheme was funding under EU State Aid rules which stipulate that a farmer cannot receive in excess of €7500 State Aid in any three year period.

The initial rate of intervention was set at £90/t for all types of fodder. The Department monitored the Scheme and following an analysis introduced a separate rate of £45/t for silage/haylage from Midnight 22 May 2013. The rate for hay / straw continued at £90/t.

The scheme was much needed by farmers and I am pleased to report it has had made a difference to the situation in the north providing increased availability of fodder that has been delivered to all 6 counties. This has eased both the fodder supply and price pressures that the industry was facing.

Ash Dieback Disease

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide an update on her Department's actions to tackle ash dieback disease.

(AQO 4134/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Our general surveillance to date of trees planted within the last five years and tracing plant movements found 77 infected premises, mainly from planting during 2010, 2011 and 2012. The widespread nature of infection is disappointing, but at this stage we are still regarding the disease as one caused by imported plants and not spread within the wider environment. Statutory Plant Health Notices have issued requiring destruction of affected ash saplings and plant debris. Forest Service has provided assistance to ensure sites were dealt with swiftly.

The focus now must be on surveillance over the summer. We are co-operating closely with authorities in the South on a "Fortress Ireland"-type approach, and with authorities in Britain. We consulted stakeholders about our approach as outlined in the draft All-Ireland Chalara Control Strategy, which addresses the risk of the disease becoming established; supports the need for research on how disease spreads and resistance develops; encourages stakeholder and public engagement; and addresses the need for resilience should the disease become established.

The Department has commenced its 2013 survey. We are adopting a risk-based, intelligence-led and targeted approach. The survey covers all of the North, including recently-planted sites of ash in public & private woodland; roadside plantings; established trees & hedgerows and nurseries. We will sample suspect trees and decisions will be informed by laboratory testing and prevalence of disease in the locality.

I am grateful for continued stakeholder co-operation and engagement, with the most recent event on 25 April. I know the ARD Committee took the opportunity to see at first-hand the principles that govern our work protecting the North from new introductions of disease, and what happens when disease is found.

I encourage stakeholders to be vigilant of disease symptoms and report any concerns to the Department. Comprehensive information and reporting arrangements are outlined on our website.

Farming: Fodder

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures her Department has taken to address the fodder crisis affecting farmers.

(AQO 4135/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has been monitoring the fodder situation carefully. We are currently experiencing wet, cool weather which has had a significant negative impact on grazing conditions for livestock and this has been combined with a late spring leading to a sharp rise in fodder costs. In response to discussions with the Industry on Thursday 16 May and the Department's assessment of the situation, I secured £1m to fund a Fodder Transport scheme in the north which started at Midnight on 18 May and will end at Midnight on 31 May 2013.

The objective of the scheme is to offset the transport costs and ensure that fodder is made available to farmers, in the North who have found themselves with a shortage of supply, as quickly as possible.

Indications are that fodder is available but farmers are unable to utilise this due to the exceptional weather conditions we are experiencing.

I have also asked CAFRE advisers and Veterinary staff to prioritise their work to advise and assist farmers who are currently experiencing difficulties on their farms.

I am continuing to monitor the situation and have asked my officials to set up a taskforce to review the issues likely to face the industry in the coming months, and to consider what interventions the Department and the industry should prepare.

Forestry Act 2010

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the implementation of the Forestry Act.

(AQO 4136/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Compared with the 1953 Act which it replaced, the Forestry Act 2010 is multi-faceted and capable of supporting a forward looking forestry strategy. It gives the powers to deliver a wide and integrated spectrum of benefits.

The Forestry Act 2010, made on 28 June 2010, has had three commencement orders. The first order, made in September 2010, introduced a general duty to promote afforestation and sustainable forestry, powers to carry out forestry operations and under section 4, provision for other use of forestry land.

Since then, we have developed a business case for commercial development of forestry land for wind farms and tourism and have assessed the potential for tourism development on forestry land. This work informed our bid for £4 million under the Executive's Economy and Jobs Initiative, and this money will help develop tourism projects linked to caravanning in forests over the next two years.

Section 7 of the Act gave us the power to avail of partnerships, an approach subsequently used to improve the recreational infrastructure of forests.

Under section 6(3) of the Act we are developing a register of the location and size of woodlands and their types of trees. Preliminary results were published on the Forest Service website in March 2012 and will be revised as new data becomes available. Preliminary results showed an increase in area of woodland to about 8% of land area.

The second commencement order, made in February 2013, introduced a public right of pedestrian access to the Department's forestry land, subject to new forestry land byelaws to promote responsible enjoyment and protection of public safety, property and the forest environment.

The third order, made on 15 May 2013, regulates the felling of trees in woodlands and will play a major role in our duty to promote sustainable forestry.

DARD: Fraud Prosecutions

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the success of fraud cases recommended for prosecution by the Central Investigation Service.

(AQO 4137/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The Department's Central Investigation Service (CIS) is a small reactive unit within the Department consisting of 3 full time members of staff. The Unit investigates incidences of suspected fraud, breaches of Scheme conditions and non compliance with regulations referred by other business areas.

Since 2008 there have been 27 DARD prosecutions in relation to non compliance cases and 6 in respect of fraudulent activity.

In addition to the cases investigated, the CIS plays a vital role in the prevention and deterrence of fraud, performing a range of counter fraud functions. This includes training in fraud awareness, investigation procedures and court skills. They also provide important advice and guidance to line management within DARD on managing the risk of fraud and fraud proofing. This is particularly important when designing new schemes such as the Rural Development Programme.

CIS also have a number of Service Level Agreements in place with other Departments and Arm's length Bodies which commit CIS to provide advice and expertise when requested.

Given the range of activities conducted by the Unit, as well as the outcomes achieved, I am content with the success achieved to date. I want to build upon this success and to ensure our processes and procedures are in line with current best practice. To facilitate this I have asked the Minister for Justice to include CIS in the list of organisations to be reviewed by the Criminal Justice inspectorate.

Farmers: Hardship Scheme

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what system of payment has been put in place to facilitate the Hardship Scheme.

(AQO 4138/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have obtained Executive agreement to hardship funding measures to assist farmers worst affected by livestock losses arising from the recent snow storm.

The first element of these measures is that my Department is paying for the costs of collection and disposal of animals that died as a direct result of the March snow storm. The second element is the Hardship Payment Scheme which will help to mitigate the costs of the livestock losses that have been sustained by farmers arising from the snow storm.

Under the scheme farmers, who had fallen stock collected and disposed of during the relevant period by approved renderers, will be eligible for this hardship funding.

Hardship payments, evidenced and verified with reference to the collection and disposal data, will be at a flat rate, based on average replacement cost, predominantly on the basis of the age of the animal, which will be attributed to relevant livestock.

The payment will be under the EU de minimis rules and capped at a maximum of 7,500 euro per farmer to include the collection and disposal costs.

Farmers will not need to apply for this funding. Eligible farmers will receive letters in early June indicating their hardship entitlement and how to claim. All farmers are encouraged to respond promptly to these letters. On that basis all payments are expected to be made by the end of June.

Farm Safety

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline what work has been done to promote farm safety.

(AQO 4139/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I am please to advise that my Department joined with the Health & Safety Executive Northern Ireland, the Ulster Farmers' Union, Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association, National Farmers Union Mutual and the Young Farmers Clubs for Ulster to form the Farm Safety Partnership the purpose of which is to reduce and, ultimately, eradicate work related fatalities on farms.

The Partnership launched its comprehensive Action Plan in November 2012. The Plan will deliver on 4 key areas:-

- Provision of Information and Promotion of Safe Working;
- Health and Safety Training;

- Motivating Good Practice and Discouraging Poor Practice; and
- Collection and Analysis of Information.

On 25 March 2013 the Partnership launched a multi media campaign which is hard hitting and is designed to change the attitudes of farmers to risk and also targets their family members as influencers. The campaign covers TV, Radio and News media. I am confident that the campaign will make farmers Stop, and Think S.A.F.E. (Slurry, Animals, Falls & Equipment).

Indications are that farmers are well aware of the risks and what they should do. It is a matter of changing the mind set to think about the risk before taking action.

My Department plays its part in delivering the farm safe message in a number of ways.

Through locally based CAFRE Development Advisers, information is distributed to farmers attending training events and workshops across the north. Currently the information being distributed is focussed on slurry mixing, including the dangers from gases, and safe use of machinery when mixing and spreading.

Also my Department is currently rolling out the FarmSafe Awareness course to 3,000 farmers of all ages across the north. The FarmSafe course covers the four key risk areas on the farms:-

- Tractors and Machinery;
- Livestock;
- Falls from Height; and
- Slurry.

A5 Dual Carriageway: Return of Land

Mr Spratt asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what discussions she has had with the Minister for Regional Development in relation to the return of land to farmers who were affected by the recent court ruling on the A5 project.

(AQO 4140/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department has a limited role as far as this ruling is concerned.

Our interest in the court's decision related to the use of the land and whether, because this was returned to farmers in April, it could be used to support claims to 2013 Single Farm Payment.

Shortly after the ruling was announced, my officials contacted DRD to clarify the number of farm business affected by the initial vesting and to gain an appreciation of the work already undertaken on the land. From this, my Department agreed that force majeure provisions would apply and that this land could be used to support a 2013 SFP. At this stage, a set of Frequently Asked Questions specific to the A5 land use were made available through the DARD website. More recently, on 7 May, DARD attended a UFU meeting in Omagh and, during this, dealt with specific questions relating to 2013 Single Application.

DARD: Belfast Hills

Ms McCorley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the work that her Department has funded in the Belfast Hills.

(AQO 4141/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Through Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme Lagan Rural Partnership has approved funding to the value of just over £700,000 to 3 different applicants, Belfast City Council, Belfast Hills Partnership and Colin Glen Trust. The funding is helping to develop Belfast Hills with walking trails and open up the hills to the wider community. Funding has also been used to develop the village of Hannahstown and an outdoor pursuit centre in Colin Glen. Rural Belfast is often forgotten about but has an important role to play.

Under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme, my Department provides funding to farmers in agri-environment schemes who manage their land for environmental benefit. These farmers create new and manage existing habitats to benefit wildlife and the landscape in the local area.

Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy

Mr Maskey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide an update on her negotiations in Europe on the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy.

(AQO 4142/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The changes being proposed by both the EU Council and Parliament in the CAP reform negotiations are moving towards the position I had outlined last April in my response to the Commission's original proposals. There are welcome signs that the Commission is prepared to move away from its insistence that a flat rate support regime be reached by 2019. I have argued that 2019 is too soon for payments to be made on a flat rate basis. The EU Council has agreed changes to the greening proposals that would exempt predominantly grassland farms with small arable areas from crop diversification and ecological focus area requirements and I will be pushing to ensure these amendments remain in the final agreement. Regional flexibility has been agreed in principle but I am seeking further clarification to ensure that all decisions can be taken at regional level. We will also continue to press our alternative approach to the active farmer issue, although there are no guarantees that it will be included in the final agreement.

In relation to the Common Fisheries Policy, I, together with fellow Ministers in Britain agreed a revised negotiating mandate that will enable the Irish Presidency (led by Simon Coveney TD) to bring negotiations with the European Parliament to a conclusion, before the end of June 2013. The revised mandate still includes provisions for meaningful regionalisation of fisheries management through co-operative working with other Member States such as the South to work on tailored and practical conservation and technical measures for the better management of fisheries in the Irish Sea. Another key reform is a new obligation to land all catches to address the wasteful practice of discarding unwanted fish. This will be phased in from January 2015 for different stocks and sea areas and be completed by 2019.

Single Farm Payments

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total value of Single Farm Payments paid during 2012/13 to landowners who do not carry out farming enterprises.

(AQW 23677/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: While my Department does not hold the information requested, I can advise that as at 30 May 2013, the total value of 2012 Single Farm Payments paid out was £241 million. These payments are made to those applicants who satisfy all the scheme rules, including undertaking agricultural activity on the land they are claiming. Agricultural activity is defined in the EU legislation as producing, growing or rearing agricultural products, including harvesting crops or keeping animals for milking, breeding or other farming purposes or, as a minimum, maintaining the land in good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC).

If DARD finds evidence that any applicant is not undertaking agricultural activity on a parcel of land claimed under the SFP scheme, it will investigate the case and will consider removing that land from the claim. The claim will be readjusted and, if appropriate over declaration penalties applied.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

UK City of Culture 2013

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure at what point during the events and celebrations of Londonderry as UK City of Culture will the flag of the United Kingdom be displayed.
(AQW 20221/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure): I am advised by Derry City Council, the licensee for City of Culture, that it does not currently display any flags or emblems at Council facilities or public places controlled by the Council, either internally or externally.

DCAL Information Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the (i) number; and (ii) annual cost of staff employed in her Department's Information Service.
(AQW 20255/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: A total of 6 staff (4 Executive Information Service Officers and 2 Administrative staff) were employed in DCAL's Information Service during the 2011/12 financial year.

Information Officers provide a professional communications service - including media, online, internal communications and advertising services - with office support by general administration staff.

Pay Bill costs (includes salary, employer national insurance and superannuation costs and all overtime and allowance costs) for the 2011/12 financial year amounted to £201,637.98.

Shooting Sports

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the recently published figures which show that shooting is worth £45 million per year to the local economy, which is equivalent to 2,100 full time jobs; and how she proposes to promote the sport further.
(AQW 20358/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department is aware of the figures published in a 2006 survey which suggest that shooting is worth £45m per year to the local economy and supports the equivalent of 2,100 full time jobs. The study that produced these figures, however, was focussed on live quarry shooting which is not recognised as a sporting activity. As such it would not be eligible for promotional support from my Department or its arms length body, Sport NI.

Responsibility for the promotion of the recognised shooting sports - namely clay pigeon and target shooting - rests, in the first instance, with the governing bodies of those sports. These bodies already receive support from Sport NI to assist them in promoting their sports further. Over the last five financial years, Sport NI has provided £591,693 towards the promotion and development of the various disciplines of clay pigeon, small bore and full bore shooting.

In addition, Sport NI has supported these sports in undertaking a restructuring and modernisation of their governance arrangements so that they are better placed to promote their activities further in the future. As a result of this exercise, a new NI Federation of Shooting Sports has been established to oversee the co-ordinated development of recognised shooting sport. This federation is made up of:

- Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association
- NI Small-bore Shooting Union
- Ulster Rifle Association

Grande Partenza (Big Start) of the Giro d'Italia 2014

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how she plans to ensure that local cyclists and cycling clubs can benefit from the recent announcement that the Grande Partenza (Big Start) of the Giro d'Italia 2014 is to be in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 20387/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am aware of the recent announcement that the Grande Partenza of the Giro d'Italia will take place in the north of Ireland in 2014. This will be a welcome return to Ireland for one of cycling's Grand Tour events, the Tour de France having visited these shores in 1998. Both my officials and Sport NI will actively pursue, with their counterparts in the south, how the benefits to cyclists and cycling clubs can be maximised throughout the whole of the island, particularly in areas of social need and deprivation.

Cycling Clubs

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many cycling clubs there are.

(AQW 20388/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Sport NI, which is an arms length body of my Department, has advised that there are currently 78 cycling clubs in the north of Ireland which are affiliated to the recognised governing body of cycling, Cycling Ireland.

I am also aware of work undertaken by charity organisations Sustrans and the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC), to establish clubs in schools and local communities throughout the north of Ireland. Sport NI advises that, over the last 3 years, CTC in partnership with Belfast City Council, has established 28 'Bike Clubs'.

Cycling Club Funding

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many cycling clubs receive funding from (i) her Department; and (ii) its arm's length bodies.

(AQW 20389/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Over the last five financial years, up to 31 March 2012, Sport NI has provided exchequer funding directly to three cycling clubs totalling £22,075. The details are provided in the table below: -

Date	Club Name	Programme	Amount
11/2/2010	Clann Eireann Cycling Club	Awards for Sport	£1,590
11/2/2010	Newry Wheelers Cycling Club	Awards for Sport	£3,161
16/12/2010	Ballymoney Cycling Club	Sport Matters: Capital and Equipment Programme	£17,324

This is in addition to the £1,119,797 provided to Cycling Ulster.

Elite Cyclists: Funding

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many elite cyclists receive funding from (i) her Department; and (ii) its arm's length bodies.

(AQW 20390/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Over the last 3 years a total of eleven high performance cyclists have received funding from Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, towards training to compete in Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games competitions.

In addition, Sport NI supports these cyclists through the Sports Institute at Jordanstown and also through a number of Performer Development Centres where they receive world class sports science and sports medicine support.

Cyclists

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail any targets to increase the number of cyclists.

(AQW 20391/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Responsibility for establishing targets to increase the number of cyclists in the north of Ireland is a matter, in the first instance, for the governing body of the sport, Cycling Ulster. However, Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, has provided both exchequer and lottery funding of £1,119,797 over the last five years to help Cycling Ulster develop the sport in the north, including increasing participation rates.

Furthermore, I am aware that the Executive and the Department for Regional Development (DRD) both have specific targets to increase the number of cyclists. The Executive's Programme for Government 2011-15 includes a target (by 2015) to create the conditions to facilitate at least 36% of primary school pupils and 22% of secondary school pupils to walk or cycle to school as their main mode of transport.

DRD's Active Travel Strategy, Building an Active Travel Future for NI, includes the following targets:

- To increase the average distance cycled to be in line with our UK counterparts by 2020;
- Increase the percentage of trips taken by cycling to be in line with our UK counterparts by 2020;
- To quadruple the number of trips by cycle (on 2000 figures) by the end of 2015; and
- Beyond 2015 we will also seek to ensure that by 2019, 40% of primary school pupils and 25% of secondary school pupils should be walking or cycling to school as their main mode of travel.

Other organisations with targets to increase cycling include Sustrans with their Bike-It Scheme which has a target of 15% of children regularly cycling to school and the Derry City 2020 "One Plan" which has a target to have 6% of trips by bike by 2020.

Commercial Pike Fishing

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the social media campaign on commercial pike fishing in Lough Erne, whether her Department has any evidence of the illegal netting of pike in the lough.

(AQW 20471/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers have conducted boat and shore patrols and quay checks on and around Lough Erne and no evidence has been found of any illegal netting of pike or other fish.

Band Funding

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what funding opportunities her Department provides for bands.

(AQW 20476/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Funding in support of bands in the north of Ireland is disbursed through the Arts Council and the Ulster Scots Agency.

The Arts Council's Musical Instruments for Bands Programme provides grants from £500 to £5k for the purchase of instruments. This scheme is available to bands based in the north of Ireland, which are formally constituted.

Funding up to £10,000 is also awarded by the Arts Council through its lottery funded Small Grants Programme for band related activity which includes projects, tuition and equipment such as music stands, rostra etc.

Bands can apply for funding for musical tuition from the Ulster-Scots Agency through its Financial Assistance Scheme.

My Department also allocates Community Festival Funding which district councils administer and bands may be eligible to apply.

Ulster Scots Newspaper

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what is the circulation of the Ulster Scots newspaper.

(AQW 20484/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The circulation of the Ulster-Scots newspaper is currently 40,000 per issue.

Radio 1's Big Weekend

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the benefits to the Derry City Council area of hosting the Radio One Big Weekend.

(AQO 4149/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: It is very encouraging to see such a high profile event taking place in Derry as part of the City of Culture programme in what has already been a fantastic year for the City in 2013. Radio one Big Weekend is expected to contribute to benefit targets for 2013 relating to increasing GVA, tourism and training and employment opportunities.

Not only did the main event itself bring some of the most high profile musical acts in the world to Derry, but there were also direct local community benefits through the week long BBC Academy which provided local young people with an opportunity to gain musical and media industry skills.

There has been very strong demand for accommodation across the North West and national and international media coverage of One Big Weekend. This will help enhance the positive profile of the City of Culture as a place to visit and re-affirm Lonely Planet's endorsement as "One of the Top Cities in the World to visit" in 2013.

Rugby

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps she is taking to increase participation in rugby.

(AQO 4150/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department's strategy for sport, Sport Matters, identifies a number of high level targets aimed at increasing participation rates in sport generally, including rugby.

A Sport Matters Action Plan has been developed which outlines the key actions and steps being taken to achieve the Sport Matters participation targets. This Action Plan is published on the Sport NI website and Ulster Rugby is one of the contributors to the plan.

In line with the Sport Matters Action Plan, Sport NI as part of an investment of £1.07 million over the past 3 years, has supported Ulster Rugby in the employment of a Participation Manager whose work focuses on improving rugby club structures, club capacity and participation in the sport and a Women's Development Officer for Ulster Rugby who is responsible for developing the game and increasing participation amongst girls and women from grassroots to senior level.

Under the Regional Stadiums Programme, £14.7m has been earmarked for Ulster Rugby to assist in redeveloping Ravenhill Rugby ground. The development of this facility is expected to enhance the sustainability of Rugby in the longer term and so encourage more people to take up the sport.

My Department has allocated a further £1.5m to UBIRFU over a three year period split between capital and revenue spend. This additional funding will be directed towards projects that aim to tackle my Department's priorities of promoting participation while tackling inequalities and social exclusion.

Quaker Heritage

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what steps she has taken to celebrate Quaker heritage.

(AQO 4151/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: My Department and ALBs have not received any applications to fund or assist projects to celebrate Quaker heritage.

UK City of Culture: Legacy Plan

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an overview of the Legacy Plan following the UK City of Culture 2013.

(AQO 4152/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: A draft Legacy Plan has been developed by Derry City Council, however, further work is required to develop specific actions, structures and targets.

I have informed the Council's Town Clerk and CEO, who is also the project's Senior Responsible Owner, that I expect the Legacy plan to be prioritised and finalised as soon as possible.

A suite of stakeholder workshops are currently being held by the Council to seek input on the City of Culture legacy. Public consultation will begin with a Legacy Conference in the city on 5 July and will last 12 weeks.

Derry City Council will be detailing how the public can get involved in the coming weeks. I would encourage local stakeholders to fully participate in this process.

Athletics: UK Teams

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what progress has been made in advancing the opportunity for Northern Ireland athletes to compete internationally for UK national teams.

(AQO 4153/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: As Sports Minister I believe that north of Ireland athletes should have as many opportunities as possible to compete in international competitions and gain medal success. It is through such competition opportunities that our athletes can gain valuable experience and improve their performance.

When such opportunities arise, north of Ireland athletes have demonstrated that they can perform at the highest international standards.

I believe that north of Ireland athletes generally have better opportunities to experience international competition and perform at the highest standards as part of an Irish national team or in a north of Ireland team in the Commonwealth Games.

The success of our local boxers, for example, at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and 2012 Olympic Games provides ample evidence of this.

Irish and Ulster Scots: Rural Areas

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether her long-term plans for the availability of the Irish Language and Ulster Scots in rural areas will be similar to the Carntogher example.

(AQO 4154/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The effort and commitment of the Carntogher Community Association is an inspiration to all those interested in the development of language, culture and community based regeneration.

Carntogher Community Association promotes a range of economic, social, cultural and environmental projects aimed at developing a prosperous and environmentally sustainable rural community and it is an example that I would like to see replicated in other rural areas in the north.

In addition to Carntogher the Irish Language Strategy and various programmes such as Líofoa which includes the Gaeltacht Bursary Scheme, will help promote, enhance and maintain the development of the Irish language in both urban and rural areas. This in turn provides the opportunity for addressing social exclusion and inequality.

Proposals are being developed by the Ulster-Scots Agency to promote and support Ulster-Scots Hairyland areas, the aim is to preserve, protect and promote Ulster-Scots heritage through geographical designations, similar to Carntogher. The Agency will examine various cultural initiatives in order to identify best practice, which will develop and encourage greater levels of local participation.

Work is ongoing and at different stages of development for the Irish Language and Ulster-Scots Academies. Through the Academy approach, we will aim to make both the Irish Language and Ulster-Scots more accessible to all communities in the north, including in rural areas.

Creative Industries: South Antrim

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what support her Department has given to the Creative Industries sector in South Antrim, in the last three years.

(AQO 4155/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Creative enterprises across the north of Ireland can apply to the Creative Industries Innovation Fund. A digital media company based in South Antrim has received support to develop a digital asset library. This will help the company to further develop games for mobile devices and tap into global markets.

And the work of NI Screen in attracting major film and television productions to the north of Ireland has resulted in the internationally acclaimed Game of Thrones being shot on location in Toome and Randalstown.

Two feature films (Lemon and Wipers Times) were shot on location in Ballyclare and a further two (Our Robot Overlords and Dracula) are currently in pre-production and are scheduled to shoot in Parkgate and Shilvodan.

This provides a global showcase for South Antrim and the north of Ireland as a film production and tourism location.

Experience of Sport and Physical Activity in Northern Ireland

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the Experience of Sport and Physical Activity by Adults in Northern Ireland survey.

(AQO 4156/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The findings of the 2011/12 Continuous Household Survey on Experience of Sport and Physical Activity reaffirms the need, identified in my Sport Matters strategy, to improve participation rates in sport across the population and to focus special attention on those who live in the most deprived areas of the north, women, older people and people with a disability.

The findings, when compared against previous surveys, would equally suggest that progress is being made in tackling these issues. In particular, the figures indicate that participation rates generally are currently stabilising rather than falling as was the case when the Executive originally approved Sport Matters.

The survey figures also suggest that the target in Sport Matters to halt the decline in adult participation in sport by 2013 is presently on track for achievement. However, further surveys will be required in future years in order to determine whether this target, and other Sport Matters targets aimed at subsequently increasing participation, will be achieved within the timescales set within the strategy.

Department of Education

Primary School in Pomeroy: Admissions Limit

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education who granted permission for a primary school in Pomeroy to exceed its stated admissions limit.

(AQW 22077/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): There are two primary schools in Pomeroy – Queen Elizabeth II Primary School and St Mary's Primary School. Only the Department has the power to permit a school to exceed its approved admissions number. For the 2013/14 school year the Department approved one additional place at St Mary's Primary School, Pomeroy.

Together: Building a United Community

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education whether he has identified a list of schools which could come together in the 10 shared education campuses announced in the Together: Building a United Community document.

(AQW 22933/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As the work on delivery of this commitment is still at a very early stage a list of schools which could come together in the 10 shared education campuses has not yet been identified. Any potential shared campus will have to be considered within the context of the area planning work being taken forward.

Pre-School Education Places

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 22539/11-15, for a breakdown the 1338 funded pre-school education places by establishment.

(AQW 22992/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following tables list the names and number of places in each funded pre-school education setting in the North Antrim constituency:

STATUTORY SECTOR

Name	Type	Number of Places
Ballymena Nursery School	Nursery school	104
Ballymoney Nursery School	Nursery school	104
Dunclug Nursery School	Nursery school	78
Buick Memorial Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Harryville Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Gracehill Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Clough Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Bushmills Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Kilmoyle Primary School	Nursery unit	16

Name	Type	Number of Places
Broughshane Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Ballykeel Primary School	Nursery unit	52
St Mary's Primary School	Nursery unit	26
St Patrick's Primary School	Nursery unit	26
St Patrick's Primary School	Nursery unit	26
St Joseph's Primary School	Nursery unit	52
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School	Nursery unit	52
Gaelscoil an Chaistil	Nursery unit	26
Ballycastle Integrated Primary School	Nursery unit	26
Braidside Integrated Primary School	Nursery unit	26

VOLUNTARY/PRIVATE SECTOR

Name	Type	Number of funded places
Early Days Country Playgroup	Private Playgroup	14
The Country Playgroup	Private Playgroup	20
Rasharkin Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	9
St Louis Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	20
Happitots Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	24
Gracehill and Galgorm Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	23
First Steps Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	24
SeeSaw Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	23
Taylorstown CC Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	26
Broughshane Centre of Early Learning	Voluntary Playgroup	22
Jack Horner Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	15
Portglenone Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	21
Loughgiel Early Years	Voluntary Playgroup	15
Armoy Cross Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	24
Ballymoney & District Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	40
Glenravel Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	32
High Kirk Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	19
Tiny Tots Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	36
Stepping Stones Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	24
Ballee Pre-School Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	32
Kenbaan Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	26

Name	Type	Number of funded places
Kirkinriola Early Years	Voluntary Playgroup	8
Cloughmills Early Years	Voluntary Playgroup	19
Dervock Community Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	20
Stepping Stones Playgroup	Voluntary Playgroup	19
Castletower PreSchool	Voluntary Playgroup	13

Nursery Pupils in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many nursery pupils in North Down did not receive a place in their first choice nursery unit in the 2013/14 intake; and what action he will take to address this shortfall.

(AQW 23147/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Funded pre-school education places are available in nursery schools, nursery units attached to primary schools and in voluntary and private pre-school settings participating in the Pre-School Education Programme.

At the end of Stage 1 of the pre-school admissions process, of the 887 children whose 1st preference application was to a provider in the North Down Council area, 155 were not offered a place in their first preference setting. 110 of these children were offered a place in a setting listed as a subsequent preference on their application form, and 45 children remained unplaced. 63 funded places remained available for parents to make application to during Stage 2 of the process. Stage 2 concludes on 31st May 2013.

I am satisfied that overall there is sufficient funded pre-school provision in the North Down Council area to meet demand.

Primary One Places in Schools in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the maximum enrolment number for primary one places in 2013/14 in each school in North Down.

(AQW 23149/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of P1 places available is defined by a primary school's admissions number. Across the North Down constituency there were 1,119 places available at the start of the 2013/14 primary admissions process. Details of individual school admissions numbers are available in booklets published by Education and Library Boards on their websites. For schools in North Down these can be viewed at:

http://www.seelb.org.uk/schools/Procedures_12_13/PDFs/Primary/2012/ArdsN.Down.pdf

Capped Enrolment Numbers for Primary One Places

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education which primary schools have been allowed to increase their capped enrolment numbers for primary one places in 2013/14.

(AQW 23150/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The following schools have applied for, and been given approval to, temporary increases of their primary 1 admissions numbers for 2013/14:

- Scoil an Droichid, Belfast
- Gaelscoil na Mona, Belfast
- Forge Integrated Primary School, Belfast
- Kesh Primary School
- Ballougry Primary School
- Greenhaw Primary School, Derry

- Gaelscoil Neachtain, Dungiven
- St Ninnidh's Primary School, Derrylin
- St Mary's Primary School, Mullymesker
- St Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher
- Drumlish Primary School,
- St Lawrence's Primary School, Fintona
- St Columbkille's Primary School, Carrickmore
- St Patrick's Primary School, Castledearg
- St Dympna's Primary School, Dromore
- Gaelscoil Na Gcrann, Omagh
- Enniskillen Integrated Primary School
- Oakgrove Integrated Primary School
- Greenisland Primary School
- Fourtowns Primary School
- Culcrow Primary School, Aghadowey
- Damhead Primary School, Coleraine
- Creggan Primary School, Randalstown
- Mount St Michael's Primary School, Randalstown
- St Brigid's Primary School, Tirkane
- St Trea's Primary School, Magherafelt
- St John's Primary School, Swatragh
- St Patrick's & St Joseph's Primary School, Garvagh
- St Oliver Plunkett's PS, Toomebridge
- St Brigid's Primary School, Magherafelt
- St Macnissi's Primary School, Newtownabbey
- St Columba's Primary School, Kilrea
- St Patrick's Primary School, Glen, Maghera
- St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena
- Gaelscoil Eanna, Glengormley
- Grey Abbey Primary School
- Londonderry Primary School, Newtownards
- St Francis Primary School, Drumaroad
- St Mary's Primary School, Ardglass
- St Colman's Primary School, Lisburn
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School, Dunmurry
- St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle
- Kircubbin Integrated Primary School
- Oakwood Integrated Primary School, Dunmurry
- Millennium Integrated Primary School, Saintfield
- Drumlins Integrated Primary School, Ballynahinch
- Rowandale Integrated Primary School, Moira
- Clare Primary School, Tandragee
- Waringstown Primary School
- Aughnacloy Primary School
- Augher Central Primary School
- Markethill Primary School
- Drumadonnell Primary School
- Orchard County Primary School, Portadown
- Killyman Primary School, Dungannon
- St Patrick's Primary School, Crossmaglen
- St Brigid's Primary School, Crossmaglen
- St Mary's Primary School Barr, Newry
- St Patrick's Primary School, Mayobridge
- St Mary's Primary School, Cabragh, Dungannon
- St Patrick's Primary School, Hilltown, Newry
- St Joseph's Primary School, Galbally, Dungannon
- St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge
- St Mary's Primary School, Pomeroy
- St Jarlath's Primary School, Blackwatertown
- St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy
- St Francis' Primary School, Aghderg
- St Colman's Primary School, Saval, Newry
- St John's Primary School, Middletown, Armagh
- St Francis Primary School, Lurgan
- St Joseph & St James Primary School, Poyntzpass
- Seagoe Primary School, Portadown
- Gaelscoil Aodha Rua, Dungannon
- Portadown Integrated Primary School,
- Phoenix Integrated Primary School, Cookstown

Pupils from Maintained Primary Schools

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Education how many pupils from maintained primary schools are transferring and applying to the controlled sector.

(AQW 23187/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Letters issued on 24 May 2013 advising parents to which post-primary school their child has been admitted to. The Education and Library Boards have advised us that statistics relating to your query will be produced in due course. My office will ensure that you receive the requested information when available.

Year One Pupil Places

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education the list the schools that have received an increased number of year one pupil places for the 2013/14 school year; and how many places each school has received.

(AQW 23288/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The primary schools for which a temporary increase of their year one pupil admissions for the 2013/14 school year has been approved, and the number of places approved, are set out in the table below:

School	Additional Places
Scoil an Droichid, Belfast	3
Gaelscoil na Mona, Belfast	1
Forge Integrated Primary School, Belfast	11
Kesh Primary School	4
Ballougry Primary School	5
Greenhaw Primary School, Derry	1
Gaelscoil Neachtain, Dungiven	8
St Ninnidh's Primary School, Derrylin	7
St Mary's Primary School, Mullymesker	8
St Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher	2
Drumlisk Primary School	1
St Lawrence's Primary School, Fintona	4
St Columbkille's Primary School, Carrickmore	6
St Patrick's Primary School, Castlederg	3
St Dympna's Primary School, Dromore	4
Gaelscoil Na Gcrann, Omagh	6
Enniskillen Integrated Primary School	3
Oakgrove Integrated Primary School	2
Greenisland Primary School	2
Fourtowns Primary School	1
Culcrow Primary School, Aghadowey	5

School	Additional Places
Damhead Primary School, Coleraine	2
Creggan Primary School, Randalstown	2
Mount St Michael's Primary School, Randalstown	2
St Brigid's Primary School, Tirkane	3
St Trea's Primary School, Magherafelt	1
St John's Primary School, Swatragh	2
St Patrick's & St Joseph's Primary School, Garvagh	5
St Oliver Plunkett's PS, Toomebridge	3
St Brigid's Primary School, Magherafelt	12
St Macnissi's Primary School, Newtownabbey	2
St Columba's Primary School, Kilrea	1
St Patrick's Primary School, Glen, Maghera	2
St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena	16
Gaelscoil Eanna, Glengormley	18
Grey Abbey Primary School	1
St Francis Primary School, Drumaroad	2
St Mary's Primary School, Ardglass	1
St Colman's Primary School, Lisburn	5
St Mary's Primary School, Newcastle	7
Kircubbin Integrated Primary School	4
Oakwood Integrated Primary School, Dunmurry	1
Millennium Integrated Primary School, Saintfield	15
Drumlins Integrated Primary School, Ballynahinch	4
Rowandale Integrated Primary School, Moira	4
Clare Primary School, Tandragee	1
Waringstown Primary School	2
Aughnacloy Primary School	1
Augher Central Primary School	1
Markethill Primary School	1
Drumadonnell Primary School	15
Orchard County Primary School, Portadown	3
Killyman Primary School, Dungannon	3
St Patrick's Primary School, Crossmaglen	5
St Brigid's Primary School, Crossmaglen	5

School	Additional Places
St Mary's Primary School Barr, Newry	4
St Patrick's Primary School, Mayobridge	4
St Mary's Primary School, Cabragh, Dungannon	2
St Patrick's Primary School, Hilltown, Newry	21
St Joseph's Primary School, Galbally, Dungannon	8
St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge	1
St Mary's Primary School, Pomeroy	1
St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy	4
St Francis' Primary School, Aghderg	1
St Colman's Primary School, Saval, Newry	1
St John's Primary School, Middletown, Armagh	7
St Francis Primary School, Lurgan	6
St Joseph & St James Primary School, Poyntzpass	3
Seagoe Primary School, Portadown	7
Gaelscoil Aodha Rua, Dungannon	2
Portadown Integrated Primary School,	14
Phoenix Integrated Primary School, Cookstown	5

Note: The data provided is for the period up to 28 May 2013

Literacy and Numeracy Project

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to list the schools that his Department is inviting to participate in the Literacy and Numeracy Project.

(AQW 23291/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- 1 The Delivering Social Change Signature Project to improve literacy and numeracy was announced by OFMdFM in October 2012 and my Department is working with the Western Education and Library Board to deliver this important project. A Strategic Oversight Group with representation from the broad education community was established to develop the scheme, including the criteria for the selection of schools.

The list of primary and post primary schools that have met the eligibility criteria for participation in the project is attached below.

- 2 Members of the Strategic Oversight Group met with a number of representative groups from the five Education and Library Boards during the development of the criteria for the selection of schools. The heads of Curriculum Advisory and Support Service also had considerable input based on their knowledge of schools and informal consultations with principals.

Further, in relation to the consultation with the principals and teachers of the eligible schools, the principal of every eligible school has been invited to attend an information session arranged in their Education and Library Board area.

- 3 The consultation with parents of pupils who are identified as requiring extra support to improve their educational achievement will be carried out by the schools involved in the project.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DSC LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROJECT

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Avoniel PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Blackmountain PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Blythefield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Botanic PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Cliftonville Integrated PS, Belfast	Controlled Integrated
BELB	Currie PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Donegall Road PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Edenbrooke PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Edmund Rice (CB) PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Elmgrove PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Euston Street PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Fane Street PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Gaelscoil an Lonnain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Gaelscoil na Mona, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Glenwood PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Harmony PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Holy Family PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Holy Trinity PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Knocknagoney PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Ligoniel PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Lowwood PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Malvern PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Nettlefield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Sacred Heart PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Springfield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	St Aidan's (CB) PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Clare's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Joseph's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Kevin's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Malachy's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	St Mary's Star of the Sea PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Matthew's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Paul's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Vincent de Paul PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Star of the Sea Girls' PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Taughmonagh PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Victoria Park PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Wheatfield PS, Belfast	Controlled
NEELB	Abbots Cross PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Altayiskey PS, Draperstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ballycraigy PS, Muckamore	Controlled
NEELB	Ballykeel PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Ballysally PS, Coleraine	Controlled
NEELB	Carhill Controlled Integrated PS, Garvagh	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Crumlin Controlled Integrated PS	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Earlview PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle	Irish-medium
NEELB	Groggan PS, Randalstown	Controlled
NEELB	Harpur's Hill PS, Coleraine	Controlled
NEELB	Harryville PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Hollybank PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Kirkinriola PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Parkhall PS, Antrim	Controlled
NEELB	Rathcoole PS	Controlled
NEELB	Rathenraw Integrated PS, Antrim	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Roundtower Integrated PS, Antrim	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Silverstream PS, Greenisland	Controlled
NEELB	St Mary's PS, Greenlough	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Sunnylands PS, Carrickfergus	Controlled
NEELB	The Diamond PS, Cullybackey	Controlled
NEELB	The Wm Pinkerton Memorial PS, Ballymoney	Controlled
NEELB	Woodlawn PS, Carrickfergus	Controlled
SEELB	Belvoir Park PS	Controlled
SEELB	Bloomfield Road PS, Bangor	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
SEELB	Clandeboye PS, Bangor	Controlled
SEELB	Downpatrick PS	Controlled
SEELB	Drumlins Integrated PS, Ballynahinch	GM Integrated
SEELB	Killyleagh PS	Controlled
SEELB	Knockmore PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Lisburn Central PS	Controlled
SEELB	Old Warren PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Seymour Hill PS, Dunmurry	Controlled
SEELB	St Colmcille's PS, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Kieran's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Luke's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Mark's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Nicholas' PS, Ardglass	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	The Good Shepherd PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Tonagh PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Tullycarnet PS, Belfast	Controlled
SEELB	West Winds PS, Newtownards	Controlled
SELB	Donaghmore PS	Controlled
SELB	Mount St Catherine's PS, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Primate Dixon PS, Coalisland	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Colman's PS, Kilkeel	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Francis of Assisi PS, Keady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Malachy's PS, Carnagat	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's PS, Annalong	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Michael's PS, Clady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's PS, Crossmaglen	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's PS, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Teresa's PS, Tullyherron	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Stewartstown PS	Controlled
SELB	Tullygally PS, Lurgan	Controlled
WELB	Aghadrumsee PS	Controlled
WELB	Ashlea PS, Derry	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
WELB	Barrack Street Boys' PS, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Belleek (2) PS	Controlled
WELB	Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea	Irish-medium
WELB	Chapel Road PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Donemana PS	Controlled
WELB	Drumachose PS, Limavady	Controlled
WELB	Ebrington Controlled PS	Controlled
WELB	Fountain PS, Derry	Controlled
WELB	Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir, Derry	Irish-medium
WELB	Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh	Irish-medium
WELB	Holy Child PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Holy Family PS, Omagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Nazareth House PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Newbuildings PS	Controlled
WELB	Roe Valley Integrated PS, Limavady	GM Integrated
WELB	Rosemount PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Caireall's PS, Castledearg	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Columbkille's PS, Carrickmore	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's PS (Glenmornan)	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's PS, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Oliver Plunkett PS, Strathfoyle	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Paul's PS, Slievemore, Derry	Catholic Maintained

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DSC LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROJECT

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Ashfield Boys' High School	Controlled
BELB	Ashfield Girls' High School	Controlled
BELB	Belfast Boys' Model School	Controlled
BELB	Belfast Model School For Girls	Controlled
BELB	Campbell College	Voluntary Grammar
BELB	Christian Brothers School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Colaiste Feirste	Irish-medium
BELB	Corpus Christi College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	De La Salle College	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Hazelwood College	GM Integrated
BELB	Little Flower Girls' School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Malone Integrated (GM) College	GM Integrated
BELB	Mercy College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Orangefield High School	Controlled
BELB	St Genevieve's High School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Joseph's College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Louise's Comprehensive College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's Christian Brothers' GS	Voluntary Grammar
BELB	St Patrick's College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Rose's High School	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ballee Community High School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballycastle High School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballyclare Secondary School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballymoney High School	Controlled
NEELB	Carrickfergus College	Controlled
NEELB	Coleraine College	Controlled
NEELB	Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Crumlin Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Cullybackey High School	Controlled
NEELB	Downshire School	Controlled
NEELB	Dunlug College	Controlled
NEELB	Dunluce School	Controlled
NEELB	Edmund Rice College, Newtownabbey	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Glengormley High School	Controlled
NEELB	Larne High School	Controlled
NEELB	Magherafelt High School	Controlled
NEELB	Monkstown Community School	Controlled
NEELB	Newtownabbey Community High School	Controlled
NEELB	North Coast Integrated College	GM Integrated
NEELB	Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Parkhall Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Slemish College	GM Integrated
NEELB	Sperrin Integrated College	GM Integrated

ELB Area	School	Sector
NEELB	St Benedict's College, Randalstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Colm's High School, Draperstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Joseph's College, Coleraine	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Killian's College, Carnlough	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Mary's College, Clady	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Patrick's Co-ed Comprehensive College. Maghera	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Patrick's College, Ballymena	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Paul's College, Kilrea	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Pius X College, Magherafelt	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ulidia Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Controlled
SEELB	Blackwater Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	De La Salle High School, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Dundonald High School	Controlled
SEELB	Fort Hill College	Controlled Integrated
SEELB	Glastry College	Controlled
SEELB	Knockbreda High School	Controlled
SEELB	Lagan College	GM Integrated
SEELB	Laurelhill Community College	Controlled
SEELB	Lisnagarvey High School	Controlled
SEELB	Movilla High School	Controlled
SEELB	Nendrum College	Controlled
SEELB	Newtownbreda High School	Controlled
SEELB	Priory College	Controlled Integrated
SEELB	Saintfield High School	Controlled
SEELB	Shimna Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Colm's High School, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Columbanus' College, Bangor	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Columba's College, Portaferry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
SEELB	St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Strangford Integrated (GM) College	GM Integrated
SEELB	The High School Ballynahinch	Controlled
SELB	Aughnacloy High School	Controlled
SELB	Banbridge High School	Controlled
SELB	Brownlow Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
SELB	City Armagh High School	Controlled
SELB	Cookstown High School	Controlled
SELB	Craigavon Senior High School	Controlled
SELB	Dromore High School	Controlled
SELB	Drumcree College	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Drumglass High School	Controlled
SELB	Fivemiletown College	Controlled
SELB	Holy Trinity College, Cookstown	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Integrated College Dungannon	GM Integrated
SELB	Kilkeel High School	Controlled
SELB	Lismore Comprehensive School	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Markethill High School	Controlled
SELB	New-Bridge Integrated College	GM Integrated
SELB	Newry High School	Controlled
SELB	Newtownhamilton High School	Controlled
SELB	Rathfriland High School	Controlled
SELB	St Brigid's High School, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Catherine's College, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Columban's College, Kilkeel	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's College, Coalisland	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's High School, Lurgan	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's High School, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's College, Banbridge	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's College, Dungannon	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
SELB	St Patrick's High School, Keady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Castledearg High School	Controlled
WELB	Dean Maguirc College	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Devenish College	Controlled
WELB	Drumragh College	GM Integrated
WELB	Erne Integrated College	GM Integrated
WELB	Holy Cross College, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Immaculate Conception College	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Limavady High School	Controlled
WELB	Lisnaskea High School	Controlled
WELB	Lisneal College	Controlled
WELB	Oakgrove Integrated College	GM Integrated
WELB	Omagh High School	Controlled
WELB	Sacred Heart College, Omagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Aidan's High School, Derrylin	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Brigid's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Cecilia's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Eugene's College, Roslea	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St John's High School, Dromore	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's College, Enniskillen	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's College, Irvinestown	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's High School, Brollagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's Limavady	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Patricks & St Brigids HS, Claudy	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Patrick's College, Dungiven	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Strabane Academy	Controlled Grammar

Literacy and Numeracy Project

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education what consultation he conducted with Principals and teachers from schools eligible for the Literacy and Numeracy Project, prior to selecting the participating schools.

(AQW 23293/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd:

- 4 The Delivering Social Change Signature Project to improve literacy and numeracy was announced by OFMdfM in October 2012 and my Department is working with the Western Education and Library Board to deliver this important project. A Strategic Oversight Group with representation from the broad education community was established to develop the scheme, including the criteria for the selection of schools.

The list of primary and post primary schools that have met the eligibility criteria for participation in the project is attached below.

- 5 Members of the Strategic Oversight Group met with a number of representative groups from the five Education and Library Boards during the development of the criteria for the selection of schools. The heads of Curriculum Advisory and Support Service also had considerable input based on their knowledge of schools and informal consultations with principals.

Further, in relation to the consultation with the principals and teachers of the eligible schools, the principal of every eligible school has been invited to attend an information session arranged in their Education and Library Board area.

- 6 The consultation with parents of pupils who are identified as requiring extra support to improve their educational achievement will be carried out by the schools involved in the project.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DSC LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROJECT

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Avoniel PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Blackmountain PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Blythefield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Botanic PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Cliftonville Integrated PS, Belfast	Controlled Integrated
BELB	Currie PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Donegall Road PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Edenbrooke PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Edmund Rice (CB) PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Elmgrove PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Euston Street PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Fane Street PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Gaelscoil an Lonnain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Gaelscoil na Mona, Belfast	Irish-medium

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Glenwood PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Harmony PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Holy Family PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Holy Trinity PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Knocknagoney PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Ligoniel PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Lowwood PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Malvern PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Nettlefield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Sacred Heart PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Springfield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	St Aidan's (CB) PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Clare's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Joseph's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Kevin's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Malachy's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's Star of the Sea PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Matthew's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Paul's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Vincent de Paul PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Star of the Sea Girls' PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Taughmonagh PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Victoria Park PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Wheatfield PS, Belfast	Controlled
NEELB	Abbots Cross PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Altayeskey PS, Draperstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ballycraig PS, Muckamore	Controlled
NEELB	Ballykeel PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Ballysally PS, Coleraine	Controlled
NEELB	Carhill Controlled Integrated PS, Garvagh	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Crumlin Controlled Integrated PS	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Earlview PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle	Irish-medium

ELB Area	School	Sector
NEELB	Groggan PS, Randalstown	Controlled
NEELB	Harpur's Hill PS, Coleraine	Controlled
NEELB	Harryville PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Hollybank PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Kirkinriola PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Parkhall PS, Antrim	Controlled
NEELB	Rathcoole PS	Controlled
NEELB	Rathenraw Integrated PS, Antrim	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Roundtower Integrated PS, Antrim	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Silverstream PS, Greenisland	Controlled
NEELB	St Mary's PS, Greenlough	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Sunnylands PS, Carrickfergus	Controlled
NEELB	The Diamond PS, Cullybackey	Controlled
NEELB	The Wm Pinkerton Memorial PS, Ballymoney	Controlled
NEELB	Woodlawn PS, Carrickfergus	Controlled
SEELB	Belvoir Park PS	Controlled
SEELB	Bloomfield Road PS, Bangor	Controlled
SEELB	Clandeboye PS, Bangor	Controlled
SEELB	Downpatrick PS	Controlled
SEELB	Drumlins Integrated PS, Ballynahinch	GM Integrated
SEELB	Killyleagh PS	Controlled
SEELB	Knockmore PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Lisburn Central PS	Controlled
SEELB	Old Warren PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Seymour Hill PS, Dunmurry	Controlled
SEELB	St Colmcille's PS, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Kieran's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Luke's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Mark's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Nicholas' PS, Ardglass	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	The Good Shepherd PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Tonagh PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Tullycarnet PS, Belfast	Controlled
SEELB	West Winds PS, Newtownards	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
SELB	Donaghmore PS	Controlled
SELB	Mount St Catherine's PS, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Primate Dixon PS, Coalisland	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Colman's PS, Kilkeel	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Francis of Assisi PS, Keady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Malachy's PS, Carnagat	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's PS, Annalong	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Michael's PS, Clady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's PS, Crossmaglen	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's PS, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Teresa's PS, Tullyherron	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Stewartstown PS	Controlled
SELB	Tullygally PS, Lurgan	Controlled
WELB	Aghadrumsee PS	Controlled
WELB	Ashlea PS, Derry	Controlled
WELB	Barrack Street Boys' PS, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Belleek (2) PS	Controlled
WELB	Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea	Irish-medium
WELB	Chapel Road PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Donemana PS	Controlled
WELB	Drumachose PS, Limavady	Controlled
WELB	Ebrington Controlled PS	Controlled
WELB	Fountain PS, Derry	Controlled
WELB	Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir, Derry	Irish-medium
WELB	Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh	Irish-medium
WELB	Holy Child PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Holy Family PS, Omagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Nazareth House PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Newbuildings PS	Controlled
WELB	Roe Valley Integrated PS, Limavady	GM Integrated
WELB	Rosemount PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Caireall's PS, Castlederg	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
WELB	St Columbkille's PS, Carrickmore	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's PS (Glenmornan)	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's PS, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Oliver Plunkett PS, Strathfoyle	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Paul's PS, Slievemore, Derry	Catholic Maintained

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DSC LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROJECT

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Ashfield Boys' High School	Controlled
BELB	Ashfield Girls' High School	Controlled
BELB	Belfast Boys' Model School	Controlled
BELB	Belfast Model School For Girls	Controlled
BELB	Campbell College	Voluntary Grammar
BELB	Christian Brothers School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Colaiste Feirste	Irish-medium
BELB	Corpus Christi College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	De La Salle College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Hazelwood College	GM Integrated
BELB	Little Flower Girls' School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Malone Integrated (GM) College	GM Integrated
BELB	Mercy College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Orangefield High School	Controlled
BELB	St Genevieve's High School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Joseph's College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Louise's Comprehensive College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's Christian Brothers' GS	Voluntary Grammar
BELB	St Patrick's College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Rose's High School	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ballee Community High School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballycastle High School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballyclare Secondary School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballymoney High School	Controlled
NEELB	Carrickfergus College	Controlled
NEELB	Coleraine College	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
NEELB	Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Crumlin Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Cullybackey High School	Controlled
NEELB	Downshire School	Controlled
NEELB	Dunclug College	Controlled
NEELB	Dunluce School	Controlled
NEELB	Edmund Rice College, Newtownabbey	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Glengormley High School	Controlled
NEELB	Larne High School	Controlled
NEELB	Magherafelt High School	Controlled
NEELB	Monkstown Community School	Controlled
NEELB	Newtownabbey Community High School	Controlled
NEELB	North Coast Integrated College	GM Integrated
NEELB	Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Parkhall Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Slemish College	GM Integrated
NEELB	Sperrin Integrated College	GM Integrated
NEELB	St Benedict's College, Randalstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Colm's High School, Draperstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Joseph's College, Coleraine	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Killian's College, Carnlough	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Mary's College, Clady	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Patrick's Co-ed Comprehensive College. Maghera	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Patrick's College, Ballymena	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Paul's College, Kilrea	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Pius X College, Magherafelt	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ulidia Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Controlled
SEELB	Blackwater Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	De La Salle High School, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Dundonald High School	Controlled
SEELB	Fort Hill College	Controlled Integrated
SEELB	Glastry College	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
SEELB	Knockbreda High School	Controlled
SEELB	Lagan College	GM Integrated
SEELB	Laurelhill Community College	Controlled
SEELB	Lisnagarvey High School	Controlled
SEELB	Movilla High School	Controlled
SEELB	Nendrum College	Controlled
SEELB	Newtownbreda High School	Controlled
SEELB	Priory College	Controlled Integrated
SEELB	Saintfield High School	Controlled
SEELB	Shimna Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Colm's High School, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Columbanus' College, Bangor	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Columba's College, Portaferry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Strangford Integrated (GM) College	GM Integrated
SEELB	The High School Ballynahinch	Controlled
SELB	Aughnacloy High School	Controlled
SELB	Banbridge High School	Controlled
SELB	Brownlow Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
SELB	City Armagh High School	Controlled
SELB	Cookstown High School	Controlled
SELB	Craigavon Senior High School	Controlled
SELB	Dromore High School	Controlled
SELB	Drumcree College	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Drumglass High School	Controlled
SELB	Fivemiletown College	Controlled
SELB	Holy Trinity College, Cookstown	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Integrated College Dungannon	GM Integrated
SELB	Kilkeel High School	Controlled
SELB	Lismore Comprehensive School	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
SELB	Markethill High School	Controlled
SELB	New-Bridge Integrated College	GM Integrated
SELB	Newry High School	Controlled
SELB	Newtownhamilton High School	Controlled
SELB	Rathfriland High School	Controlled
SELB	St Brigid's High School, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Catherine's College, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Columban's College, Kilkeel	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's College, Coalisland	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's High School, Lurgan	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's High School, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's College, Banbridge	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's College, Dungannon	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's High School, Keady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Castledearg High School	Controlled
WELB	Dean Maguirc College	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Devenish College	Controlled
WELB	Drumragh College	GM Integrated
WELB	Erne Integrated College	GM Integrated
WELB	Holy Cross College, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Immaculate Conception College	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Limavady High School	Controlled
WELB	Lisnaskea High School	Controlled
WELB	Lisneal College	Controlled
WELB	Oakgrove Integrated College	GM Integrated
WELB	Omagh High School	Controlled
WELB	Sacred Heart College, Omagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Aidan's High School, Derrylin	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
WELB	St Brigid's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Cecilia's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Eugene's College, Roslea	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St John's High School, Dromore	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's College, Enniskillen	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's College, Irvinestown	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's High School, Brollagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's Limavady	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Patricks & St Brigids HS, Claudy	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Patrick's College, Dungiven	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Strabane Academy	Controlled Grammar

Literacy and Numeracy Project

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department gave to parents and community groups when selecting the schools to participate in the Literacy and Numeracy Project. **(AQW 23295/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd:

- 7 The Delivering Social Change Signature Project to improve literacy and numeracy was announced by OFMdfM in October 2012 and my Department is working with the Western Education and Library Board to deliver this important project. A Strategic Oversight Group with representation from the broad education community was established to develop the scheme, including the criteria for the selection of schools.

The list of primary and post primary schools that have met the eligibility criteria for participation in the project is attached below.

- 8 Members of the Strategic Oversight Group met with a number of representative groups from the five Education and Library Boards during the development of the criteria for the selection of schools. The heads of Curriculum Advisory and Support Service also had considerable input based on their knowledge of schools and informal consultations with principals.

Further, in relation to the consultation with the principals and teachers of the eligible schools, the principal of every eligible school has been invited to attend an information session arranged in their Education and Library Board area.

- 9 The consultation with parents of pupils who are identified as requiring extra support to improve their educational achievement will be carried out by the schools involved in the project.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DSC LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROJECT

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Avoniel PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Blackmountain PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Blythefield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Botanic PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Cliftonville Integrated PS, Belfast	Controlled Integrated
BELB	Currie PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Donegall Road PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Edenbrooke PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Edmund Rice (CB) PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Elmgrove PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Euston Street PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Fane Street PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Gaelscoil an Lonnain, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Gaelscoil na Mona, Belfast	Irish-medium
BELB	Glenwood PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Harmony PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Holy Family PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Holy Trinity PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Knocknagoney PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Ligoniel PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Lowwood PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Malvern PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Nettlefield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Sacred Heart PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Springfield PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	St Aidan's (CB) PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Clare's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Joseph's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Kevin's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Malachy's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	St Mary's Star of the Sea PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Matthew's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Paul's PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Vincent de Paul PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Star of the Sea Girls' PS, Belfast	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Taughmonagh PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Victoria Park PS, Belfast	Controlled
BELB	Wheatfield PS, Belfast	Controlled
NEELB	Abbots Cross PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Altayiskey PS, Draperstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ballycraigy PS, Muckamore	Controlled
NEELB	Ballykeel PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Ballysally PS, Coleraine	Controlled
NEELB	Carhill Controlled Integrated PS, Garvagh	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Crumlin Controlled Integrated PS	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Earlview PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle	Irish-medium
NEELB	Groggan PS, Randalstown	Controlled
NEELB	Harpur's Hill PS, Coleraine	Controlled
NEELB	Harryville PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Hollybank PS, Newtownabbey	Controlled
NEELB	Kirkinriola PS, Ballymena	Controlled
NEELB	Parkhall PS, Antrim	Controlled
NEELB	Rathcoole PS	Controlled
NEELB	Rathenraw Integrated PS, Antrim	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Roundtower Integrated PS, Antrim	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Silverstream PS, Greenisland	Controlled
NEELB	St Mary's PS, Greenlough	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Sunnylands PS, Carrickfergus	Controlled
NEELB	The Diamond PS, Cullybackey	Controlled
NEELB	The Wm Pinkerton Memorial PS, Ballymoney	Controlled
NEELB	Woodlawn PS, Carrickfergus	Controlled
SEELB	Belvoir Park PS	Controlled
SEELB	Bloomfield Road PS, Bangor	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
SEELB	Clandeboye PS, Bangor	Controlled
SEELB	Downpatrick PS	Controlled
SEELB	Drumlins Integrated PS, Ballynahinch	GM Integrated
SEELB	Killyleagh PS	Controlled
SEELB	Knockmore PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Lisburn Central PS	Controlled
SEELB	Old Warren PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Seymour Hill PS, Dunmurry	Controlled
SEELB	St Colmcille's PS, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Kieran's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Luke's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Mark's PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Nicholas' PS, Ardglass	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	The Good Shepherd PS, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Tonagh PS, Lisburn	Controlled
SEELB	Tullycarnet PS, Belfast	Controlled
SEELB	West Winds PS, Newtownards	Controlled
SELB	Donaghmore PS	Controlled
SELB	Mount St Catherine's PS, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Primate Dixon PS, Coalisland	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Colman's PS, Kilkeel	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Francis of Assisi PS, Keady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Malachy's PS, Carnagat	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's PS, Annalong	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Michael's PS, Clady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's PS, Crossmaglen	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's PS, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Teresa's PS, Tullyherron	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Stewartstown PS	Controlled
SELB	Tullygally PS, Lurgan	Controlled
WELB	Aghadrumsee PS	Controlled
WELB	Ashlea PS, Derry	Controlled

ELB Area	School	Sector
WELB	Barrack Street Boys' PS, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Belleek (2) PS	Controlled
WELB	Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea	Irish-medium
WELB	Chapel Road PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Donemana PS	Controlled
WELB	Drumachose PS, Limavady	Controlled
WELB	Ebrington Controlled PS	Controlled
WELB	Fountain PS, Derry	Controlled
WELB	Gaelscoil Eadain Mhoir, Derry	Irish-medium
WELB	Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh	Irish-medium
WELB	Holy Child PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Holy Family PS, Omagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Nazareth House PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Newbuildings PS	Controlled
WELB	Roe Valley Integrated PS, Limavady	GM Integrated
WELB	Rosemount PS, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Caireall's PS, Castledearg	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Columbkille's PS, Carrickmore	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's PS (Glenmornan)	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's PS, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Oliver Plunkett PS, Strathfoyle	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Paul's PS, Slievemore, Derry	Catholic Maintained

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DSC LITERACY AND NUMERACY PROJECT

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Ashfield Boys' High School	Controlled
BELB	Ashfield Girls' High School	Controlled
BELB	Belfast Boys' Model School	Controlled
BELB	Belfast Model School For Girls	Controlled
BELB	Campbell College	Voluntary Grammar
BELB	Christian Brothers School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Colaiste Feirste	Irish-medium
BELB	Corpus Christi College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	De La Salle College	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
BELB	Hazelwood College	GM Integrated
BELB	Little Flower Girls' School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Malone Integrated (GM) College	GM Integrated
BELB	Mercy College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	Orangefield High School	Controlled
BELB	St Genevieve's High School	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Joseph's College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Louise's Comprehensive College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Mary's Christian Brothers' GS	Voluntary Grammar
BELB	St Patrick's College	Catholic Maintained
BELB	St Rose's High School	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ballee Community High School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballycastle High School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballyclare Secondary School	Controlled
NEELB	Ballymoney High School	Controlled
NEELB	Carrickfergus College	Controlled
NEELB	Coleraine College	Controlled
NEELB	Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Crumlin Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Cullybackey High School	Controlled
NEELB	Downshire School	Controlled
NEELB	Dunclug College	Controlled
NEELB	Dunluce School	Controlled
NEELB	Edmund Rice College, Newtownabbey	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Glengormley High School	Controlled
NEELB	Larne High School	Controlled
NEELB	Magherafelt High School	Controlled
NEELB	Monkstown Community School	Controlled
NEELB	Newtownabbey Community High School	Controlled
NEELB	North Coast Integrated College	GM Integrated
NEELB	Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Ballymoney	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Parkhall Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
NEELB	Slemish College	GM Integrated
NEELB	Sperrin Integrated College	GM Integrated

ELB Area	School	Sector
NEELB	St Benedict's College, Randalstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Colm's High School, Draperstown	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Joseph's College, Coleraine	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Killian's College, Carnlough	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Mary's College, Clady	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Patrick's Co-ed Comprehensive College. Maghera	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Patrick's College, Ballymena	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Paul's College, Kilrea	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	St Pius X College, Magherafelt	Catholic Maintained
NEELB	Ulidia Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Controlled
SEELB	Blackwater Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	De La Salle High School, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Dundonald High School	Controlled
SEELB	Fort Hill College	Controlled Integrated
SEELB	Glastry College	Controlled
SEELB	Knockbreda High School	Controlled
SEELB	Lagan College	GM Integrated
SEELB	Laurelhill Community College	Controlled
SEELB	Lisnagarvey High School	Controlled
SEELB	Movilla High School	Controlled
SEELB	Nendrum College	Controlled
SEELB	Newtownbreda High School	Controlled
SEELB	Priory College	Controlled Integrated
SEELB	Saintfield High School	Controlled
SEELB	Shimna Integrated College	GM Integrated
SEELB	St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Colm's High School, Dunmurry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Columbanus' College, Bangor	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Columba's College, Portaferry	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
SEELB	St Patrick's Academy, Lisburn	Catholic Maintained
SEELB	Strangford Integrated (GM) College	GM Integrated
SEELB	The High School Ballynahinch	Controlled
SELB	Aughnacloy High School	Controlled
SELB	Banbridge High School	Controlled
SELB	Brownlow Integrated College	Controlled Integrated
SELB	City Armagh High School	Controlled
SELB	Cookstown High School	Controlled
SELB	Craigavon Senior High School	Controlled
SELB	Dromore High School	Controlled
SELB	Drumcree College	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Drumglass High School	Controlled
SELB	Fivemiletown College	Controlled
SELB	Holy Trinity College, Cookstown	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Integrated College Dungannon	GM Integrated
SELB	Kilkeel High School	Controlled
SELB	Lismore Comprehensive School	Catholic Maintained
SELB	Markethill High School	Controlled
SELB	New-Bridge Integrated College	GM Integrated
SELB	Newry High School	Controlled
SELB	Newtownhamilton High School	Controlled
SELB	Rathfriland High School	Controlled
SELB	St Brigid's High School, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Catherine's College, Armagh	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Columban's College, Kilkeel	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's College, Coalisland	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's High School, Lurgan	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Mary's High School, Newry	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's College, Banbridge	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Patrick's College, Dungannon	Catholic Maintained

ELB Area	School	Sector
SELB	St Patrick's High School, Keady	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Paul's High School, Bessbrook	Catholic Maintained
SELB	St Paul's Junior High School, Lurgan	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Castledearg High School	Controlled
WELB	Dean Maguirc College	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Devenish College	Controlled
WELB	Drumragh College	GM Integrated
WELB	Erne Integrated College	GM Integrated
WELB	Holy Cross College, Strabane	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Immaculate Conception College	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Limavady High School	Controlled
WELB	Lisnaskea High School	Controlled
WELB	Lisneal College	Controlled
WELB	Oakgrove Integrated College	GM Integrated
WELB	Omagh High School	Controlled
WELB	Sacred Heart College, Omagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Aidan's High School, Derrylin	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Brigid's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Cecilia's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Eugene's College, Roslea	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St John's High School, Dromore	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's Boys' School, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Joseph's College, Enniskillen	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's College, Derry	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's College, Irvinestown	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's High School, Brollagh	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Mary's Limavady	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Patricks & St Brigids HS, Claudy	Catholic Maintained
WELB	St Patrick's College, Dungiven	Catholic Maintained
WELB	Strabane Academy	Controlled Grammar

Newly Qualified Teachers

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Education how many newly qualified teachers will be eligible to apply for the recently announced two year posts.

(AQW 23302/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: To be eligible to apply for the teaching posts as part of the Delivering Social Change Signature Project on improving literacy and numeracy (the Project), newly qualified teachers must have qualified between June 2010 and June 2013 and not be in a permanent teaching post. In addition, they must be registered with the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) to teach in grant-aided schools by the time they take up the teaching post.

At January 2013, 1,058 graduate teachers meeting the criteria for these posts were registered with the GTCNI to teach in the north of Ireland. However, it is not possible to state the total number of graduate teachers who could potentially be eligible to apply for these posts. This is because we don't know how many graduates from the June 2013 cohort, graduating from colleges in the north of Ireland or outside the north of Ireland, will apply for these posts. Also, there may be eligible graduate teachers from 2010 to 2012 who to date haven't registered with GTCNI but who may now decide to do so in order to take up one of these posts.

Harmonisation of Exams between Northern Ireland and England

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the recent comments by the Secretary of State for Education on the harmonisation of exams between Northern Ireland and England.

(AQW 23355/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have made it clear that my priority is the best interests of the young people studying for and sitting examinations in the north of Ireland.

Irrespective of whether 3-jurisdiction arrangements are in place or not, the transparency, portability and credibility of the GCSEs and A levels taken in the north of Ireland continue to be of paramount importance, and this should remain the case. It is my view that the best way to ensure that this happens is to work together on a three-jurisdiction basis.

However, I recognise that we are each taking different policy directions in relation to GCSE and A level qualifications and it is right that the implications of these differences are discussed fully both at a policy and a regulatory level. I am aware that there has already been some discussion of these issues by the qualifications regulators and I would be keen that these discussions continue.

I will want to take a view of where there can be differences, and how these can be accommodated in a way that ensures that standards can be maintained across the three jurisdictions. For example, I do not accept that the changes to the assessment arrangements in themselves should lead to 'different' qualifications. I acknowledge, however, that policy decisions across jurisdictions may lead to significant differences in nature and scope of the qualifications.

It is right that there should be discussion of these issues by the regulators and I have asked CCEA, as the qualifications regulator here, to engage fully with its counterparts in England and Wales, particularly in relation to the titling issue.

Southern Education and Library Board: Public Liability Insurance

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 22695/11-15, to detail the quotations obtained by the Southern Education and Library Board for Public Liability Insurance for the proposed multiuse games area and outdoor gym, including the dates on which the quotations were received.

(AQW 23371/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education and Library Board has advised that in accordance with the Board's Financial Memorandum, the Board was not permitted to acquire commercial public liability insurance

in this particular instance as it is obliged to self-indemnify this risk in accordance with its self-funding arrangements for public liability.

Based on the information provided by the school, the outdoor fitness equipment was not designed to meet the specific requirements of children with special educational needs. The Board deemed the risk of injury significant and therefore could not self-indemnify this risk in respect of public liability.

Belmont Primary School, Dundela Infants' School and Greenwood Primary School

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of applications received against the number of places available in (i) Belmont Primary School; (ii) Dundela Infants' School; and (iii) Greenwood Primary School, for each of the last five years.

(AQW 23382/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The number of children who applied for a P1 place, against the number of places available for each of the schools named for the last 5 years is as follows:-

	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10
Belmont PS					
Applications received	140	160	101	104	80
Places available	84	84	84	84	84
Dundela Infants' School					
Applications received	112	122	93	85	71
Places available	84	84	84	84	84
Greenwood PS					
Applications received	137	129	118	111	87
Places available	87	87	87	87	87

Notes:-

- 1) The figures for the number of applications received and the number of places available were provided by the Belfast Education and Library Board and reflect the position as at the conclusion of the annual admissions procedure.
- 2) The figures exclude any children who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs who are admitted over and above a schools' approved admissions number.
- 3) The figures for the number of applications received represent **all applications** considered by each school and include first, second and any other preference applications passed to them in the course of the process. Some of these applicants may therefore be included in the totals for more than one of the listed schools.

Delivering Social Change Signature Project

Mr Ross asked the Minister of Education whether his Department carried out an Equality Impact Assessment in relation to age discrimination before launching the Delivering Social Change Signature Project.

(AQW 23423/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) screening of the Delivering Social Change Signature Project on improving literacy and numeracy (the Project). The Project was screened out as not requiring an EQIA. The screening document is available on the Department's website.

The purpose of the screening is to identify those policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations, including equality of opportunity based on age. Screening enables public authorities to fulfil their statutory obligations and mainstream the Section 75 equality and good relations duties into policy development and service delivery.

The Project has been developed in consultation with the Equality Commission for the north of Ireland. It takes account of the Equality Commission's publication 'Age Discrimination in Northern Ireland - A Guide for Employers' and relevant case law.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 22049/11-15, whether he plans to abandon participation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the related advice, reports and policy based on PISA data and international comparisons, with a view to avoiding unnecessary expenditure.

(AQW 23448/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I do not intend to abandon participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Our post-primary schools have already participated in the PISA 2012 survey and I await with interest the outcomes from that survey which are due to be published in December 2013. We are also already committed to participating in the 2015 survey.

PISA provides essential information about our own education system and the factors that are impacting on results. A particular strength is that it links performance to attitudes, behaviours and information about the school learning environment which we can only do in a limited way from administrative data systems. It also provides an opportunity to compare the performance and equity of our system within a wider, international, context. Equally, the PISA advice and reports allow us to identify and share best practice which can then be used to inform policy development and implementation. It is a benchmark that is used and valued by 65 participating countries.

Inter-Generational Programmes

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Education whether any local schools run inter-generational programmes aimed at creating better relationships between young pupils and older people.

(AQW 23450/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Revised Curriculum which has been taught to all pupils of compulsory school age in grant-aided schools since 2009/10 provides teachers with flexibility to make decisions on how best to interpret and combine minimum requirements to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and adapt their teaching to meet the needs of individual pupils.

The minimum to be taught is detailed in legislation as high level Areas of Learning and while opportunities exist within the curriculum for schools to cover inter-generational issues, for example, through the citizenship strand of the Learning for Life and Work Area of Learning at Post-Primary level, how such opportunities are delivered is a matter for individual teachers/schools.

The Department does not prescribe specific resources or programmes to be used in delivery of the curriculum – this is a matter for schools and delivery will therefore vary across schools. Subsequently the Department does not hold information on programmes or resources that individual schools use in their delivery of the curriculum.

A-Level Exams

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what discussions are planned on the future shape of A-level exams with (i) the UK Government; and (ii) other devolved institutions.

(AQW 23455/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I met with the Secretary of State for Education on 13 May 2013 to discuss the future of GCSE and A level examinations.

However, liaison will continue irrespective of whether the current three-jurisdiction arrangements for qualifications come to an end, as the Secretary of State for education in England has proposed.

In terms of my assessment of my discussions with the Westminster Government, I had a very positive meeting with Mr Gove on 13 May, along with my counterpart, Leighton Andrews, from Wales. I welcomed the opportunity to discuss issues around GCSE, AS and A-level examinations, the regulation of 3 jurisdiction qualifications and arrangements for sharing information about policy development which affect other regions.

However, I subsequently received a letter from Mr Gove which signalled his intention to end the current three jurisdiction arrangements for qualifications.

I am very unhappy that Mr Gove or his Department sought to leak the details of his letter to the media within one hour of my receiving it.

In terms of the future shape of A levels (and GCSEs), I have tasked CCEA, as the qualifications regulator for these examinations here, to work with the qualifications regulators in England and Wales on the titling issue for GCSEs and A levels in our respective jurisdictions. I have also agreed with the Minister of Education and Skills in Wales that our regulators should give consideration to a two-jurisdiction model for regulating GCSEs and A levels in Wales and the north of Ireland.

A-Level Exams

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what assessment he has made of his discussions with the UK Government on the future of A-level exams.

(AQW 23456/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I met with the Secretary of State for Education on 13 May 2013 to discuss the future of GCSE and A level examinations.

However, liaison will continue irrespective of whether the current three-jurisdiction arrangements for qualifications come to an end, as the Secretary of State for education in England has proposed.

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A-Level Exams

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many meetings he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on the future of A-level exams.

(AQW 23457/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I met with the Secretary of State for Education on 13 May 2013 to discuss the future of GCSE and A level examinations.

However, liaison will continue irrespective of whether the current three-jurisdiction arrangements for qualifications come to an end, as the Secretary of State for education in England has proposed.

In terms of my assessment of my discussions with the Westminster Government, I had a very positive meeting with Mr Gove on 13 May, along with my counterpart, Leighton Andrews, from Wales. I welcomed the opportunity to discuss issues around GCSE, AS and A-level examinations, the regulation of 3 jurisdiction qualifications and arrangements for sharing information about policy development which affect other regions.

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A-Level in Software and Systems Development

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how many teachers are being trained and prepared to deliver the new A-level in Software and Systems Development, which will start in September 2013.

(AQW 23482/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In support of this new qualification, CCEA held two information events on 14 March and 15 March 2013. 34 teachers attended.

CCEA held a two day training session for teachers on 3 May and 10 May 2013 to introduce teachers to C#, an object oriented programming language. The invitations to these sessions were extended to those teachers who had attended the information events or who had contacted CCEA about the qualification. 13 teachers took up the invitation and attended on both dates.

CCEA is meeting with Teacher Training Colleges in August 2013 to explore the possibility of CCEA subject officers running an information session with students who are currently training in a related subject area.

Free School Meals in Full-Time Education

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Education what are the age limits for pupils to receive free school meals when in full-time education.

(AQW 23483/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: All pupils in fulltime education at grantaided nursery, primary, secondary and special schools who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are entitled to receive free school meals.

Article 2 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986 defines a nursery school as a primary school which is used mainly for the purpose of providing fulltime or parttime education for children who have attained the age of 2 years but are under compulsory school age.

Secondary education is defined as fulltime education suitable to the requirements of senior pupils. A senior pupil means a person who has attained the age of eleven years and six months but has not attained the age of nineteen years.

Pupils in South Antrim

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Education how many (i) nursery; (ii) primary; and (iii) post-primary pupils for the 2013/14 intake in South Antrim did not receive a place in their first choice school or nursery unit.

(AQW 23484/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have been advised by the North Eastern (NEELB) and the South Eastern Education (SEELB) and Library Board's that there were 31 nursery, 54 primary and 38 post primary pupils who did not receive a place in their first choice school or nursery unit in South Antrim.

Governors, Trustees and Chairpersons of all Schools

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education whether his Department holds the details of the governors, trustees and chairpersons of all schools.

(AQW 23505/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold the details of all governors, trustees or the chairpersons of schools. It holds details of all the DE governors nominated or appointed to schools only. The Education and Library Boards are responsible for gathering this information directly from schools.

Gallagher and Smith Main Report

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 22500/11-15, to provide the ISBN number of the book.

(AQW 23517/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold any information on this publication other than the details that are cited in the Gallagher and Smith Main Report on The Effects of the Selective System of Secondary Education published by the Department in 2000.

Programme for International Student Assessment

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education to detail the costs incurred by his Department through participation in the Programme for International Student Assessment since 2000, broken down by each 3 year cycle, including the participating schools and the number of pupils.

(AQW 23518/11-15)

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

	PISA 2000	PISA 2003	PISA 2006	PISA 2009	PISA 2012	PISA 2015
Costs (£) to date	211,200.15	245,355.85	151,119.72	361,054.84	327,851.00	18,800.00
Number of participating schools	115	118	107	87	90	-
Number of participating pupils	2849	2853	2728	2197	2221*	-

- Data is not yet available; PISA 2012 results are due to be published in December 2013

* These figures are based on data from the national centre (NFER) and may be subject to change by the international consortium during the data cleaning process.

The participating schools are selected by the PISA Consortium, not by the participating countries and the Department does not hold this information. No individual pupil or school is identified in any report released from the assessment programme.

Children Receiving Funded Transport

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Education how many children in each Education and Library Board get funded transport to a school which is not their nearest suitable school.

(AQW 23524/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The information requested is not readily available and an exercise to produce it, which would require a consideration of almost 90,000 pupils on a case-by-case basis, would result in disproportionate cost.

Partial Transport Funding

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Education how calculations are made on the partial transport funding a pupil receives when not attending their nearest school.

(AQW 23525/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education and Library Board is the only Board to operate a scheme for payment of partial transport for pupils not attending their nearest suitable school. They have provided the following information:

On the basis of professional advice received from the Designated Medical Officer, transport on medical grounds is recommended to the nearest suitable type of school. "Suitable" as defined in the Department of Education's Circular 1996/41 (which is on the DE website) is:

- Mainstream primary, secondary, grammar school or special school;
- Catholic maintained, controlled or other voluntary, Integrated or Irish-medium.

The Board has no discretion in relation to this definition, and recognises the rights of parents to express a preference for a further away school. Should the Board identify a school nearer to the home address as being 'suitable' and that school following consultation can meet the pupil's special educational needs then, having regard to the efficient use of resources, the Board has no obligation to provide transport assistance to a more distant school.

Parents are notified by the Board that their school of choice is a further away school and offered the opportunity to change their preference. Where parents still choose to send their child to a more distant school the Board will make a contribution and provide "partial funding". It is then a matter for parents to make their own suitable transport arrangements for their child to attend the school of preference.

Payments made under "partial funding" are calculated based on the distance from the pupil's home address to the nearest suitable school and are capped at a maximum amount of £650 per year.

Per Pupil Cost for Rural and Urban Primary Schools

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Education to detail the per pupil cost for (i) rural; and (ii) urban primary schools, broken down by Education and Library Board.

(AQW 23553/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The answer below uses the current 2013/14 schools' delegated budget to illustrate the per capita budget allocated to schools – it is not possible to provide figures for all costs at pupil level.

Education & Library Board	Rural Primary Schools Per Capita £	Urban Primary Schools Per Capita £
BELB	N/A	3,013
WELB	3,388	2,949
NEELB	3,112	2,827
SEELB	2,979	2,826

Education & Library Board	Rural Primary Schools Per Capita £	Urban Primary Schools Per Capita £
SELB	3,122	2,932

	Rural Primary Schools Per Capita £	Urban Primary Schools Per Capita £
Grant Maintained Integrated Primary	3,047	3,121

Source: Common Funding Formula 2013/14

Note:

No rural primary schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board.

Substitute Teachers

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of substitute teachers in each Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 23578/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The cost of substitute teachers in each Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years, is shown in the table below.

COST OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Education & Library Board Area*	Year		
	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
BELB	£9,847,484.03	£9,187,563.28	£9,945,849.51
WELB	£9,918,135.15	£9,439,234.83	£9,842,766.73
NEELB	£13,724,012.21	£13,178,131.30	£13,708,809.02
SEELB	£13,137,569.05	£12,195,992.95	£12,702,205.40
SELB	£14,799,622.79	£13,473,497.15	£14,123,898.00

* Voluntary Grammar Schools are not included, as the Department does not process payment of these salaries.

Primary School Per Pupil Cost

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the per pupil cost in each primary school, broken down by Education and Library Board Area.

(AQW 23579/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I refer the Member to my answer to AQW 22848/11-15 tabled by Mr D McNarry, which was published in the Official Report on 24th May 2013.

Young People with Special Educational Needs

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to list the occupational, speech and language and physiotherapy provision for young people with special educational needs in each special school.

(AQW 23582/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Occupational, speech and language and physiotherapy provision is available in all special schools, as necessary. The method of delivery, duration and frequency of support is based upon the

individual learning needs of the child and the details specified within the child's statement of special educational needs.

As stated in my response to AQW 21863/11-15 such therapies are recommended by the relevant Education and Library Board (ELB), usually in consultation with the relevant Health Trust.

The ELBs have advised that listing the therapy provision currently provided to all pupils in special schools would be cost prohibitive.

Schools in Intervention

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education which schools have been placed into intervention. (AQW 23595/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The schools that have been placed into Formal Intervention are listed in the table below. Where the school has exited formal intervention the month and year it exited is shown.

School	Exited Formal Intervention
Nursery Schools	
Omagh North Nursery School	
Primary Schools	
Ballygolan Primary School, Belfast	Exited April 2012
Beechfield Primary School, Belfast	School closed September 2010
Bunscoil an Iúir, Newry	Exited June 2012
Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea	Exited June 2011
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, Castlewella	Exited March 2011
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Belfast	Exited Sept 2010
Bushmills Primary School	Exited April 2011
Cliftonville Integrated Primary School, Belfast	Exited May 2011
Edenbrooke PS, Belfast	
Foley Primary School, Tassagh, Armagh	
Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Belfast	Exited March 2011
Gaelscoil na Daróige, Derry	Exited March 2012
Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh	Exited March 2011
Gaelscoil na Móna, Belfast	Exited October 2011
Glenwood Primary School, Belfast	
Harryville Primary School, Ballymena	
Kirkinriola Primary School, Ballymena	
Malvern PS, Belfast	
Nettlefield PS, Belfast	
Springhill Primary School, Belfast	
St Bernard's Primary School, Newtownabbey	Exited July 2011
St Bronagh's Primary School, Rostrevor	Exited Sept 2011

School	Exited Formal Intervention
St Joseph's PS, Ballymartin	
St Patrick's Primary School, Aughagallon	
Tullygally Primary School, Lurgan	
Wheatfield Primary School, Belfast	
Post Primary Schools	
Ballee Community High School, Ballymena	
Blackwater Integrated College, Downpatrick	
Cambridge House Grammar School, Ballymena	Exited March 2013
Crumlin Integrated College	
Dundonald High School*1	
Dunluce HS, Bushmills	
Dunmurry High School	School closed August 2012
Knockbreda High School, Belfast	
Laurelhill Community College, Lisburn	
Lisnagarvey High School, Lisburn	
Lisneal College, Derry	Exited March 2013
Monkstown Community School	
Orangefield High School, Belfast	
St Gemma's High School, Belfast	
St Michael's Grammar School, Lurgan	

* 1 Dundonald HS re- entered the formal intervention process in December 2012 having previously been in the process from December 2009 to September 2010.

Sperrinview Special School

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education what is the prospective enrolment at Sperrinview Special School for the September 2013 term; and what were the enrolment figures for each of last four years. **(AQW 23623/11-15)**

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

ENROLMENTS AT SPERRINVIEW SPECIAL SCHOOL 2009/10 – 2013/14 (PROJECTED)

Year	Enrolment
2009/10	84
2010/11	87
2011/12	94
2012/13	100
2013/14 (projected)	95

Source: NI school census

Preschool Places: Newtownabbey

Ms P Bradley asked the Minister of Education how many children in the Newtownabbey area remain unplaced after the first round of allocating pre-school places.

(AQO 4168/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: At the end of Stage 1 of the 2013/14 pre-school admissions process, 91 children resident in the Newtownabbey Borough Council area were unplaced.

A total of 96 funded pre-school places in statutory nursery and voluntary/private pre-school settings remained available for parents to apply to in the Newtownabbey Borough Council area during Stage 2 of the process. In addition, a further 85 places were available in funded settings in the North Belfast area which borders the Newtownabbey area.

An update from the Belfast and North Eastern Education and Library Boards indicates that the vast majority children from the Newtownabbey area have now been offered a pre-school place.

Stage 2 is currently underway and concludes on 31st May 2013.

Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new build for Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim.

(AQO 4169/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Parkhall Integrated College is one of 22 projects announced in January to be Advanced in Planning. Authorisation to proceed to construction will be based on the level of capital funding available and all necessary approvals being obtained.

The Department received an Economic Appraisal for Parkhall Integrated College in February 2011 but this requires to be updated in line with the latest EA guidance from DFP, and to take account of revised project design, costs and Area Plans. The Economic Appraisal for the new build proposal is being redrafted by the North Eastern Education & Library Board and is expected to be completed by the end of June 2013. This Economic Appraisal will require DFP approval.

The design of the new school for Parkhall is at RIBA stage D. Previous planning permissions are to be reviewed.

I am aware that the completion of these works will ultimately provide better facilities for our children and young people to learn and an improved working environment for teachers and other school staff, and I will continue to keep the project under review.

Post-Primary Schools: County Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education for an update on the post-primary area planning process in Co. Fermanagh.

(AQO 4170/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Western Education and Library Board draft post-primary plan for the Fermanagh District Council area contains proposals for the reorganisation of provision across the Clogher and Kilmore Diocese. These relate to recommendations arising from the Commission for Catholic Education review of post-primary provision. However, as yet no firm proposals have been submitted to the Department.

The draft post-primary plan also contains proposals for the provision of a new replacement school for an amalgamated Portora Royal School and Collegiate Grammar School and the provision of a new school to replace Devenish College and Lisnaskea High School. These Board proposals were approved to proceed in planning in the Statement that I made to the Assembly on 22 January 2012 about Capital Investment plans. Development Proposals to support these schemes were published by the Board in March. The 2-month statutory objection period ends on 28 May and I will announce my decision as soon as possible after that date.

Post-Primary Schools: Streaming

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Education for an update on the use of streaming and banding within post-primary schools, particularly as an alternative to academic entry criteria.

(AQO 4171/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Streaming and banding is used by many post-primary schools as a means of meeting the educational needs of each individual child. This was recognised in the report of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Advancing Shared Education, which highlights the potential for academic selection within schools with all-ability intakes to play an important role in ensuring that all children and young people receive “a bespoke education that is tailored to their particular skills and talents”.

Children develop at different rates and using a flexible system of banding or streaming is an effective way of ensuring that children who require additional support are identified and provided with it, while at the same time ensuring that the brightest children are appropriately stretched and challenged.

Academic admissions criteria are blunt tools that take no account of how children grow and develop. Academic assessment for streaming or banding purposes after a child has been admitted to a school correctly puts the focus on meeting the needs of the child, not the institution.

Department for Employment and Learning

Not in Education, Employment or Training

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what consultation took place with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister before announcing 10,000 places for those not in education, employment or training.

(AQW 22886/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): I can confirm that no consultation took place with the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister before the announcement of 10,000 places for those not in education, employment or training.

Further Education Colleges

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning at what point a Further Education College becomes entitled to funding for an individual student and what arrangements exist in respect of claw-back or revision of allowance when a student drops out.

(AQW 22887/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Funded Learning Unit (FLU) is the method by which my Department allocates recurrent grant to further education colleges and is calculated on the basis of each eligible student enrolment within an academic year.

In general terms, a full-time student enrolment generates one FLU, which has a value of £3,400, and a part-time student enrolment will receive a proportion of that amount dependent on the number of hours attended. The value of this basic FLU can, however, vary significantly as a result of the application of several weightings, which take into account the level of qualification undertaken, the relative cost of delivery and levels of disadvantage.

There are three checkpoints of the funding throughout the academic year. Each college will receive the full level of funding if the student completes his or her course of study. If, however, the student is studying full-time and withdraws before January, the college will only be eligible to receive one third of the FLU value and, if attendance ends before May, the college will only be eligible to receive two thirds of the FLU value. For part-time students, the hours upon which the funding is calculated will be reduced to reflect attendance and the FLU value will be reduced accordingly.

My Department provides guidance to colleges on the process for recording withdrawals, cancellations and transfers of students within their student registration systems and carries out annual audits to ensure the process is implemented effectively.

United Youth Programme

Mrs Overend asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what discussions he had with employers before the announcement of the United Youth Programme.

(AQW 22915/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department had no prior knowledge of the United Youth Programme and therefore had no discussions with employers.

However, my Department will now contribute to a design group for the United Youth Programme which the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister will convene.

I am currently considering how the 'United Youth' Programme will complement my Department's existing and planned employability programmes. As part of this process DEL officials will work to ensure complementarity with other DEL programmes

United Youth Programme

Mrs Overend asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how the United Youth Programme will complement existing apprenticeships and other youth training programmes.

(AQW 22919/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department had no prior knowledge of the United Youth Programme and therefore had no discussions with employers.

However, my Department will now contribute to a design group for the United Youth Programme which the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister will convene.

I am currently considering how the 'United Youth' Programme will complement my Department's existing and planned employability programmes. As part of this process DEL officials will work to ensure complementarity with other DEL programmes

Together: Building a United Community

Mrs Overend asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline his role in the development of the proposals detailed in "Together: Building a United Community" and whether he was consulted by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister prior to publication.

(AQW 22920/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department had no prior knowledge of the United Youth Programme and therefore had no discussions with employers.

However, my Department will now contribute to a design group for the United Youth Programme which the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister will convene.

I am currently considering how the 'United Youth' Programme will complement my Department's existing and planned employability programmes. As part of this process DEL officials will work to ensure complementarity with other DEL programmes

iPad Schemes: Open University Access

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he will work in conjunction with the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to ensure that for any further iPad schemes, the devices are delivered with Open University access already uploaded.

(AQW 22955/11-15)

Dr Farry: I understand that the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, (DCAL) has provided support to the West Belfast Partnership Board to establish a pilot community learning resource and technology platform. In its initial stage the project focuses on primary schools and other organisations in the Lower Falls area and includes the introduction of digital and mobile technologies including iPads. I understand that this is only a pilot scheme at this stage and I am not aware of any plans to further extend this scheme.

However, I can say that the use of technology and flexible learning is reflected in my Department's Higher Education Strategy, Graduating to Success, and this initiative by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is an interesting development.

I have been informed that the Open University has already approached the West Belfast Partnership Board to discuss how the Board might utilise free learning materials available for devices such as the iPad.

Open University Funding

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the steps he has taken to ensure that the funding devolved for the Open University is ring fenced for use solely by the Open University. **(AQW 22956/11-15)**

Dr Farry: It has been agreed that the funds presently available in England to fund the Open University's activities in Northern Ireland will be transferred directly to my Department. The Open University is aware of the amount of this funding and I have agreed that the transferred funds will be ring fenced for use only by the Open University. From 2015-16 onwards the funds will form part of the overall funds available for higher education in Northern Ireland and I would intend to fund the Open University's activities on the same basis as the other universities in Northern Ireland.

Funded Postgraduate Places in Economically Relevant Subjects

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of funded postgraduate places in economically relevant subjects and to provide a breakdown of these subjects for 2013/2014. **(AQW 23006/11-15)**

Dr Farry: The numbers of DEL funded postgraduate places in economically relevant subjects are not available yet from the Universities for the year 2013/14.

I am pleased to add that, as part of my Department's Higher Education Strategy and subject to available resources, I aim to increase the number of postgraduate courses year on year from 2013/14 with the aim of doubling the total number of PhD places to 1,000 by 2020.

South West College, Dungannon Campus: Students with Special Needs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 22232/11-15, to outline the range of support designed to assist the transition to further education for students with special needs at the South West College, Dungannon campus. **(AQW 23067/11-15)**

Dr Farry: My Department remains committed to ensuring the transition process for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is managed effectively.

The Dungannon campus of South West College offers a wide range of support to help with the transition to Further Education for students with special needs. The student support officers at the Dungannon campus have close links with local education and health trust specialists, including transition officers and social workers.

All students enrolling with special needs at the Dungannon campus undergo an educational needs assessment, which gives the student and their parent or guardian the opportunity to discuss any additional requirements for the student. One to one personal support or specialist software and

equipment is offered to students with special needs, to help them participate fully in class. This support is funded by my Department through the Additional Support Fund, which provides £3.5 million per annum to the Further Education sector. In addition, all academic and support staff at Dungannon campus are trained and updated on all disability matters.

My Department has helped fund two online tools designed to provide information and guidance for disabled students to help in the transitions process to further education:

- (i) an information and advocacy resource hub to signpost services for both existing and potential learners to improve access to information about college provision, services and the availability of learning support services.
- (ii) online access guides for students with disabilities which provide information on campus layout and on hearing systems, lighting levels and signage. The guides help disabled learners, visitors and staff to access college premises and make best use of facilities.

My Department's Careers Service also provides an all-age, all-ability, impartial careers information, advice and guidance service to clients throughout Northern Ireland including those with special needs. Services are client-centred and aim to help individuals realise their career aspirations and achieve their full potential in education, training and/or employment. Careers services are provided to learners including those with special needs, in the Dungannon/South West area through Partnership Agreements with local post-primary schools and the South West College.

My Department is also represented on the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership – Transitions Sub Group. This group is examining the scope to improve the transitions process from Child Services to Adult Services, including health, education and well being.

South West College and Belfast Metropolitan College: Staff Numbers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 22434/11-15, to detail (i) whether why the South West College and Belfast Metropolitan College have a lower number of staff than their counterparts; and (ii) whether support staff are allocated or placed in response to need.
(AQW 23115/11-15)

Dr Farry: I wish to advise you that Belfast Metropolitan College has informed my Department that they have erroneously underreported the number of support staff employed by the College and subsequently recorded in AQW 22434/11-15.

Belfast Metropolitan College now indicate that a total of 51 support workers are available to assist students enrolled at the college.

South West College state that support workers employed by the College do not always provide assistance on a one to one basis, and can be allocated to more than one student.

The College advise that students' individual needs are assessed and contribute to the decision on the level of support required. The College employ and assign support staff based on need and believe they are meeting demand.

Whilst my Department provides funding for colleges to employ support workers to assist students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the deployment or utilisation of these staff is a matter for each college, as employing authorities in their own right.

Bryson Future Skills: Insurance Costs for Students

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 22285 / 11-15, how much funding has been provided to Bryson Future Skills to cover insurance costs for students placed on work placement within schools, in the last three years.

(AQW 23145/11-15)

Dr Farry: Bryson Future Skills has received no funding from my Department in relation to insurance costs for students participating on the Steps to Work or Training for Success programmes and placed on work placement within schools, in the last three years.

Access to Work Scheme

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 22113/11-15, whether there is capacity for additional people to be accommodated under the Access to Work scheme and how many people could be accommodated.

(AQW 23177/11-15)

Dr Farry: Access to Work is a demand-led programme offering packages of support tailored to meet the assessed needs of the individual applicant. Each financial package is agreed after discussion and negotiation between the client, his or her employer and the Department's Disability Employment Service. As such, the cost of each individual package of assistance varies considerably under the scheme.

Whilst it is impossible to say how many more people could be accommodated under the Access to Work Programme, the Department will continue to promote this offer to both clients and employers alike.

The Department is confident that, where Access to Work is identified as the appropriate employment support for a person with a disability, a financial and other support package will be made available.

The Department recognises the value of Access to Work, as well as the Workable (NI) programme. Both of these specialist disability employment services will continue to help and support many people with disabilities to find and sustain work, and will assist local employers to recruit and retain valued employees within their workforce.

Southern Regional College Students

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail how many students from the Republic of Ireland attend (i) full time foundation higher education; (ii) part time foundation higher education; (iii) other full time higher education; (iv) other part time higher education; and (v) further education courses, in the Southern Regional College.

(AQW 23180/11-15)

Dr Farry: The table overleaf details the number of student enrolments from the Republic of Ireland in (i) full time foundation higher education; (ii) part time foundation higher education; (iii) other full time higher education; (iv) other part time higher education; and (v) further education courses, in the Southern Regional College for the 2011/12 academic year, the latest year for which full-year data are available.

Attendance	Foundation Degree	Other Higher Education	Further Education	Total
Full-time	10	0	60	70
Part-time	15	30	270	320
Total	25	30	330	390

Source: Further Education Statistical Record

Notes:

- 1 The latest available data for the Further Education Colleges are for academic year 2011/12.
- 2 The figures relate to student enrolments and not actual student numbers. An individual student can have multiple enrolments.
- 3 Republic of Ireland students are identified using the 'Country of Domicile' variable.
- 4 In line with Data Disclosure Protocols and to prevent the identification of individuals, figures in the attached tables are rounded to the nearest 5, with 0, 1, 2 rounded to 0. Totals in rows and columns may not add precisely due to this process.

Southern Regional College Students

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the income received from tuition fees from (i) full time; and (ii) part time further and higher education students from the Republic of Ireland, attending the Southern Regional College
(AQW 23181/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department does not hold information regarding tuition fees received by further education colleges. I have, however, passed the question to the Principal of the Southern Regional College and asked him to respond to the Member directly.

Regional Colleges: Management Information Systems

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what management information systems are operational in each regional college.
(AQW 23182/11-15)

Dr Farry: The six Northern Ireland further education colleges have been using a common management information system since 2007. The Northern Ireland College Information System (NICIS) comprises 4 main modules and allows colleges to maintain and process data relating to the following key areas of operation:

- Student Records;
- Human Resources & Payroll;
- Finance; and
- Estate records.

The hardware and software which comprise the system are jointly owned by the colleges while the maintenance of hardware and software is provided by a contracted third party. In addition, advice and guidance to college staff using the system is provided by the Business Support Unit within Colleges NI, which is the membership body representing all six Northern Ireland regional colleges.

As part of the ongoing shared service initiative, my Department and the colleges, are currently reassessing the use of management information systems within the further education sector to ensure technology is used as efficiently and effectively as possible in support of these key functions in the future.

Student Finance

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why student finance is not available for students who wish to complete a second degree.
(AQW 23197/11-15)

Dr Farry: Public funding for student support for higher education should be targeted, in the main, towards students entering higher education for the first time and by and large students should only be funded for one undergraduate degree to honours level.

The rationale for this is to ensure that our stretched resources are effectively targeted at those students who have not had a chance to experience higher education and to contribute, therefore, towards widening participation.

Students undertaking second degrees or equivalent or lower qualifications continue to be eligible to receive supplementary allowances such as the Adult Dependents' Grant, Childcare Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance and the Disabled Students' Allowances, if applicable.

There are some exceptions to the policy where students undertaking a second degree leading to a professional qualification may be eligible for some additional support. These subjects are: medicine, dentistry, allied health professions, social work, teaching, architecture or veterinary science.

Students with Moderate or Severe Learning Difficulties

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline his Department's plans to promote and increase the inclusion of students with moderate or severe learning difficulties in mainstream Further Education provision.

(AQW 23210/11-15)

Dr Farry: Further Education college provision is linked to demand and my Department does not dictate levels of enrolment or types of provision; this is a matter for the colleges.

However, in order to widen access to mainstream further education provision, my Department provides a ring-fenced sum of £1.5 million per annum, through the Additional Support Fund (ASF), to Further Education colleges, to provide additional technical and/or personal support, including one to one personal support or specialist software or equipment to help students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

As a result, the number of students supported through the Additional Support Fund and participating in mainstream Further Education has increased from 2,105 in 2007/08 to 3,200 in 2011/12.

My Department is also currently reviewing the level of Additional Support Funding for technical and personal support, to establish if it is meeting demand.

Not all students with moderate or severe learning difficulties are able to access mainstream due to the nature or extent of their disability. For this reason my Department provides colleges with £2 million per annum to help fund smaller class sizes and classroom assistants to encourage and facilitate these students in Further Education provision. In these circumstances, colleges collaborate with special schools and adult day centres to provide customised training and development opportunities on discrete, vocational and life skills courses for these young people. These courses may be offered in the college, at a day centre, or in other suitable premises.

In addition, my Department has also provided funding for two online tools designed to help disabled students access and benefit from Further Education:

- (i) an information and advocacy resource hub to signpost services for both existing and potential learners to improve access to information about college provision, services and the availability of learning support services.
- (ii) online access guides for students with disabilities which provide information on campus layout and on hearing systems, lighting levels and signage. The guides help disabled learners, visitors and staff to access college premises and make best use of facilities.

Students with a Moderate or Severe Learning Difficulty

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether all students with a moderate or severe learning difficulty who are enrolled in the current academic year in Further Education, can access discrete provision, and if not, how many students with a learning difficulty or disability access mainstream Further Education with support; and whether his Department does not have access to this data, what plans he has to ensure that data is disaggregated in the future.

(AQW 23211/11-15)

Dr Farry: In line with Departmental policy within the Additional Support Fund guidelines, all students who enrol at a Further Education college, are initially assessed to determine the course of study most suitable to them. In such cases, where a young person has moderate or severe learning difficulties, the assessment may result in a recommendation that the young person participates in 'discrete' programmes, which are funded by my Department to provide smaller class sizes and extra class room assistants. These courses may be offered in the college, at a day centre, or in other suitable premises.

In the 2011/12 academic year (latest statistical information available) there were 3,400 student enrolments in discrete provision in Further Education colleges.

In the same period there were 3,200 student enrolments in mainstream provision and receiving support through the Additional Support Fund.

Additional Support Fund

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much of the £1.5m basic Additional Support Fund was allocated to discrete provision in 2012-13.

(AQW 23212/11-15)

Dr Farry: In the 2012/13 academic year to date, approximately, £214,082.48 has been provided from the Basic Additional Support Fund budget to support the additional needs of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities enrolled in Further Education discrete provision.

Views of People with a Learning Disability

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether the proposed user engagement events seek the views of people with a learning disability directly and how will the views of people with a learning disability from areas outside Belfast and the North West be heard, particularly regarding the choice of courses available.

(AQW 23213/11-15)

Dr Farry: As part of the Strategic Review of the Disability Employment Service, a workshop has taken place involving a large number of key organisations from the local disability sector. These included organisations such as Mencap, Orchardville Society, NOW, the National Autistic Society and the Cedar Foundation, all of whom represent the views and interests of people with a learning disability, amongst others.

One of the recommendations arising from the workshop was to improve the level of direct User Engagement. To this end, a number of events are being planned, and these will take place in Belfast, the North West and at least one more in the Southern region. The events will be organised in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Union of Supported Employment (NIUSE) and other key stakeholder organisations. The Department will be encouraging these bodies to invite the people who they represent, and this will include those people with a learning disability who wish to avail of employment services, and indeed, employment opportunities.

In addition to the strategic review of employment services, I have commissioned an audit of Further Education provision for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, post - 19 and leaving special care schools throughout Northern Ireland. The audit is underway and the findings will be provided to me once completed.

Additional Support Fund

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether students enrolled in other departmental funded programmes benefit from the Additional Support Fund

(AQW 23215/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Additional Support Fund is aimed at those students enrolled in mainstream or discrete Further Education provision only, and therefore, not in receipt of any other form of support. The Additional Support Fund policy guidelines states that students in receipt of assistance under any other DEL-funded programmes, such as Steps to Work, Training for Success, ApprenticeshipsNI, EU-funded programmes, Disabled Students Allowance or full-cost recovery provision cannot be supported through the Additional Support Fund.

Students who are enrolled in other Departmental programmes receive assistance and support as part of their individual programme budgets, and not part of the Additional Support Fund.

Open University Degrees

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people from Northern Ireland have obtained degrees from the Open University, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 23232/11-15)

Dr Farry: The number of people from Northern Ireland, who have obtained degrees from the Open University in each of the last 5 years, is detailed in the table below:

Academic year	Qualifiers
2007/08	715
2008/09	625
2009/10	675
2010/11	705
2011/12	760

Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency

Notes:

- 1) Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. The latest available full year data are for 2011/12.
- 2) It should be noted that the above information relates to students who gain qualifications at all levels of study i.e. both undergraduate (both first degree and other undergraduate) and postgraduate.

Collaboration and Innovation Fund

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the projects and the funding that have been awarded under the Collaboration and Innovation Fund across Northern Ireland and broken down by (i) Health and Social Care Trust area; and (ii) district council area.

(AQW 23241/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Collaboration and Innovation Fund will provide over £9 million to eighteen organisations during the period December 2012 to March 2015. Seventeen projects will provide activity directly to young people who are not in education, employment or training; one project, Bryson Charitable Group, will complete an audit of available provision for unemployed young people. This project does not therefore provide activity in any of the Health and Social Care or District Council areas.

The following detailed Collaboration and Innovation Fund project information is attached at Annex 1:

- Table 1 - project title and funding broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area; and
- Table 2 – projects broken down by District Council area.

ANNEX 1

TABLE 1

COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION FUND 2012 - 2015

Organisation	Project	Funding	Health and Social Care Trust Area
Youth ActionNI	Get Set Project	£399,388	Belfast, Northern, Southern and Western
The Prince's Trust	The Fairbridge Collaborate	£669,221	Belfast, Northern and South Eastern.
Include Youth	The Start Programme	£591,698	Belfast and South Eastern

Organisation	Project	Funding	Health and Social Care Trust Area
Bryson Charitable Group	The NEET Strategy Forum	£250,533	Not applicable
Extern Organisation Limited	The Alternative Education Forum	£272,073	Belfast, Northern and South Eastern.
Training for Women Network	Gateway to Progression Project	£770,067	Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, Southern and Western
Fast Track into Information Technology	The Fit4Life Project	£872,900	Belfast and South Eastern
South Eastern Regional College	The PACE Project	£450,148	South Eastern
The Appleby Trust	The Print Room	£262,926	Southern
Derry City Council/ILEX	Intermediate Labour Market	£443,344	Western
Artillery Youth Centre	Second Chance	£321,972	Belfast
Opportunity Youth	Grit Plus	£453,545	Belfast, Northern, South Eastern. and Western
NOW Ltd	NOW and Stepping Stones Youth Service	£469,176	Belfast, Northern and South Eastern
Belfast Metropolitan College	The Threshold Programme	£916,530	Belfast, Northern and South Eastern.
South West College	The Connections Project	£546,380	Southern and Western
GEMS NI LTD	Collaborative Mentoring Partnership	£639,000	Belfast and Southern
Southern Regional College	The Spice Programme	£408,329	South Eastern and Southern
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	Youth @Work Project	£489,428	South Eastern
	Total	£9,226,658	

TABLE 2**COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION FUND 2012 - 2015**

Project	District Council Area
Get Set Project	Belfast City, Derry City, Armagh City and District and Newry and Mourne District.
The Fairbridge Collaborate	Belfast City and parts of Lisburn City, North Down Borough, Castlereagh Borough , Newtownabbey Borough and Antrim Borough

Project	District Council Area
The Start Programme	Belfast City, Lisburn City and North Down Borough
The NEET Strategy Forum	Not applicable
The Alternative Education Forum	Belfast City and parts of Lisburn City, North Down Borough, Castlereagh Borough , Newtownabbey Borough and Antrim Borough
Gateway to Progression Project	All 26 District Council Areas
The Fit4Life Project	Belfast City and parts of Castlereagh Borough, North Down Borough and Ards Borough
The PACE Project	North Down Borough, Ards Borough, Lisburn City and Down District
The Print Room	Newry and Mourne District, Armagh City and District, Craigavon Borough and Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough.
Intermediate Labour Market	Derry City
Second Chance	Belfast City
Grit Plus	Belfast City, Derry City and parts of Lisburn City and North Down Borough, Castlereagh Borough, Newtownabbey Borough and Antrim Borough
NOW and Stepping Stones Youth Service	Belfast City, Lisburn City and parts of North Down Borough, Castlereagh Borough, Newtownabbey Borough and Antrim Borough
The Threshold Programme	Belfast City and plus parts of Newtownabbey Borough, Antrim Borough, Castlereagh Borough and North Down Borough
The Connections Project	Fermanagh District, Omagh District and Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough
Collaborative Mentoring Partnership	Belfast City, Lisburn City and Banbridge District
The Spice Programme	Newry & Mourne District and parts of Armagh City, Banbridge District and Craigavon Borough
Youth @Work Project	Down District, North Down Borough, Lisburn City and Ards Borough

Unionist Students: University

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how he plans to address concerns among unionist students who feel that local universities are unwelcoming to them.

(AQW 23251/11-15)

Dr Farry: As I advised in my response to your recent Oral Assembly question which was answered on 13 May 2013, previously held perceptions of a perceived “chill factor” within our higher education institutions have been determined to be unfounded.

The research evidence presented on participation in Higher Education indicates that there were very few negative perceptions of Northern Ireland institutions among students. In fact, most respondents

reported that Northern Ireland institutions were very welcoming to all groups in terms of religion, disability, ethnicity and socio-economic status. My Department does not monitor political affiliations.

I am delighted that our Universities and Further Education Colleges offer a genuine option for integrated education.

North West Regional College Staff

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why staff at the North West Regional College, who were due a payment of £250 in line with other public sector workers, are yet to receive it. **(AQW 23599/11-15)**

Dr Farry: Historically, non-teaching staff in Northern Ireland's further education sector are contractually entitled to pay rises determined by the National Joint Council (NJC). It is my understanding, however, that any agreements reached by the NJC are excluded from the automatic entitlement to the £250, as the Council is not deemed by HM Treasury to be a Pay Review Body

It is also my understanding that a pay remit for the years 2010/11 and 2011/12 has yet to be obtained. Given the recent announcements by the Department of Education in relation to these payments in the schools sector, I have asked college employers to explore the possibility of making this payment available to eligible staff. I am hopeful that, in the interest of equity, this matter will be resolved satisfactorily to all concerned, including the eligible staff at North West Regional College.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

InvestNI

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of InvestNI's £93m assistance offered to local companies last year was specific to companies in Down District. **(AQW 22888/11-15)**

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Invest NI offered £1.7million to locally-owned businesses in the Down District Council Area during 2012-13. This represented 1.8% of the overall total offered to local businesses.

Local Angling and Fishing Tourism

Mr Hazzard asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assistance her Department can offer in order to boost local angling and fishing tourism. **(AQW 22889/11-15)**

Mrs Foster: My Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), and in conjunction with Sport NI has commissioned a Strategic Review of Angling in Northern Ireland. The review will explore the constraints and opportunities in developing angling for both visitors and the home-based angling community and make recommendations on how Northern Ireland can offer a coherent angling experience which is visitor centric.

Sport NI is leading this review and a steering group has been established to ensure all bodies with a responsibility for angling have input into the review. This includes The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure; The Loughs Agency; and the three recognised governing bodies, The Ulster Angling Federation; The Irish Association of Sea Anglers and the Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation.

There will be wide-ranging consultation and the results of this review will highlight the best opportunities for angling tourism at an international; national and local level.

Tourism Ireland, supported by representatives from the Northern Ireland tourism industry, promotes angling and fishing in Northern Ireland at key specialist and outdoor fairs in GB, Europe and other markets.

NITB works closely with Tourism Ireland to host specialist angling tour operators press familiarisation trips for angling journalists to sample the Northern Ireland angling experience at first-hand and to write about it on their return home.

United Youth Programme

Mrs Overend asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she had with employers and business leaders before the announcement of the United Youth Programme.

(AQW 22916/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The recently announced United Youth Programme falls under the policy remit of the Minister for Employment and Learning

Presbyterial Mutual Society Directors

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail why her Department instructed a QC from Great Britain to pursue Presbyterial Mutual Society Directors; and how much proceedings cost.

(AQW 22984/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department engaged Counsel both from England and Northern Ireland.

Treasury Counsel was briefed on the advice of the Departmental Solicitor's Office (DSO).

All six respondents in this matter have given formal undertakings not to act as a director etc. for an agreed period. An Order for costs was made in favour of the Department. At this stage it is too early to quantify the costs.

A bill of costs will be prepared by DSO in due course and furnished to the Respondents' solicitors for agreement and payment.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether any staff have been disciplined as a consequence of the findings arising from the Ombudsman's investigation into the handling of the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

(AQW 22986/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI has discharged its IPS Registration role in a manner that has been consistent with the procedures operated by the Financial Service's Authority (FSA) in its equivalent role. The Ombudsman's report has not identified any matters which constitute a breach of discipline.

The procedures underpinning the exercise of DETI's Registry role are being reviewed and revised in light of the lessons learned in this case.

Electricity from Renewable Sources

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 21648/11-15, for her assessment of how achievable the 2020 target in respect of electricity generated from renewable sources is; and whether the current production of 13.7 per cent of generation from renewable sources is cost effective.

(AQW 22988/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Northern Ireland is on target to meet the interim Programme for Government target of 20% of electricity from renewable sources by 2015. The 40% target is challenging, but it is achievable subject to further investment in the electricity grid, which will require approval by the Utility Regulator.

The cost of incentivising renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland is socialised across the UK and is passed onto the consumer through energy bills and currently represents approximately £12 to

£15 on an average annual domestic electricity bill. The greatest technology contribution to the current figure of 14.15% (at April 2013) is from large scale onshore wind which requires a lower subsidy per unit of electricity generated than most other technologies.

InvestNI

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline, within the Foyle constituency, how many applications made to InvestNI have been made under each project/fund; and how many have been successful, in the last five years.

(AQW 22990/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The table presents the number of applications from businesses located in Foyle during the past five years, which were formally recorded by Invest NI, and the subsequent outcomes of these applications. As requested, the information is presented by type of project. In summary, this shows that 834 (95%) of recorded applications received an offer of assistance. In addition, 20 applications are still on-going.

TABLE 1: INVEST NI APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN FOYLE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY AREA BY PROJECT TYPE (2008-09 TO 2012-13)

Project Type	Total Applications Received	Still Undergoing Appraisal/ Approval Process	Project did not Proceed to Formal Offer Stage	Project Approved by Invest NI
Innovation & Technical Development	135	1	1	133
Job Creation	565	7	9	549
Research & Development	57	5	4	48
Skills Development	61	1	2	58
Trade	59	6	7	46
Total	877	20	23	834

Notes

- 1 Figures on applications are only included for those schemes where the application process is recorded on Invest NI's central database.
- 2 Projects that do not proceed to offer stage are sometimes the result of businesses withdrawing their request for assistance.
- 3 Figures relate to applications received within the period 2008-09 to 2012-13.
- 4 A project approval may not necessarily occur in the same financial year in which the application was made
- 5 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information

Air Passenger Duty

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assessment she has made of the impact of setting a rate of zero for Air Passenger Duty for all direct long haul flights, in terms of further route and economic development.

(AQW 23014/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The removal of Air Passenger Duty (APD) on direct long haul flights has helped to retain the United Airlines Belfast/Newark service, our only direct link to the United States. This service provides

important business linkages to the United States and is also important in terms of in-bound tourism. The US continues to be one of the most important markets for tourism to Northern Ireland. American visitors stay longer, spend more than the average visitor and tour more extensively while they are here.

While final visitor numbers for 2012 are not currently available, provisional estimates for the January-September 2012 period indicate that the number of visitors from North America to Northern Ireland grew by +18% when compared with the same period in 2011. The direct link to the US made possible by the Belfast/Newark service will undoubtedly have helped to contribute to this increase.

The removal of APD on direct long haul flights sends a positive message to many long haul airlines that Northern Ireland can be a viable option for their business. My officials are therefore in regular discussions with the airports and airlines with a view to developing new routes, including routes to long haul destinations. A key objective in respect of long haul route development is the reinstatement of the Northern Ireland to Canada route.

Hydrocarbon Producers

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she intends to put in place any mandatory requirements that hydrocarbon producers must set aside production for consumption by local businesses and households.

(AQW 23015/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There is no provision in law that enables my Department to prescribe where or how a Petroleum Licensee should sell its product.

InvestNI

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline why InvestNI are not in a position to sign up to sub-regional targets.

(AQW 23104/11-15)

Mrs Foster: As part of the 2009 Independent Review of Economic Policy (IREP), the review panel were asked to analyse, assess and provide recommendations with regard to the sub-regional distribution of inward investment and support measures to indigenous businesses and the effectiveness of policy in encouraging the location of investment.

The Report acknowledged that competitiveness varies between places in a region, with cities, in particular, offering significant agglomeration, spill-over benefits and access to skills and infrastructure. However, the implication the report drew was that firms should be allowed to locate in a region where they would be best placed to generate the highest returns. The imposition of sub regional targets would, therefore, be counter to IREP's findings.

Instead Invest NI's approach, which reflects the findings in IREP, is to promote Northern Ireland as a whole as a viable location for inward investment with the final location decision taken solely by the investing company to meet its own investment needs. Invest NI also works closely stakeholders at a regional level across Northern Ireland and continues to offer a wide range of support to encourage investment in local areas through initiatives such as Boosting Business, the Jobs Fund and the Regional Start Programme which has been designed to support locally focused entrepreneurs into self employment.

International Monetary Fund: Three-Speed Economy

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the International Monetary Fund warning of an emerging three-speed economy, for her assessment of which of these speeds fits the local economy.

(AQW 23312/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department publishes a monthly economic update which provides an assessment of current economic conditions. Indeed, the April 2013 DETI Monthly Economic Update referenced the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) World Economic Outlook which noted the potential emergence of

a three-speed global economy. While this assessment provides a useful high-level summary of global economic conditions, the grouping of economies does not take account of differences in individual economies' growth rates and economic circumstances.

In terms of Northern Ireland's economic performance, while it is clear that we have sustained a significant impact from the global downturn, it is also important to recognise recent signs of improvement. The most recent official statistics show that, over the quarter, Northern Ireland's production (0.3%), construction (0.5%) and service (0.7%) sectors have all grown and in terms of the labour market, the claimant count has now fallen for three consecutive months; the first such decline since August 2007.

The Executive recognises that more action is needed to secure and accelerate our recovery. It was for this reason that we launched the £200million Economy and Jobs Initiative and why we continue to push HM Treasury for additional powers and flexibility to provide further assistance to local businesses and attract additional investment from foreign businesses.

For more information the Monthly Economic updates are publicly available at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-4.htm>

Moyle Interconnector

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to the Moyle Interconnector, to detail (i) whether consideration has been given to a government subsidy to ensure it is brought back to full capacity as soon as is practicable; and (ii) what discussions she has had with her counterparts in Scotland regarding the ongoing problems.

(AQW 23319/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Restoration of the Moyle Interconnector to full capacity is largely a matter for its owner Mutual Energy and the Utility Regulator. No government subsidy is proposed.

I have had no discussions with Scottish Government counterparts in relation to the current problems with the Moyle.

Moyle Interconnector

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the status of the Moyle Interconnector, including whether the repairs have started and the cost of the repairs.

(AQW 23339/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Moyle electricity interconnector with Scotland is currently operating at 250 megawatts transfer capacity which is around 50% of its full capacity. Mutual Energy Ltd, owners of the Moyle Interconnector, has been investigating options for the short term and long term repair of the Moyle. These have included interim low cost options which will ensure continued operation of the interconnector at 250 megawatts without dependence on the low voltage element of the existing cables, and a possible reconfiguration of the cables which would provide 500 megawatt transfer capacity within approximately 18 months.

On 13 May 2013 the Utility Regulator published correspondence it has had with Mutual Energy which has agreed an approach for the long term repair of the cables. The proposal is to lay new low voltage cables along a similar route to the existing cables, and is likely to cost around £60million and take 4-5 years to complete.

G8 Summit

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what legacy opportunities will develop as a direct result of the forthcoming G8 Summit 2013.

(AQW 23341/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Hosting the 2013 G8 Summit provides a huge opportunity for Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Executive knows that bringing the G8 to Fermanagh will showcase to the world a

modern Northern Ireland with huge potential for investment and tourism, demonstrating the growing confidence that exists in this part of the UK. It will also highlight what Northern Ireland, its people and its businesses have to offer the global community.

Invest NI, the NITB and Tourism Ireland are capitalising on the unprecedented opportunities the Summit presents for Trade development, creating awareness, driving visitor numbers, stimulating civic pride and changing perceptions.

A formal evaluation currently underway will consider the benefits and potential legacy for Northern Ireland and Fermanagh in particular.

The formal Northern Ireland Executive evaluation will be published by end 2013 or early 2014.

G8 Summit

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) whether her Department has made representations about retaining the telecommunications infrastructure that will be brought in to cover the G8 Summit; and (ii) to whom she has made representations regarding this.

(AQW 23344/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I have written on a number of occasions to the Chief Executive Officers of the main telecoms companies, encouraging them to review and reprioritise their investment plans in light of the G8 Summit. My officials have been following up on this and a number of the telecoms companies have advised that it is their intention to leave some of the temporary infrastructure in situ at the G8 venues, until it is replaced by more permanent arrangements. I am also due to meet shortly with the main telecoms companies, where I will have a further opportunity to highlight the issues.

Cavan Interconnector

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to the Cavan Interconnector and given the precarious nature of the energy supply, what plans her Department has to install underground cabling.

(AQW 23348/11-15)

Mrs Foster: While I am familiar with issues raised in the recent All-Island Generation Capacity Statement (GCS), I do not consider the energy supply position for Northern Ireland to be precarious. My Department is in detailed discussions with the Utility Regulator and the System Operator for Northern Ireland on this matter with a view to identifying options to manage concerns.

The GCS concludes that with the North-South tie-line in place, deficits for Northern Ireland can be avoided. However, energy markets are fully privatised and my Department has no remit to direct power companies to deliver their investments in a specific way. The power companies take investment decisions based on a range of issues, including the most technically proficient and economically viable solution.

North West 200

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the financial assistance her Department has provided to the North West 200, in each of the last four years.

(AQW 23351/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The financial assistance my Department, through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, has provided to the North West 200, in each of the last four years is as follows:

Year:	Amount Awarded
2010/11	£70,000*
2011/12	£65,000

Year:	Amount Awarded
2012/13	£90,000
2013/14	£70,000
Total	£295,000

* Please note the 2010/11 funding was awarded by The Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) and administered by The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB).

Multilingual Signage

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 19982/11-15, why legal advice was sought in relation to the provision of Northern Ireland Tourist Boarding funding for the erection of multilingual signage.

(AQW 23362/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My answer is informed by the general policy that applies in relation to legal advice to Ministers -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 to refuse 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.

I can confirm that any legal advice which I believe has been necessary – or may become necessary - has or shall be sought.

Gaelic Games Related Facilities in North Antrim

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how new Gaelic games related facilities in North Antrim will be marketed by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and what assistance will they receive.

(AQW 23363/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I would refer the member to the replies I gave to AQW 9799/11-15 and AQW 15725/11-15 regarding Hurling and the GAA respectively.

Giro d'Italia 2014 Route

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the planned route of the Giro d'Italia 2014 will include the north coast of the Moyle District Council area.

(AQW 23364/11-15)

Mrs Foster: I would refer the member to the reply I gave to Priority AQW 23022/11-15.

International Monetary Fund

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, as the UK economy has had its growth forecast by the International Monetary Fund for 2013 reduced from 1 percent to 0.7 percent, what is her assessment of the change in growth for Northern Ireland.

(AQW 23367/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department's Monthly Economic Update in its April 2013 edition noted that the IMF had downgraded its growth forecast for the UK economy for 2013 from 1.0% to 0.7%.

Great Britain is a key trading partner for Northern Ireland, with nearly half (46%) of our manufactured goods destined for Great Britain markets. Any downgrade in the UK economic outlook could have an impact on Northern Ireland's economic prospects. This was recognised in my Department's March

2013 Monthly Economic Update, in light of downgraded UK economic forecasts by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

While Great Britain will remain a key trading partner for Northern Ireland, the reduction in its estimated growth provides further support to the Northern Ireland Executive's stance in our Economic Strategy, which aims to grow and diversify our export base, in particular to fast growing, emerging economies.

For more information the Monthly Economic Updates are publicly available at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-stats-index/deti-stats-index-4.htm>

Regional Economic Recovery

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she forecasts regional economic recovery to be at the same pace, or slower than, the rest of the UK.

(AQW 23370/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not produce economic forecasts.

It is encouraging to note that some signs of stability are appearing in the local economy. In addition to a three month consecutive fall in the claimant count level the most recent private sector output figures show that all the major sectors improved in Q4, 2012. Production increased 0.3%, services increased 0.7% and construction increased 0.5%. It is particularly encouraging that performance in the production and services sector outperformed that in the UK over this period.

Going forward it remains essential that the Executive continues to implement the strategic vision detailed in the Northern Ireland Executive Economic Strategy to secure and accelerate local economic growth.

EU Consumer Rights Directive 2014/20

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline how the EU Consumer Rights Directive 2014/20 will be taken forward.

(AQW 23401/11-15)

Mrs Foster: This answer has been prepared on the basis that the Member is referring to the Consumer Rights Directive (2011/83/EU) which is due to be fully implemented in member states by 13 June 2014.

Article 19 of the Directive (2011/83/EU) was implemented into UK law by the Consumer Rights (Payment Surcharges) Regulations 2012 No. 3110. These Regulations were made under the European Communities Act 1972. It is intended that further regulations will be made under that Act to implement the remaining measures both in GB and Northern Ireland.

Department of the Environment

Trains and Buses: Audio/Visual Information

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether he intends to make changes to the regulations that apply to public service vehicles requiring that audio/visual information is provided on all new trains and buses.

(AQW 22447/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): My Department has responsibility for the regulatory framework for buses, including the legislation surrounding the equipment with which they are fitted; the Department for Regional Development (DRD) is responsible for trains.

Buses

Following the Department for Regional Development's recent pilot study of the use of audio visual equipment on a Belfast bus route, I asked my Department to undertake further scoping and

benchmarking of the use of this equipment in buses. This work is ongoing; however, I continue to be mindful of the estimated £6.8 million pound installation costs (for Translink alone) and am seeking to ensure that a full assessment of the benefits is made prior to making any decisions requiring the mandatory installation in all buses.

My Department plans to consult on proposals for new regulations placing duties on bus drivers to assist disabled passengers by providing them with any information they require to help them to access the bus service. The driver will be required to provide passengers with information about the route they are on and let them know, on request, when they have reached their required stop. I anticipate that this may alleviate some of the difficulties people with impairments face when accessing public transport. The draft regulations are being scrutinised by the Departmental Solicitor's Office.

With regards to new buses, Council Directive 2007/46/EC sets the design standards for new buses within the European Union but does not include requirements for the fitting of audio visual equipment. However, the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 provides DOE with the powers to set the accessibility requirements for public service vehicles, including buses, being used in Northern Ireland. The current requirements are contained in the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (NI) 2003 and, if the ongoing review so concluded, these could be amended to introduce requirements for the fitting of audio visual equipment on buses.

Trains

In seeking to answer your question fully I have engaged with the Minister for Regional Development, Danny Kennedy, who has responded that, all trains have audio visual equipment installed as standard. In addition he has indicated that DRD does not currently have the funding to provide audio visual information on buses.

Building on Tradition: Farm Dwellings

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of the Environment what assurances he can give that all planning officers actively and consistently adhere to the supplementary planning guidance 'Building on Tradition' when assessing applications for farm dwellings.

(AQW 22764/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Building on Tradition -A Sustainable Design Guide for Northern Ireland Countryside published in May 2012, is a best practice guide that aims to assist all of those involved with sustainable development in the countryside to understand the requirements of PPS21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside.

The guidance emphasises the importance of recognising the uniqueness of our rural area with its distinctive local landscape characters in bringing forward a design response appropriate to the site.

Building on Tradition is not a legislative requirement that must be stringently adhered to. It is one of a number of material considerations taken into account by planning officers in the assessment of applications for farm dwellings. In assessing an application for a farm dwelling case officers must have regard to the development plan and other material planning considerations such as the policy contained within PPS21, the particular characteristics of the site and the surrounding context and the guidance within Building in Tradition to reach a balanced judgement.

I will continue to monitor performance across the area office network to ensure consistency in interpretation of all policy and guidance in reaching a balanced decision on planning applications.

Work Placements or Employment for People with Learning Disabilities

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 21701/11-15, to provide the information for councils who provide work placements or employment for people with learning disabilities rather than those with a physical disability.

(AQW 22815/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), under which it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate on the grounds of disability, does not indicate any differentiation between physical or mental impairment (which includes mental ill health) and what is commonly known as learning disability. The DDA does allow for reasonable adjustments by employers to ensure fair access for disabled people or to compensate for the disadvantage they experience as a result of their disability.

In addition councils, as employers, are also obliged under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons with a disability and persons without.

Dungannon District Council Area: Land Available

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the acreage of land available for (i) housing; (ii) industrial use; and (iii) other designations in each town in the Dungannon District Council area.

(AQW 22898/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan (2010) identifies the Districts two towns as being Dungannon and Coalisland.

Northern Ireland Housing Land Availability Summary report 2012 shows that 129.1 hectares were available for housing development within Dungannon. This comprises of undeveloped phase 1 Housing zonings and unimplemented housing permissions and could accommodate 2637 dwellings. In addition there are 148 hectares zoned as Phase 2 housing which is held in reserve. In Coalisland there are 78 hectares available for housing, which could accommodate 1282 dwellings. There is also 41 hectares zoned as Phase 2 housing.

The Industrial land survey 2011 shows there are 66 hectares available for industrial and business development, including at Granville. There are 12.85 hectares of land available for Industrial and Business development in Coalisland.

The Department has not recently survey other designations.

Hydroelectric Turbine

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment why there is no requirement to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment for an application to install a hydroelectric turbine.

(AQW 22911/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department in accordance with the Planning (Environmental Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (the Regulations) is required to determine whether or not installations for hydroelectric energy production are EIA development.

A proposed development for a hydroelectric turbine falls within the descriptions of development listed under Schedule 2, Category 3(i) Installations for hydroelectric energy production.

Where a description of development is listed in Schedule 2, the Department will establish whether the development is either located wholly or in part in a sensitive area or meets/exceeds any of the relevant thresholds/criterion listed in Column 2 of Schedule 2.

If a proposed development exceeds or meets the threshold/criterion listed, then the Department is required to consider by way of screening if the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment having regard to selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations.

If an application is determined to be EIA development, then it becomes an EIA application requiring an Environmental Statement to be submitted by the applicant to the Department.

Incinerator on the Main Moira to Lisburn Road

Mrs Hale asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the plans for an incinerator on the main Moira to Lisburn road.

(AQO 4029/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The application to which the Member refers is for a proposed Energy from Waste facility at 211 Moira Road. The application will involve the gasification process where waste is heated at a high temperature to produce energy, as opposed to incineration. Following in-depth consultation on the proposal with experts, my officials are currently preparing a report on this proposal for my urgent consideration.

Private Residential Care and Nursing Homes

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to list the planning applications that have been made by private residential care and nursing homes since December 2011, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area; and how the number of applications compares to the previous three years.

(AQW 22947/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Table 1 below summarises the number of applications that have been submitted to the Department for residential care and nursing homes in each financial year since 2008/09 up to the end of Q3 of 2012/13.

However, prior to 2011 the information held on the Departments database did not record whether the residential care and nursing home was private or NHS. The figures quoted below prior to 2011 include all applications for such use irrespective of whether private or NHS. Therefore it is not possible to compare the number of applications received for such use prior to 2011 with those received post 2011. Furthermore, the Department does not hold information on its database relating to Health and Social Care Trust boundaries. Therefore, the information is categorised by local government district.

TABLE 1: PLANNING APPLICATIONS RELATING TO NHS AND PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL CARE AND NURSING HOMES BY DISTRICT COUNCILS *

2008\2009 TO DECEMBER 2012

LGD	2008\2009	2009\2010	2010\2011	2011/ 2012**	April to December 2012**
Antrim	1	4	2	1	-
Ards	4	1	3	2	2
Armagh	3	3	-	2	-
Ballymena	3	4	3	3	-
Ballymoney	1	2	1	-	-
Banbridge	4	2	-	-	1
Belfast	8	14	5	5	5
Carrickfergus	2	1	2	1	-
Castlereagh	2	1	1	-	-
Coleraine	4	8	2	-	-
Cookstown	5	2	2	-	-
Craigavon	3	5	2	-	-

LGD	2008\2009	2009\2010	2010\2011	2011/ 2012**	April to December 2012**
Derry	4	5	2	1	-
Down	6	11	7	-	2
Dungannon	3	4	3	1	1
Fermanagh	1	7	4	2	-
Larne	-	-	3	1	-
Limavady	1	3	-	1	-
Lisburn	4	4	8	-	2
Magherafelt	1	4	2	-	-
Moyle	1	3	1	-	-
Newry And Mourne	4	2	3	-	-
Newtownabbey	4	5	2	1	1
North Down	4	1	3	1	2
Omagh	1	1	2	3	-
Strabane	-	1	-	-	-
Missing	8	1	-	-	-
Total	82	99	63	25	16

* This Excludes Sheltered Dwellings / Housing For The Elderly, Unless Included As An Element Of A Nursing / Residential Application. In Addition, Doe Planning Does Not Hold The Boundaries Of The Health And Social Care Trusts, Therefore Information

** Private Residential Care And Nursing Homes Only, No Applications Are Recorded For Nhs Nursing Homes Or Residential Homes During This Period (Is Only Possible To Clearly Differentiate Between Private And Nhs From 2011 – Therefore Previous Years Will Include Nhs Applications).

I have arranged for details of each of the planning applications to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Posts in Councils for People with Special Needs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 21701/11-15, for his assessment of the number of posts on offer in councils for people with special needs; and what plans he has to increase the number of employment and placement posts.

(AQW 22948/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Councils are independent employers bound by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) under which it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate on the grounds of disability. The DDA allows for reasonable adjustments by employers to ensure fair access for disabled people or to compensate for the disadvantage they experience as a result of their disability.

Councils are, in addition, bound by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which obliges councils to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons with or without a disability.

It is the responsibility and duty of councils to comply with all relevant legislation in regard to the employment and placement of individuals. I shall write to CE's on the issue.

Council Staff Pay

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment how many council staff are paid over (i) £50,000; (ii) £75,000; (iii) £100,000; (iv) £125,000; and (v) £150,000 per annum.

(AQW 22983/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information you have requested has been provided by the individual councils and is detailed in the table below.

Council	(i) £50,000	(ii) £75,000	(iii) £100,000	(iii) £125,000	(iv) £150,000
Antrim Borough Council	2	1	0	0	0
Ards Borough Council	6	1	0	0	0
Armagh City & District Council	7	0	0	0	0
Ballymena Borough Council	6	1	0	0	0
Ballymoney Borough Council	2	1	0	0	0
Banbridge District Council	3	1	0	0	0
Belfast City Council	46	7	2	0	0
Carrickfergus Borough Council	4	1	0	0	0
Castlereagh Borough Council	5	1	0	0	0
Coleraine Borough Council	6	1	0	0	0
Cookstown District Council	4	0	0	0	0
Craigavon Borough Council	7	1	0	0	0
Derry City Council	14	0	1	0	0
Down District Council	4	1	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	5	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh District Council	3	1	0	0	0
Larne Borough Council	2	1	0	0	0
Limavady Borough Council	4	1	0	0	0
Lisburn City Council	2	4	0	0	0
Magherafelt District Council	5	1	0	0	0
Moyle District Council	4	1	0	0	0
Newry & Mourne District Council	1	6	0	0	0
Newtownabbey Borough Council	3	2	0	0	0
North Down Borough Council	5	1	0	0	0
Omagh District Council	8	0	1	0	0
Strabane District Council	5	0	0	0	0

Council Staff

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment how many council staff are paid through a limited company or a method other than PAYE.

(AQW 22989/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The information requested was gathered from the individual councils and their responses are detailed in the table below.

Council	How many staff are paid through a limited company	How many staff are paid by a method other than PAYE
Antrim Borough Council	0	0
Ards Borough Council	0	0
Armagh City & District Council	0	0
Ballymena Borough Council	0	0
Ballymoney Borough Council	0	0
Banbridge District Council	0	0
Belfast City Council	0	0
Carrickfergus Borough Council	0	0
Castlereagh Borough Council	0	0
Coleraine Borough Council	0	0
Cookstown District Council	0	0
Craigavon Borough Council	0	0
Derry City Council	0	0
Down District Council	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council	0	0
Fermanagh District Council	0	0
Larne Borough Council	0	0
Limavady Borough Council	0	0
Lisburn City Council	0	0
Magherafelt District Council	0	0
Moyle District Council	0	0
Newry & Mourne District Council	0	0
Newtownabbey Borough Council	0	0
North Down Borough Council	0	0
Omagh District Council	0	0
Strabane District Council	0	0

Drink Driving Offence: Driving License Revoked

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of people who (i) had their driving licences revoked due to a drink driving offence, in each of the last five years; and (ii) have lost their licences for second and subsequent drink driving offences in the same period.

(AQW 23032/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The latest available information is detailed in Table 1 below. These figures were sourced from DVA internal management information systems and have not been validated as DOE Official Statistics.

Table 1 Numbers of drink driving offenders disqualified from driving (2007 to 2011)

Year	(i) All Drink Driving Offenders ¹	(ii) Repeat Drink Driving Offenders ²
2011	2,963	468
2010	3,008	431
2009	3,314	474
2008	3,582	563
2007	4,448	711

- 1 Includes all those disqualified from driving following at least one drink driving offence during the year.
- 2 Includes all those disqualified from driving following repeat drink driving offences up to ten years prior to their latest conviction.

TV and Radio Advertising: Influence of Drink or Drugs

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the amount spent on TV and radio advertising on driving under the influence of drink or drugs in each of the last five years; and (ii) the value of cross-border campaigns, where the cost has been shared, in the same period.

(AQW 23033/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The table below provides details of the amount spent on TV and radio advertising on driving under the influence of drink or drugs over the five year period 2008/09 to 2012/13.

		Drink Driving	Drug Driving
2012/13	TV	£105,193	£54,417
	Radio	-	-
2011/12	TV	£115,348	£58,721
	Radio	-	-
2010/11	TV	£178,080	£31,637
	Radio	-	-
2009/10	TV	£130,987	£102,394
	Radio	-	£8,540
2008/09	TV	£320,813	£54,444
	Radio	-	-

Over the same period the cost of two cross border campaigns have been shared between DOE and the Road Safety Authority (RSA) in the Republic of Ireland.

In 2009 DOE produced 'Underneath' Motorcyclist Campaign at a cost of £120,850. Half the production costs were recouped by selling the campaign to RSA for £60,425.

Likewise in 2009 RSA produced 'Consultant – Seatbelts' & 'Consultant – News' from the Crashed Lives Series at a cost of £85,440. RSA recouped half the production costs by selling the campaign to DOE for £42,720.

Litter Dropping: Fixed Penalties

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of fixed penalties issued by each of the 26 councils for litter dropping, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 23034/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department requests information on fixed penalty notices issued by district councils after the end of each financial year. The following table sets out the number of fixed penalty notices issued in the district of each district council in the five financial years from 2007/08 to 2011/12 in respect of the offence of leaving litter. The Department is currently awaiting information from councils on numbers of fixed penalty notices issued during the 2012/13 year. I have asked for this information to be sent to you when it becomes available.

Council	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Antrim BC	17	22	26	23	30
Ards BC	12	13	6	7	12
Armagh City/DC	13	10	14	34	14
Ballymena BC	26	59	42	73	30
Ballymoney BC	17	29	18	6	4
Banbridge DC	13	9	22	11	12
Belfast CC	1790	1703	1286	1995	1534
Carrickfergus BC	18	28	26	16	19
Castlereagh BC	20	43	-	38	26
Coleraine BC	-	41	42	53	16
Cookstown DC	44	29	15	13	12
Craigavon BC	349	469	1105	1038	1046
Derry CC	-	45	19	56	41
Down DC	22	45	65	51	60
Dungannon & South Tyrone BC	3	0	0	14	1
Fermanagh DC	-	37	71	16	8
Larne BC	197	70	76	73	23
Limavady BC	5	4	5	6	4
Lisburn CC	7	10	28	80	42
Magherafelt DC	17	15	50	39	40

Council	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Moyle DC	2	5	6	7	5
Newry & Mourne DC	24	52	60	167	89
Newtownabbey BC	117	144	118	48	150
North Down BC	23	25	22	8	4
Omagh DC	60	29	27	35	24
Strabane DC	0	0	-	23	22
Totals	2796	2936	3149	3930	3268

Natural Heritage Grants Scheme: North Antrim

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of the Environment whether any projects in North Antrim are receiving grants under the Natural Heritage Grants scheme.

(AQW 23318/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I announced earlier this week that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) had awarded £4 million in grants over the next five years to aid projects to protect and enhance our natural environment. NIEA funding enables organisations, where appropriate, to draw down significant match funding from other sources such as EU grants, charitable trusts, lottery funds and the private sector.

The announcement mentioned the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust which will receive £240,000 for the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Further significant funding of around £750,000 has been awarded through the Natural Heritage Grants Programme for a number of new and ongoing projects within the North Antrim area. This figure includes the provision of financial assistance to:

- Coleraine Borough Council towards the delivery of Local Biodiversity Action Plans within the Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle council areas;
- Conservation Volunteers NI to fund its work within the area;
- The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust towards the management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the employment of a World Heritage Site Officer;
- The National Trust towards the maintenance of the Causeway Coastal Path; and
- Moyle District Council for access issues affecting the Causeway Coast Way and the Ulster Way.

In addition, NIEA provides funding to a number of other organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Ulster Wildlife who work throughout Northern Ireland.

Council Staff with a Physical Disability

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of staff which each council employs, or has on placement, who have a physical disability.

(AQW 23453/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The department does not hold this information.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), under which it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate on the grounds of disability, does not indicate any differentiation between physical or mental impairment which includes mental ill health. The DDA does allow for reasonable adjustments by employers to ensure fair access for disabled people or to compensate for the disadvantage they experience as a result of their disability.

In addition councils, as employers, are also obliged under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons with a disability and persons without.

Department of Finance and Personnel

North/South Bodies Pensions Scheme

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how the assertion in the answer to AQW 20706/11-15 is reconciled with the answer to AQW 20039/11-15.
(AQW 22818/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): My response to AQW 20039/11-15 advised that it is not possible to provide a single employers' contribution rate for North/South Bodies in the North/South Pensions Scheme and that the total pension costs for each body are disclosed in their annual accounts alongside wages and salary costs. I also advised that DFP sponsors one North/South Body, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and that the effective employer's contribution rate for SEUPB in the calendar year 2011 was 31.2%. I am content that this information is correct.

I recommend that you should contact the DHSSPS Minister for clarification on the response to AQW 20706/11-15 as his Department has responsibility for the Food Safety Promotion Board.

PAYE

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what protocols are in place to ensure that civil servants are not paid through a limited company or any method other than PAYE.
(AQW 23239/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Departments and NDPBs have been instructed by my department that each time an individual is engaged by them they should consider the employment status of the individual i.e. whether they are employed or self employed and identify who is responsible for paying any tax liabilities. In the case of NICS employees, tax and National Insurance contribution arrangements are managed via PAYE on HR Connect. In the case of those assessed as self employed, they will be responsible for their own tax liability. This must be recorded and retained for inspection by HMRC.

Narrow Water Bridge

Mr Rogers asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when his Department will give its assessment of the business case for the Narrow Water Bridge.
(AQW 23485/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Narrow Water Bridge project is currently seeking funding through the INTERREG IVA Programme and DFP is the accountable department in Northern Ireland.

DFP is currently involved in a process of critical review of the project and verification all relevant planning pre-conditions are adhered to and statutory approvals sought and obtained.

The project must fully progress through the agreed assessment process and all issues satisfactorily dealt with before a decision can be taken. DFP is aware of the time constraints associated with the project proposal and will endeavour to reach a decision promptly.

Civil Service Staff: Previously Armed Forces Personnel

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many people employed in the civil service, in each year since 2007, were previously armed forces personnel.
(AQW 23519/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the previous employment history of either recruits or existing staff is not held in respect of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and consequently these questions cannot be answered.

Civil Service Staff: Previously Armed Forces Personnel

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what proportion of people employed in the civil service, in each year since 2007, were previously armed forces personnel.

(AQW 23520/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the previous employment history of either recruits or existing staff is not held in respect of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and consequently these questions cannot be answered.

Civil Service Staff: Previously Armed Forces Personnel

Ms Fearon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the ratio of civil service employees who were previously armed forces personnel, for each year since 2007; and how this compares to (i) England; (ii) Scotland; and (iii) Wales.

(AQW 23521/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Information on the previous employment history of either recruits or existing staff is not held in respect of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and consequently these questions cannot be answered.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Community Care Workers: Fuel Allowance and Vehicle Wear and Tear

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the proposed reductions, from 1 July 2013, in the rate received by community care workers, in each Health and Social Care Trust, for fuel allowance and vehicle wear and tear.

(AQW 22686/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): From 1 July 2013 the current Agenda for Change mileage allowances for infrequent ('standard') or frequent ('regular') car users and fixed lump sum payment for frequent users, will be replaced by rates based on information in the AA guides on motoring costs. Reimbursement under the new arrangements for car users will change to a standard rate for mileage up to 3,500 miles and a reduced standard rate for mileage over 3,500 miles.

Under these new arrangements the rates will allow for increases in fuel costs and all the costs of keeping a car on the road, including petrol, repairs, insurance and road tax. A single rate will apply for frequent users and regular users and lump sum payments will no longer be payable.

My Officials are awaiting confirmation from our NHS colleagues on the rates that will apply from 1 July 2013.

Antrim Area Hospital Accident and Emergency Department

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the staffing profile, over a 24 hour cycle, in the Antrim Area Hospital Accident and Emergency Department in each of the last five years.

(AQW 22877/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested has been provided below by the Northern Health & Social Care Trust and has not been validated by the Department.

NON-MEDICAL STAFF

Grade	Shift Pattern	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Current Headcount 2013	Projected Headcount
Admin & Clerical	8am – 10pm	5-6	5-6	5-6	5-6	5-6	5-7	6 - 8
	10pm – 8am	2	2	2	2	2	2-3	2-3
	6pm – 2am	1	1	1	1	1		
Nursing Trained	08:00 – 21:00	8	9	10	10	10	6-9	7 - 11
Nursing Untrained	08:00 – 21:00	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	2	2	3
Nursing Trained	21:00 – 08:00	7	8	8	8	9	6-10	7-12
Nursing Untrained	21:00 – 08:00	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Emergency Nurse Practitioner	08:30 – 21:00	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2

MEDICAL STAFF

Grade	Shift Pattern	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Current Headcount 2013	Projected Headcount
Consultant	09:00 – 17:00	1	1	1	1	1	1 - 2 (08:00 – 22:00)	1 - 2
Middle Grade	08:00 – 22:00	1	1	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2
Junior	08:00 – 22:00	1	1	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2
Consultant	22:00 – 08:00						On call	on call
Middle Grade	22:00 – 08:00	1	1	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2
Junior	22:00 – 08:00	1	1	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2	1 - 2

Northern Trust Notes:

- Staffing varies depending on time of day and day of week. Shift patterns are designed to match variations in attendances and workload.
- Shift patterns changed in 2013 to meet service needs.

Transforming Your Care

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to publish the register of interests of members who sit on the (i) Transforming Your Care Implementation Board; (ii) Transforming Your Care Steering Group; and (iii) Transforming Your Care Review Team.

(AQW 22946/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following publication of 'Transforming Your Care: A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland' a Transformation Programme Board and Strategic Planning Group have fulfilled oversight roles in relation to the implementation of TYC.

Membership of these groups is as follows:

(i) Transformation Programme Board

Members are:

- Chair and Senior Responsible Officer: John Compton, Chief Executive HSCB
- Chief Executives of each of the 6 Health and Social Care Trusts, Public Health Agency and Business Services Organisation
- Chairs of each of the 5 Local Commissioning Groups
- Members of the HSCB / PHA Senior Management Team

(ii) The Strategic Planning Group

Members are:

- Chair: Andrew McCormick, Permanent Secretary, DHSSPS
- John Compton, Chief Executive HSCB
- Eddie Rooney, Chief Executive PHA
- David Bingham, Chief Executive BSO
- Relevant members of the senior management teams of the Department and its Arm's Length Bodies may be invited to attend to discuss specific issues as required.

A Transforming Your Care Independent Review Panel provided expert advice and challenge during the Health and Social Care Review. The Panel completed its work on publication of 'Transforming Your Care: A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland' in December 2011.

Membership of this group was as follows:

(iii) Transforming Your Care the Independent Review Panel

Members were:

- John Compton, Chief Executive HSCB (in an ex officio capacity)(Chair)
- Professor Chris Ham (Chief Executive of King's Fund)
- Professor Deirdre Heenan (Provost and Dean of Academic Development at Magee Campus)
- Dr Ian Rutter (GP)
- Paul Simpson (retired senior civil servant)
- Mark Ennis (Executive Chair of SSE Ireland)

All public servants should conduct themselves with probity and in adherence with the Nolan principles which require that holders of public office should act with: (i) selflessness (ii) integrity (iii) objectivity (iv) accountability (v) openness (vi) honesty and (vii) leadership.

The boards of HSC bodies must keep registers of interest appropriate to the bodies' activities. Chairs and board members must, on appointment, declare any potential conflicts of interests such

as business interests, position of authority in a charity or voluntary body in the field of health and social care, and any connection with a voluntary or other body contracting for HSC services. All board members should declare any conflict of interest that arises in the course of conducting HSC business. Although a register of interests of members is held by all the organisations represented on the Transformation Programme Board and Strategic Planning Group, a register is not required specifically for these or other working groups.

Closure of Residential Care Homes

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when (i) his Department; and (ii) the Health and Social Care Board were made aware of the decisions by various Health and Social Care Trusts to close all their residential homes; and how they were informed of the decisions.
(AQW 22977/11-15)

Mr Poots: I should advise that, at no stage, were recent decisions taken by any Trust to close residential care homes. However, some Trusts had developed proposals on the closure of a number of statutory residential care homes for older people in their area.

On 3 May 2013, I called a halt to the local Trusts' processes for closure of statutory residential homes for older people. The HSC Board will now lead a new process for consultation and engagement. I have recently written to residents in affected homes explaining to them what is now going to happen. I want the new process to be clear and not rushed.

Genitourinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, on average, how many requests per week the Genitourinary Medicine clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, receives for appointments; and how many appointment slots the clinic offers per week.
(AQW 22980/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has advised that, at maximum capacity, there are two hundred appointment slots available per week at the Genitourinary Medicine clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital. This is the maximum capacity that the clinic can offer and the total varies from week to week depending on factors such as annual leave.

The Belfast HSC Trust has stated that there are approximately 1,800 telephone calls into the unit per week, including appointment requests and calls of another nature such as queries. They are currently working with BT to develop a system to ascertain the nature of calls and how many are actioned and answered.

Royal Victoria Hospital: Maternity Leave

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the Royal Victoria Hospital's procedure for providing cover for maternity leave; and whether it will be replacing the sexual health consultant at the Genitourinary Medicine clinic.
(AQW 22981/11-15)

Mr Poots: All Health and Social Care Trusts must consider how best the service can be provided in the absence of a person on maternity leave in the context of their particular circumstances.

Belfast Trust has recently advertised for locum cover for the Genitourinary Medicine Clinic.

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service: Annual Internal Promotion Process

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he is recommending that the Annual Internal Promotion Process within the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service be continued in its current form.
(AQW 23037/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service annual selection and promotion process will not continue in its current format. The assessment element has been reviewed and arrangements developed for a new assessment process in the future.

Health Service Fertility Treatment

Mr Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many people have availed of Health Service fertility treatment in each of the last three years; (ii) what is the annual cost of delivering this treatment; (iii) what is the success rate of one cycle of fertility treatment; and (iv) how much it would cost to increase the treatment to (a) two; and (b) three cycles.

(AQW 23041/11-15)

Mr Poots:

770 IVF and ICSI fertility treatments were commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board in each of the last 3 years. The Health and Social Care Board invests

£3 million per year in infertility services, which includes Ovulation induction (OI) by oral medication (Clomiphene citrate / gonadotrophins) and Intrauterine insemination (IUI) as well as IVF and ICSI.

For all age groups and diagnosis in the year January to December 2012 the fresh clinical pregnancy rate per cycle was 24.1%, whereas the Frozen clinical pregnancy rate per cycle was 16.2%.

My Department is currently considering the revised NICE Guideline CG156 for its applicability in Northern Ireland including the financial implications of providing up to 3 cycles of treatment as recommended by this guideline.

Chemotherapy Appointments

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether patients, who have been allotted a chemotherapy appointment on a bank holiday, are having their appointment rescheduled.

(AQW 23075/11-15)

Mr Poots: Chemotherapy is a multi-professional service and generally delivered in an outpatient setting. Treatment is delivered on a cyclical basis, with patients receiving treatment at fixed intervals according to the toxicities of the drugs used. Where clinics fall on a Bank Holiday patients are generally treated the following week, or on a different day in the same week depending on the urgency and type of treatment.

As part of the Northern Ireland Cancer Network the Health and Social Care Trusts are committed to continually reviewing their service model to include consideration of alternative arrangements to support the rescheduling of treatments which may fall on public holidays.

Benzodiazepan and Other Tranquilliser and Anti-Psychosis Drugs

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many prescriptions were issued for (i) drugs containing benzodiazepan; and (ii) other tranquilliser and anti-psychosis drugs, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 23077/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The number of prescription items for drugs containing benzodiazepine for which a prescription was written, dispensed by a community pharmacist, and presented for payment in each of the last five years is shown in table 1 below.

Items included in the figures in part (i) are drugs which contain benzodiazepine and are categorized under Chapter 4 Section 1 of the British National Formulary 'Hypnotics and Anxiolytics'.

- (ii) The number of prescription items for hypnotic and anxiolytic drugs that do not contain benzodiazepine i.e. all of BNF 4.1 minus the figures quoted in part (i) of this AQ, plus all drugs from BNF 4.2, 'Drugs used in psychoses & related disorders', for which a prescription was written, dispensed by a community pharmacist, and presented for payment in each of the last five years is shown in table 1 below.

Figures relate to prescriptions which were dispensed by a community pharmacist or dispensing doctor, and presented for payment during the period. Not all prescriptions issued are subsequently dispensed and presented for payment, so the number of prescriptions issued is not known centrally.

The figures shown are presented by the financial year in which the prescription was paid to the pharmacist; it should be noted that there may be a time lag where prescriptions have been dispensed by the community pharmacist in a particular year but paid the following year. The data provided only covers drugs dispensed in primary care, as drugs prescribed and dispensed in hospital cannot be captured centrally due to the use of different hospital IT systems

TABLE 1: THE NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTION ITEMS FOR HYPNOTICS AND ANXIOLYTICS, AND FOR DRUGS USED IN PSYCHOSES AND RELATED DISORDERS, WHICH WERE DISPENSED AND PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT BY COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS WITHIN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE FINANCIAL YEARS.

Financial Year	No. of prescription items for hypnotics and anxiolytics, which contain benzodiazepines	No. of prescription items for hypnotics and anxiolytics which do not contain benzodiazepines, plus no. of prescription items for drugs used in psychoses & related disorders
2012/13	982,536	991,789
2011/12	1,016,623	982,086
2010/11	1,042,298	962,913
2009/10	1,029,123	909,767
2008/09	1,014,919	858,393

Source: Family Practitioner Services, Information and Registration Unit, BSO.

Northern Ireland Hospice

Mr Dunne asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on his Department's proposed financial assistance for the Northern Ireland Hospice new build.

(AQW 23085/11-15)

Mr Poots: Following due consideration in respect of support for the development of the NI Hospice Adult Hospice, I am still considering my options and will announce my proposed way forward as soon as possible.

McKeag Day Centre, Aughnacloy

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail his plans for the future of the McKeag Day Centre, Aughnacloy.

(AQW 23105/11-15)

Mr Poots: I acknowledge the importance of day opportunities for those living with disabilities. These can be delivered in many different ways, but in doing so, the primary aim is to meet assessed need and to provide choice for the service user, where possible.

The Southern Trust aims to extend its range of community opportunities. This is part of developing more socially inclusive models of care and further supporting individuals to be more active members of society. This is in keeping with policy intentions, as set out, for example, in Delivering the Bamford Vision, and my Department's Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy.

Modernisation is required to develop a full range of day opportunities. However, I envisage that Day Centre provision will be part of the broader spectrum of services provided, to meet assessed need.

Any change in the provision of services will require full engagement with services users and their families, and will require local public consultation. No local decisions on the future of a centre, including the McKeag Day Centre, can be taken until this has occurred.

Doctors and Nurses from an Ethnic Minority Background

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what financial and practical support is in place for doctors and nurses from an ethnic minority background to help them adapt to life in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 23119/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are no specific financial incentives available solely to doctors and nurses from an ethnic minority background however HSC employers do offer a range of practical support for all doctors and nurses new to Northern Ireland, from all backgrounds.

The support includes:

- advice on bank accounts
- advice on how to apply for National Insurance numbers
- provision of letters to confirm their employment to assist with applications for visa and rented accommodation

In certain HSC Trust areas, free accommodation can also be provided for doctors new to Northern Ireland, for a limited period, to allow more permanent living arrangements to be made.

Healthy Start Scheme

Ms Maeve McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the numbers and percentage rates of pregnant women who have availed of free vitamins under the Healthy Start Scheme; and whether he has any plans to introduce a scheme similar to that in Scotland which allows community pharmacies to dispense vitamins to pregnant women.

(AQW 23186/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information is not available in the format requested.

I am advised that in 2012/13, 291 women, who were pregnant or who had a baby under one year old received vitamin tablets under the Healthy Start Scheme.

The current arrangement in place here, for the postal distribution of Healthy Start vitamins directly to beneficiaries by the Business Service Organisation is considered to be efficient and cost effective. However, as part of the ongoing review of this arrangement, consideration will be given to the outcome of the 12 month trial arrangement introduced in Scotland earlier this year.

Faxed Prescriptions

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has instructed any organisations within its remit that faxed prescriptions are no longer acceptable.

(AQW 23237/11-15)

Mr Poots: This Department is aware that faxed prescriptions are being used in certain urgent circumstances. While the Department takes the view that a faxed prescription does not fall within the

definition of a legally valid prescription, in conjunction with the HSC Board, guidance was issued to all community pharmacists and GPs in January 2011. This described the correct procedures for the issue of prescriptions, the supply of medicines and the use of faxed prescriptions as part of arrangements in cases of urgency. Supply of certain medicines controlled under Misuse of Drugs legislation without possession of a legally valid prescription is an offence.

The Department has not issued instructions to any organisations that faxed prescriptions are no longer acceptable and has not been informed of any pharmacy that will no longer accept faxed prescriptions.

Faxed Prescriptions

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has been informed that some pharmacists will no longer accept faxed prescriptions.

(AQW 23238/11-15)

Mr Poots: This Department is aware that faxed prescriptions are being used in certain urgent circumstances. While the Department takes the view that a faxed prescription does not fall within the definition of a legally valid prescription, in conjunction with the HSC Board, guidance was issued to all community pharmacists and GPs in January 2011. This described the correct procedures for the issue of prescriptions, the supply of medicines and the use of faxed prescriptions as part of arrangements in cases of urgency. Supply of certain medicines controlled under Misuse of Drugs legislation without possession of a legally valid prescription is an offence.

The Department has not issued instructions to any organisations that faxed prescriptions are no longer acceptable and has not been informed of any pharmacy that will no longer accept faxed prescriptions.

Day Opportunities Placements

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Day Opportunities placements are funded by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust via (i) Service Level Agreement; and (ii) Direct Payment; and which organisations in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area are receiving these placements.

(AQW 23240/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area:-

- (i) there are 537 community-based day opportunity placements funded by a Service Level Agreement with Triangle, Mencap, Compass, Acceptable Enterprises Larne, Kilcreggan Homes, Involve, Cookstown and Magherafelt Volunteer Centre and Greenlight.
- (ii) 10 Direct Payments are paid directly to the carer/user to purchase day provision of their choice.

You should also be aware that there are a further 17 placements, provided by the Bridge Association, which come under an interim funding arrangement with the Northern HSC Trust.

Mid Ulster Hospital Out-Patients Department: General Medical Clinics

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the future plans for the General Medical Clinics located at the Mid Ulster Hospital Out-Patients department.

(AQW 23243/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust is responsible for the provision of clinical interventions and care for patients at the Mid Ulster Area Hospital.

I have been advised by the Trust that the demand for general medical outpatient clinics has reduced as a result of an increased demand for speciality specific clinics. In partnership with GPs and the Northern Commissioning Team, it was agreed to replace general medical clinics with a more responsive patient service delivered through the establishment of Rapid Access Clinics.

Acute physicians are now providing this type of clinic each day, rather than through traditional outpatient type clinics.

Multiple Sclerosis Nurses

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Multiple Sclerosis nurses are employed in each Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 23248/11-15)

Mr Poots: I refer the Member to the answer given in AQW 22702/11-15.

Multiple Sclerosis Nurses

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number Multiple Sclerosis nurses per head of population in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 23249/11-15)

Mr Poots: Referring to the answer given in AQW 22702/11-15, the whole-time equivalent number of Multiple Sclerosis nurses¹ per 100,000 population² in each Health and Social Care Trust area is shown in the table below. Staffing figures have been obtained from the Health and Social Care Trusts, and have not been verified by the Department.

HSC Trust	Headcount ¹	Whole-time equivalent (WTE) ¹	Population ²	WTE per 100,000 population
Belfast	6	5.1	334,820	1.52
Northern	1	0.5	460,364	0.11
South Eastern	0	0.0	348,301	0.00
Southern	1	1.0	362,711	0.28
Western	2	1.5	300,677	0.50

Sources:

- 1 Multiple Sclerosis Nurses May 2013, Health & Social Care Trusts
- 2 Population – Sub regional 2011 Mid Year Estimates (2001 Census based), Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency

Multiple Sclerosis Nurses

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number Multiple Sclerosis (MS) nurses per person diagnosed with MS in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 23250/11-15)

Mr Poots: As referred to in answer to AQW 23247/11-15, the number of individuals diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in Northern Ireland is not available; therefore the number MS nurses per person diagnosed with MS cannot be calculated.

Dentists and Dental Services in Rural Areas

Ms McGahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what measures he is taking to address the difficulties experienced by dentists and dental services in rural areas.

(AQW 23267/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am not aware of any specific difficulties being experienced by dental services in rural areas.

From 2003 until 2010, quality improvement grants were offered to all General Dental Practices both rural and urban. Funding (£1.1 million recurrent through Quality Improvement Scheme 2007/08 to

2009/10) allowed practices to purchase new equipment to improve patient safety, care quality and practice efficiency. Dentists are paid for the number of patients registered and for treatment provided, but also, through the practice allowance payments, practices have received funding (an additional recurring £4 million into the practice allowance from 2007 onwards) which they may use to improve premises and equipment. These two schemes have been available to all Northern Ireland GDS practices and are weighted to allow those with a greater Health Service commitment to receive greater levels of funding.

Oasis Dental Care was awarded a contract to provide additional dental services throughout NI, in all areas where access had previously been problematic. The access problems that existed in previous years have been addressed.

Children's Residential Care

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the spend on children's residential care, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 23286/11-15)

Mr Poots: A breakdown of the spend on children's residential care, by Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last three years, is set out in the table below.

HSC Trust	2011/12 £m	2010/11 £m	2009/10 £m
Belfast HSC Trust	6.0	5.7	5.4
Northern HSC Trust	4.1	4.1	4.5
South Eastern HSC Trust	4.0	3.7	4.5
Western HSC Trust	5.6	6.0	6.3
Southern HSC Trust	7.1	6.3	6.0
Total	26.8	25.8	26.7

*Source: HSC Trusts

Residential Care Beds

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the current number of residential care beds per 1000 of the population over 65; and how this compares to other regions of the UK.

(AQW 23299/11-15)

Mr Poots: At 31 March 2013, there were 16.7 approved places for residential care per 1,000 of the population aged 65 and over in Northern Ireland.

In England, at 31 March 2012, there were 17.1 per 1,000 persons aged 65 and over supported in independent residential care.

In Wales, at 31 March 2012, there were 14.1 per 1,000 persons aged 65 and over in residential placements in care homes.

This information was unavailable for Scotland.

Clients with Learning Disabilities

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the Northern Health and Social Care Trust has approved a payment of £120 per day for a client with learning

disabilities to attend Triangle/Alternative Angles outside of the Day Opportunities Programme; (ii) how this payment was calculated; and (iii) what services are being provided.

(AQW 23324/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that, within the Learning Disability Programme of Care, the Northern Trust has not approved a payment of £120 per day for a client with learning disabilities to attend Triangle/Alternative Angles outside of the Day Opportunities Programme.

Electroencephalogram Services

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what electroencephalogram services are available in each Health and Social Care Trust Area.

(AQW 23330/11-15)

Mr Poots: I have been advised that an electroencephalography (EEG) service is provided to adults and children in the Belfast Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust area.

In the Western HSC Trust, an EEG service for adults has been provided at Altnagelvin Hospital since March 2013. The extension of this service to cover children is currently under consideration.

In the Southern HSC Trust, an EEG service is provided to inpatients and outpatients within the Southern, and part of the Western HSC Trust, by the Neurophysiology Department in Craigavon Area Hospital.

The Northern and South Eastern HSC Trusts do not provide EEG services. Patients requiring this service are referred to the Belfast HSC Trust.

Closure of Residential Care Homes

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the proposals to close statutory older peoples' residential homes and the resulting increase in private care provision, what consideration is being given to initiating and encouraging affordable insurance cover for older people who are preparing for their transition into residential care.

(AQW 23342/11-15)

Mr Poots: Residents of residential care and nursing homes, regardless of whether their care is provided by the statutory or private sector, are required to contribute to the cost of their care in line with their ability to pay.

I recognise and acknowledge the stress moving into residential care can cause individuals and their families, particularly in relation to the potential costs associated with that care. That is why my Department is currently taking forward a three stage process of reform of adult care and support in Northern Ireland. Stage One, a six month consultation on the discussion document "Who Cares?" The Future of Adult Care and Support in NI", concluded on 15 March 2013.

My officials are currently preparing a consultation report for publication next month. Once I have had the opportunity to consider the views and opinions of the people of Northern Ireland my Department will develop proposals for reform, which will include changes to how care and support is funded. An important part of this will be to consider ways to encourage people to make plans for their future; this may include consideration of how the insurance industry can better support individuals in so doing.

Use of EpiPens

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what process was used to prioritise the use of EpiPens, over any other similar product, in the Health and Social Care Trusts.

(AQW 23376/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are no processes in place to prioritise the use of EpiPen® auto-injectors in Health and Social Care Trusts.

The current advice in the Northern Ireland Formulary regarding products for patient use in an allergic emergency is that EpiPen® or Jext® auto-injectors may be used as first line treatments. The formulary applies in both primary and secondary care.

Although adherence to the formulary is strongly recommended another product called Anapen® is also available and may be prescribed by a clinician if it is deemed more suitable for the patient.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust's Day Opportunities Programme

Mr Girvan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the Northern Health and Social Care Trust has approved a payment of £63 per day to Triangle/Alternative Angles for clients to attend the Day Opportunities Programme; (ii) how this payment was calculated; and (iii) what services are being provided.

(AQW 23395/11-15)

Mr Poots: I am advised that the Northern Trust has not approved a payment of £63 per day to Triangle/Alternative Angles for clients to attend the Day Opportunities Programme.

Eating Disorders

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what additional initiatives his Department is considering to tackle eating disorders.

(AQW 23396/11-15)

Mr Poots: There have been significant developments in Eating Disorder Services for young people and adults across Northern Ireland in recent years. There are specialist community-based eating disorder teams in each Health & Social Care Trust area (with the Belfast Trust providing these services for the South Eastern Trust). The four Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams have also been expanded and now include staff specialising in the treatment of eating disorders. Inpatient treatment for eating disorders is also provided for adults in each Trust area, managed by specially trained medical/psychiatric staff, supported on an in-reach basis by staff from community based eating disorder teams. Children needing inpatient treatment are cared for in the regional child and adolescent unit at Beechcroft in Belfast.

With these services now firmly established, the HSCB and PHA, through the Regional Eating Disorders Network Group, are now focussing on the further development of skills in relation to the treatment of eating disorders across Trusts. A regional care pathway for Eating Disorders is currently being developed which will span primary to secondary care and improve service quality across the region.

Organ Donation

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the timescale for a public consultation on organ donation.

(AQW 23397/11-15)

Mr Poots: I recently announced my intention to survey public opinion across Northern Ireland to ask the public how they believe increased consent for organ donation can be achieved. The Public Health Agency, which will carry out this work, is aiming to get the survey and focus group work underway over the summer months this year.

Endometriosis

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many women are diagnosed with endometriosis.

(AQW 23472/11-15)

Mr Poots: Information on the number of people currently diagnosed with endometriosis is not available.

Admissions and Approximated Individuals Admitted to HSC Hospitals in Northern Ireland in 2011/12 where a diagnosis of endometriosis was recorded are shown in the table below.

HSC Trust	Number of Admissions	Number of Individuals
Belfast	347	312
South Eastern	190	186
Northern	273	264
Southern	184	174
Western	161	151
Total	1,155	1,087

Source: Hospital Inpatients System

Adult Mental Health Services

Mr McMullan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much funding the Northern Health and Social Care Trust received from the £13m investment in adult mental health; and whether the Trust plans to invest any of this money into the agricultural community, to increase early intervention in mental health problems in the sector.

(AQW 23507/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Northern Trust is receiving £3.713m of the additional £13m being invested by the Health and Social Care Board in Adult Mental Health services for the 3 years 2012-2015. The Trust plans to invest this additional funding in a range of services to meet the Mental Health needs of rural and urban populations across its area.

Dentists: Commitment Payment and Practice Allowance

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether the (i) commitment payment; and (ii) practice allowance will be paid to dentists in June 2013, and will continue thereafter.

(AQW 23609/11-15)

Mr Poots: My Department has considered and analysed the responses to the recent public consultation on changes to the provision of General Dental Services, including the proposed amendments to practice allowance criteria and the cessation of commitment payments.

I will shortly be in a position to decide which changes will be taken forward. A summary of the consultation responses will be published alongside the final details of which changes will be introduced. Under the existing arrangements, the commitment allowance would not be calculated until July 2013 and the practice allowance, which is paid twice a year, would not be issued until November 2013.

Water Fluoridation Pilot Study

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 21988/11-15, why no records were kept of the water fluoridation pilot study in Holywood.

(AQW 23610/11-15)

Mr Poots: The legislation that currently applies to water fluoridation is the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and the DHSSPS has the right to request a 'water undertaker' to increase the fluoride content of the water supplies. Section 134 would require the DHSSPS to "monitor the effects of water fluoridation on the health of persons living in the area specified within the arrangements", "publish reports containing an analysis of those effects", and make any related information available.

The previously applicable legislation was the Water (Fluoridation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1987. The explanatory note for this legislation stated that “this Order empowers the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, on the application of a Health and Social Services Board, to fluoridate the water supplied within the area, or a part of the area, of that Board. Before making such an application, a Board is required to publish details of its proposal, consult district councils for the area affected by the proposal and obtain the approval of the Department of Health and Social Services.” The DHSS was therefore not directly involved and the legislation does not appear to have required any monitoring of the effects of water fluoridation and analysis or reporting of such effects.

Hansard records for House of Commons Written Answers for 17 December 1997 indicate that the fluoridation scheme in Holywood became operational in 1970 and it is not clear what legislation, if any, would have applied to the fluoridation of water supplies at the time of instigation. The Water (Fluoridation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 allowed for the continuity of existing fluoridation schemes by the Department of the Environment taking over their operation. The then Department of Health and Social Services was not involved in this respect.

The Hansard records for House of Commons Written Answers for 17 December 1997 also states that “no assessment of the effects of fluoridation have been carried out in Tandaragee [sic] or Holywood because the population supplied with fluoridated water is too small for a valid statistical assessment to be made”.

Department of Justice

Near Death of a Prisoner at Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the Prisoner Ombudsman’s report into the near death of a Prisoner at Maghaberry Prison in February 2012 and, that the answer to AQW 14838/11-15 stated that training in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills commenced in June 2007 and SPAR training first commenced in May 2009, to detail why a Senior Officer directly involved in the supervision/guidance of staff and the care of a vulnerable and suicidal prisoner was placed in such a position when not trained until after the event even though staff under disciplinary investigation arising from previous deaths in custody and a number of external agencies had already highlighted this deficiency.

(AQW 22663/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): As part of their core function and role, all Prison Officers are given appropriate training to supervise, care for and manage prisoners, including those identified as being vulnerable. The senior officer in question had been due to attend ASIST and SPAR training on the day following the incident, but had previously attended a SPAR workshop at which officers received SPAR familiarisation training.

The Governor, following consideration of the content of the Prisoner Ombudsman’s report, has arranged for all Senior Officers within Maghaberry Prison to receive refresher training in the SPAR procedures.

Temporary Release of Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 20234/11-15 and AQW 21633/11-15, whether he plans to investigate the granting of this temporary release from the Prisoner Assessment Unit given the relative was Noel Parker’s nephew and not his daughter, specifically to examine (i) if records were not correctly checked or procedures followed; (ii) what details were entered on application forms and assessed and subsequently approved; and (iii) whether this was a genuine mistake.

(AQW 22900/11-15)

Mr Ford: NIPS do not plan to investigate the granting of this temporary release but having reviewed the documentation while preparing a response to AQW 22586/11-15, NIPS records indicate it was the wedding of Mr Parker’s niece. The incorrect information previously supplied in AQW/21633/11-15 was due to an administrative error and NIPS apologise for the misunderstanding.

Vulnerable Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what criteria is applied to determine if a prisoner is considered vulnerable.

(AQW 22907/11-15)

Mr Ford: Many prisoners may be described as vulnerable due to various reasons. Those deemed vulnerable due to being at risk of suicide or self harm will be managed under the Supporting Prisoners at Risk (SPAR) process.

The Prison Service Suicide and Self-Harm prevention policy defines a vulnerable prisoner as “An individual whose inability to cope with personal situations within the prison environment may lead them to self harm. Some at risk prisoners will display their inability to cope through their actions or behaviours or the manner in which they present, others may give little or no indication”.

Attempted Suicide by a Prisoner

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the attempted suicide by a prisoner on 19 February 2012, to detail (i) the reason that only one officer was on duty in the Care and Supervision Unit at 19.03 when the prisoner was found, thereby limiting a response; and (ii) the recommended staffing levels required to be in the unit at one time.

(AQW 22957/11-15)

Mr Ford: The recommended staffing level for the Care and Supervision Unit (CSU) during unlock is four members of staff. When prisoners are locked, as they were at the time of the incident, the recommended staffing level is one member of staff. Radio contact is maintained to enable assistance to be requested when required.

Legal Services Commission Staff

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice whether staff in the Legal Services Commission are entitled to pay progression.

(AQW 22960/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission has sought legal advice on the contractual right of staff to pay progression. As is common practice, the legal advice sought and received by the Commission are covered by legal privilege. I am therefore unable to provide a response to the above position.

Northern Ireland Prison Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) when the Northern Ireland Prison Service will respond to the 44 issues of concern articulated by the Prisoner Ombudsman in the case of Prisoner ‘Mr C’ and; (ii) whether the Northern Ireland Prison Service senior management intends to carry out a review in conjunction with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, given that a number of issues have previously appeared in recommendations, or issues of concern, following investigations by the Ombudsman and inspections by external agencies.

(AQW 22968/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) has drawn up an action plan in response to 31 issues of concern highlighted in the Prisoner Ombudsman’s report into the near death of ‘Mr C’. Work required has commenced and the Head of Prisoner Safety and Support in Maghaberry has been tasked with monitoring progress until completion. The 13 other issues of concern relate to healthcare matters and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) are responsible for prison healthcare.

Lessons learned from the recent Prisoner Ombudsman’s investigation into the near death of ‘Mr C’ will be taken forward by NIPS in collaboration with SEHSCT, through the existing governance structures.

PSNI Serious and Organised Crime Branch

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how much of the circa £25,000,000 currently held by PSNI Serious and Organised Crime Branch relates to the Northern Bank Robbery of December 2004. **(AQW 22997/11-15)**

Mr Ford: As stated in AQW/22995 it is believed that the figure referred to is £23,400,000 which is an approximate gross amount relating to Northern Ireland civil recovery cases that are currently under investigation or currently in litigation by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). SOCA will not comment on the make up of this figure as this may affect ongoing investigations.

National Crime Agency

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice what will be the relationship between the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre and the PSNI once the National Crime Agency comes into effect. **(AQW 22998/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) will be incorporated as one of four operational commands of the National Crime Agency (NCA). As things stand, the NCA will not have powers in the devolved sphere in Northern Ireland and therefore CEOP officers will not be able to conduct investigations here.

While I have significant concerns about the implications for Northern Ireland, Organised Crime Task Force partners are working to ensure that these are minimised as far as they can be, including ensuring that as much information as possible is exchanged and that the PSNI has access to advice from all of the commands of the NCA.

In addition, I am still seeking to reach agreement so that the NCA's role will extend fully to Northern Ireland.

Legal Aid

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the costs, including for Legal Aid, of Gerry McGeough's latest appeal against conviction and sentence. **(AQW 23000/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The estimated costs of the appeal are set out in the table below.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
PPS Prosecution ¹	£8,842
Defence ²	-
Court (Judiciary and Staff Costs)	£4,478
Facilities (eg Courtroom Accommodation)	£250
Total	£13,570

- 1 In the absence of detailed records of time spent on individual cases it is not possible to produce precise costs for PPS staff. Some costs are identifiable, however, for example the fees paid to prosecuting counsel and expenses paid to witnesses.
- 2 Defence legal costs have not yet been submitted to the Taxing Master for assessment and consequently are unavailable.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) why the Northern Ireland Police Fund has recently terminated chronic pain relief support for its clients; and (ii) whether there will be a reduction in the number of staff employed by the Northern Ireland Police Fund as a result.

(AQW 23002/11-15)

Mr Ford: I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund that the chronic pain relief support for its clients has not been terminated but is now being delivered by a service delivery partner.

Staffing levels will not be affected by the revised process as although the staff will no longer assess client applications they will be engaged in monitoring the performance of the service provided by the service delivery partner.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice whether the Northern Ireland Police Fund adheres to the Steele Report in supporting police officers “who have been directly affected by terrorist violence.”

(AQW 23003/11-15)

Mr Ford: As recommended by the Steele Report 2000, and as detailed in the Northern Ireland Police Fund’s agreed Management Statement and Financial Memorandum with my Department, the Fund provides care and financial assistance to police officers and ex-officers who have been injured or disabled as a direct result of terrorism, and to the widows and families of police officers injured or killed through terrorism including PSNI officers who may be killed or injured in the future in this way.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice whether funding provided to police groups via the Northern Ireland Police Fund and his Department adheres to equality legislation.

(AQW 23004/11-15)

Mr Ford: As public bodies, my Department and the Northern Ireland Police Fund is obliged to adhere to the Section 75 statutory duties. Our funding activities and administrative practices adhere to equality legislation.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to detail any change in his Department’s increase of governance and audit requirements of the Northern Ireland Police Fund within the last year.

(AQW 23005/11-15)

Mr Ford: There has been no change in my Department’s governance and audit requirements of the Northern Ireland Police Fund (NIPF) within the last year. My Department as Sponsor supports the NIPF and ensures that proper procedures with regard to governance and audit are followed.

NIPF have an agreed Management Statement and Financial Memorandum with my Department, which sets out both the broad framework within which the NIPF will operate, and the financial provisions NIPF shall observe. Quarterly governance meetings chaired by the Head of Sponsor Branch are held with NIPF throughout the year to review and monitor the organisation’s performance. A departmental official is also an observer on the NIPF’s Audit and Risk Committee and in this capacity addresses any key financial or other risks facing the organisation.

Legal Aid Costs

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total cost involved, including Legal Aid, for Colin Duffy’s abandoned High Court claim for damages against the RUC and the British Attorney General in relation to alleged wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution sixteen years ago.

(AQW 23051/11-15)

Mr Ford: The available estimated costs of Colin Duffy's High Court claim for damages are given in the table below.

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
PSNI ¹	Not Available
PPS ²	Not Available
Defence ³	Not Available
Court (Judiciary and Staff Costs)	£1,096.73
Facilities (e.g. Courtroom Accommodation)	£300
Total	£1,396.73

- 1 PSNI have advised that costs are not yet available.
- 2 The PPS have advised it may be several weeks before costs are available.
- 3 Article 24 of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (NI) Order 1981 precludes the release of information in respect of civil cases in which legal aid has been granted.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Anti Bullying Policy

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the effectiveness of the Northern Ireland Prison Service Anti Bullying Policy given that the Prisoner Ombudsman has listed a number of issues of concern regarding the non-compliance of the policy by Prison Service staff following complaints made by Prisoner 'Mr C' at Maghaberry in February 2012 and given the criticisms following the death in custody of Samuel Carson at Hydebank in May 2011 when similar failings were uncovered, to detail (i) why staff are not compliant with the policy; (ii) whether he will provide an assurance that urgent steps will be implemented to address these failings effectively; and (iii) whether the Northern Ireland Prison Service directed a disciplinary investigation in the case of Prisoner 'Mr C'.

(AQW 23055/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) recognises the importance of challenging and addressing bullying behaviour and Governors continue to work to ensure the Anti Bullying Policy is being consistently applied.

Maghaberry Prison revised its Anti Bullying Policy in 2012 and has held anti bullying awareness sessions for staff to set out the requirements of the policy in relation to the completion of investigations into all allegations of prisoner on prisoner bullying.

Hydebank Wood have also held anti bullying awareness sessions for staff and will continue to develop their anti bullying measures by supporting staff through effective leadership, coaching and mentoring and continue to regularly monitor these arrangements.

NIPS take the failings identified in the report extremely seriously and while there is no plan to direct a disciplinary investigation, steps to improve performance and cultural change are being taken forward as part of the wider Prison Reform programme.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Supporting Prisoners at Risk

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to cellular confinement, whether the Northern Ireland Prison Service has alternative methods of punishment in place for prisoners on the Supporting Prisoners at Risk programme or who have mental health problems.

(AQW 23059/11-15)

Mr Ford: The awards authorised for use by Governors following a proven case of indiscipline referred under Prison Rules are restricted to one or an accumulation of any of the awards listed under Rule 39 and Rule 95 of the

Prison and Young Offender Centre Rules (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). Rule 95 stipulates the specific awards appropriate for Young Offenders, from those for adult offenders under Rule 39. Other alternatives to cellular confinement are available under both of these Rules and Adjudicating Governors should decide on the appropriate award, having considered the gravity of the offence committed and any other circumstances regarding the offender at that time.

Legal Services Commission

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Justice why staff in the Legal Services Commission have not received service based progression.

(AQW 23061/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC) has a number of outstanding Pay Remits covering the periods 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13. NILSC employees last received a pay increase in 2010, when a unilateral pay award of 2.6% was made.

In January 2013, the NILSC submitted a Pay Strategy Business Case to the Department of Justice for consideration. This business case includes provision for service based progression. A few queries remain outstanding and my officials will continue to work with NILSC to address the outstanding issues and to ensure that, when completed, any agreed Pay Strategy is passed to DFP for financial approval.

People with a Psychotic Disorder Found Guilty of a Serious Offence

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to outline the procedure in place for the incarceration of a person who is found guilty of a serious offence but deemed to be suffering from a psychotic disorder.

(AQW 23106/11-15)

Mr Ford: Under the Mental Health (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, where a person is convicted of an offence other than murder which is punishable with imprisonment, the court has the power to impose a hospital order under certain conditions.

These conditions are that the court is satisfied on the evidence of two medical practitioners that the offender is suffering from mental illness or severe mental impairment of a nature or degree which warrants his detention in hospital for medical treatment; and is of the opinion, having regard to all the circumstances, including the nature of the offence and the character and antecedents of the offender, and to the other available methods of dealing with him, that the most suitable means of dealing with the case is by means of a hospital order.

An offender subject to a hospital order can be detained for a period not exceeding 6 months beginning with the date of admission. That period of detention can be renewed for a period of 6 months and then subsequent periods of 1 year. The offender has the right of appeal to the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

A court may however place a restriction order on a hospital order where it appears to the court, having regard to the nature of the offence, the antecedents of the person and the risk of his committing further offences if set at large, that it is necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm to do so.

An offender subject to a restriction order cannot be transferred or granted leave of absence without the consent of the Department. Discharge is under the authority of the Mental Health Review Tribunal or the Department.

Northern Ireland Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice why a number of Northern Ireland Prison Service staff have been able to avail of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme when they did not meet the required criteria.

(AQW 23108/11-15)

Mr Ford: All successful applicants to the VER were aged 50 and over at 8 November 2011. The following criteria was applied and determined the order in which staff would be released:-

- (a) the number of staff, as far as possible, to match the required reductions in the number of posts in that grade;
- (b) in the event of a greater number of eligible staff applying than can be released for each grade, selection to be made on a least cost basis; and
- (c) account to be taken of NIPS operational requirements.

The Scheme criteria has been set to allow decisions to be taken objectively and the VER Selection Panel made their decisions solely on this basis.

Carecall Funding

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 20873/11-15, whether departmental funding provided to Carecall is paid directly or through an agency, and if so, to detail the name of the agency.

(AQW 23110/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice and its Agencies are part of a NICS contract which provides an Employee Assistance Programme for staff. All costs are paid directly to Carecall.

Northern Ireland Prison Service: Prisoners at Risk

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 16052/11-15, whether he plans to revise his answer given that three of the staff suspended and disciplined could not have received training in the Prisoner at Risk process as stated, given that all three were employed by the Northern Ireland Prison Service a number of years prior to the introduction of the process.

(AQW 23114/11-15)

Mr Ford: The incorrect information previously supplied in AQW/16052/11-15 was due to an administrative error and NIPS apologise for the misunderstanding.

On further investigation, it has only been possible to confirm that one of the three members of staff underwent PAR training as part of their nurse induction training.

Minority Ethnic Background

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the monitoring arrangements in place to ensure that those from a minority ethnic background are treated in line with European Union, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland legislation.

(AQW 23125/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Equality Scheme for the Department of Justice sets out how the Department plans to fulfil its Section 75 statutory duties across all functions (including service provision, employment and procurement). Chapter two of the Equality Scheme explains how the Department is assessed for compliance with the Section 75 Duties. As part of the monitoring arrangements in place, the Department is required to complete an annual report on implementation of the Equality Scheme. The Department is required to forward a completed Section 75 annual report to the Equality Commission Northern Ireland by 31 August each year.

In July 2012, the Criminal Justice Board approved the creation of a multi-agency project group to design and deliver the mechanism for developing a criminal system-wide equity monitoring system, to examine decision making in the criminal justice system with particular focus on offenders. Once established, this monitoring system will allow detailed data to be gathered which will allow a more comprehensive understanding of how the system is working in respect of S75 categories, including people from an ethnic minority background.

Minority Ethnic Background

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice to outline the action he is taking to ensure that those from a minority ethnic background are treated in line with European Union, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland legislation.

(AQW 23126/11-15)

Mr Ford: My Department is committed to fulfilling its statutory responsibilities in respect of the Human Rights and Equality legislation. We actively monitor the racial make up of staff and client groups and engage with representative groups from minority ethnic communities to ensure that the services we provide are fully accessible to everyone.

Diversity is a key part of the justice agenda both externally and internally. The DOJ has a diversity strategy and action plan in place and has established a staff led diversity network which focuses on black and ethnic minority staff.

The Department of Justice's Equality Scheme sets out specifically how the Department effectively fulfils its Section 75 statutory duties across all functions (including service provision, employment and procurement). You can access the DOJ Equality Scheme at:

<http://www.dojni.gov.uk/index/publications/publication-categories/pubs-departmental-business/doj-equality-scheme-2011-15.htm> .

2010 Agreement within Roe House, Maghaberry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the implementation of the August 2010 Agreement within Roe House, Maghaberry, with specific emphasis on controlled movement.

(AQW 23133/11-15)

Mr Ford: The agreement of August 2010 has been implemented as far as has been possible. The continued refusal of separated republican prisoners in Roe House to associate together or share facilities has made further movement on this issue difficult at this time.

However, the Prison Service is committed to developing a more normalised regime for separated prisoners. The recent decision by the Governor to remove the Dedicated Search Team (DST) staff from the landings underlines this commitment. In addition a major programme of refurbishment is currently underway on the separated republican landings.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the groups invited to submit bids to the Northern Ireland Police Fund for the 2013/14 financial year; (ii) the groups which were required by the Northern Ireland Police Fund to resubmit their bids in a revised format within one week and into the new financial year; and (iii) the groups that resubmitted their bids in the revised format within the one week time limit.

(AQW 23141/11-15)

Mr Ford: The groups invited to submit bids to the Northern Ireland Police Fund (NIPF) for the 2013/14 financial year were the RUC George Cross (GC) Parents' Association, the Carers' Association, the Disabled Police Officers Association Northern Ireland (DPOANI), the Wounded Police Families Association (WPFA), RUC GC-PSNI Benevolent Fund and the Forgotten Families.

All the groups were asked to resubmit their bids on a revised standardised template within one week and into the new financial year.

The RUC GC Parents' Association, the Carers' Association and the DPOANI resubmitted their bids in accordance with the revised format and within the one week time limit.

The other three groups have yet to submit their bids. However I am advised by the Fund that following a request from the RUC GC-PSNI Benevolent Fund and the Forgotten Families the NIPF has agreed to accept late bids from them submitted in the revised format. The WPFA have yet to submit a bid.

Legal Aid Savings

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 22357/11-15, to detail the estimated annual savings in Legal Aid when the changes are implemented.

(AQW 23222/11-15)

Mr Ford: The work necessary to estimate the annual savings to the legal aid fund from the abolition of the use of oral evidence and cross examination of witnesses at committal proceedings, and the transfer of certain cases directly to the Crown Court, has not yet been undertaken by my Department. Consequently, no official estimate is available at this time.

Department for Regional Development

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Regional Development who is currently being held to account for failing to provide a Habitats Directive Assessment for the proposed A5 road scheme.

(AQW 22892/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): The Habitats Directive's Habitats Regulations Assessment considers the need for an assessment of impacts on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas, and provides for a screening exercise to determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, or not.

In relation to the A5 Western Transport Corridor dualling project (A5WTC) and the River Foyle and tributaries and River Finn SACs, the screening exercise concluded that it was unlikely that the proposed A5WTC scheme would have an adverse effect on the integrity of this SAC and consequently, a full Appropriate Assessment was not required.

The findings and conclusion of the screening exercise were issued to the two relevant statutory bodies, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Republic of Ireland's National Parks and Wildlife Services. Both these statutory bodies agreed with the findings and conclusion of the screening exercise. The Loughs Agency was also consulted but did not respond.

Given the extensive process that took place, the conclusions of the screening assessment and the agreement of the statutory consultees in both jurisdictions to this conclusion, you will see that the decision was not taken lightly. That said, my Department is reviewing the case to see what lessons can be learned and what further action is necessary.

Grass Cutting Schedule for North Down in 2013

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the grass cutting schedule for North Down in 2013.

(AQW 23039/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Details of my Department's grass cutting operations in North Down for 2013 are set out in the table below:

	To commence
1st Cut Urban	13 May 2013
2nd Cut Urban / 1st Rural	17 June 2013
3rd Cut Urban	22 July 2013
4th Cut Urban / 2nd Rural	26 August 2013
5th Cut Urban	30 September 2013

The progression of works on these dates will also be dependent upon favourable weather conditions.

Ardmore Area of Finaghy: Noise Levels

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQO 3911/11-15, to detail (i) the noise levels measured in the Ardmore area of Finaghy ; and (ii) the date on which these measurements were taken and verified.

(AQW 23064/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has not taken any noise level measurements in the Ardmore Area.

However, I am aware Belfast City Council may have carried out sound level monitoring in the Ardmore area.

For the purposes of the Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995, the Calculation of Road Traffic Noise 1988 and the Environmental Noise Directive, my Department relies on calculated figures derived from modelling work as noise measurements are not required.

G8 Summit

Mr Ó hOisín asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the estimated cost of suspending all road works and maintenance for eleven days during the G8 Summit.

(AQW 23065/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the member it was the PSNI that requested a moratorium be placed on road works in advance of and during the G8 Summit.

During this period, no work is being cancelled. I have put in place measures to re-programme schemes to either before or after the moratorium period. Road upgrades on the A2 and A8 are unaffected by the moratorium. Small scale and emergency works are also unaffected.

In conjunction with the PSNI, I have put in place measures to allow for specific exemptions for certain schemes during the moratorium. To date, the PSNI has allowed 11 such exemptions.

Due to the measures outlined above, I anticipate that re-programming of schemes, as a result of the moratorium, will have minimal cost implications for my Department.

Temporary Cessation of Roadworks

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development, following the announcement regarding the temporary cessation of roadworks around the time of the G8 Summit, what alternative work is being offered to contractors for the period.

(AQW 23069/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the member it was the PSNI that requested a moratorium be placed on road works in advance of and during the G8 Summit.

During this period, no work is being cancelled. I have put in place measures to re-programme schemes to either before, or after, the moratorium period. Road upgrades on the A2 and A8 are unaffected by the moratorium. Small scale and emergency works are also unaffected.

In addition, in conjunction with the PSNI, I have put in place measures to allow for specific exemptions for certain schemes during the moratorium. To date, the PSNI has allowed 11 such exemptions.

G8 Summit: Restrictions to Road Works

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Republic of Ireland about establishing the nature of any restrictions to road works in border counties of the Republic of Ireland during the G8 Summit.

(AQW 23070/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have had no discussions with my counterpart in the Republic of Ireland about restrictions to road works during the G8 Summit. Departmental officials are directed by the PSNI on the nature of any restrictions.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) whether compensation was paid to land owners to enable the A5 road scheme to be developed; (ii) whether land owners will be required to repay the compensation to his Department; and (iii) what will happen to land owners who cannot repay the compensation due to having already spent it.

(AQW 23086/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Following the making of the vesting orders for the A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC) project, 90 per cent advance compensation payments were made to five landowners. These landowners have been given the option of returning the payments or requesting the Department to buy the affected land or property by agreement and completing the payment process. Letters have been sent to the 5 relevant land/property owners explaining the options and individual meetings will be held with the affected parties when they have had time to consider their respective positions.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development what action was taken to progress the development of the A5 road scheme during the proceedings of the legal case and to detail why development was allowed to continue when the outcome of the case was not yet known.

(AQW 23088/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Preliminary works involving fencing, ecology, archaeology, ground investigation, service diversions and vegetation management were carried out during the period when the legal proceedings were ongoing. These works were commenced after careful consideration of the associated risks in the event of both a successful and unsuccessful legal challenge.

If the challenge had been unsuccessful, the Department would have been in a position that it could not have commenced construction of the scheme until autumn 2013, due to constraints such as bird nesting season restrictions and the need to complete archaeological investigation works. Consequently, the decision was made to proceed with the preliminary works to mitigate the impact of delays arising out of an unsuccessful legal challenge. It is important to note that delays to the scheme associated with inflation alone would amount to around £750,000 per month.

The decision to proceed with preliminary works was the subject of an injunction request which was not granted by the courts.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development why an assessment, as required by the Habitats Directive, was not completed before embarking on the A5 road scheme.

(AQW 23090/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Habitats Directive's Habitats Regulations Assessment considers the need for an assessment of impacts on Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and provides for a screening exercise to determine whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is required.

In relation to the A5 Western Transport Corridor dualling project (A5WTC) and the River Foyle and tributaries and River Finn SAC, the screening exercise concluded that it was unlikely that the proposed A5WTC scheme would have an adverse effect on the integrity of this SAC and consequently, a full Appropriate Assessment was not required.

The findings and conclusion of the screening exercise were issued to the two relevant statutory bodies, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Republic of Ireland's National Parks and

Wildlife Services. Both these statutory bodies agreed with the findings and conclusion of the screening exercise. The Loughs Agency was also consulted but did not respond.

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development why contracts were awarded to companies to carry out the development of the A5 road scheme before the legality of the project had been established.
(AQW 23091/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Due to the scale of the A5 Western Transport Corridor project and the challenging delivery programme, an 'Early Contractor Involvement' approach was adopted as the best way of progressing the scheme. This approach entailed appointment of contractors at an early stage of scheme development to provide value engineering, buildability and design advice and to assist in the statutory procedures process, as well as allowing certain preliminary works and surveys to be carried out. There is a break point in these types of contracts to ensure that statutory procedures are completed before progression to the main construction stage. As you will be aware, progression to the construction stage has not yet taken place due to the legal challenge.

Residents' Parking Schemes: South Belfast Constituency

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the progress of residents' parking schemes in the South Belfast constituency.
(AQW 23092/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department carried out a consultation exercise in the Lower Malone area in November 2012, which received a sufficient level of community support to allow officials to begin preparations to proceed to the more formal legislative stage, which they anticipate will take place later this year. Discussions with residents and the business community in the Stranmillis area continue with the aim of implementing a scheme. Officials are also working with residents and local representatives in the Rugby Road/College Park Avenue and the Donegall Pass areas of Belfast. Officials still have to agree the details of local consultation in each of the areas, but hope to be in a position to consult with each of the communities after the summer period.

Pavement Repairs in the South Belfast Constituency

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the costs of pavement repairs in the South Belfast constituency, as a result of damage caused by vehicles driving or parking on footpaths.
(AQW 23093/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department carries out cyclic inspections of all footways and identifies any defects that require repair. It is often not possible to accurately identify the causes of any damage and therefore, I am unable to detail the specific costs of repairing footways damaged as a result of vehicles driving or parking on them.

Taxi Use of Bus Lanes

Ms Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the potential impact of allowing taxis to use bus lanes, on the appeal of public transport.
(AQW 23094/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As you are aware, my Department consulted during 2012 on a proposal to allow all taxis into bus lanes. The consultation document explored the various possible impacts on the use of bus lanes by taxis.

Whilst the consultation document did indicate that any increase in access to bus lanes has the potential to impact on bus lane performance, it is felt the impact will be minimal in terms of journey times and bus speed, both of which are fundamental to ensuring users continue to avail of bus

services. In terms of performance, there is an argument that overall performance will be strongly influenced by the slowest moving mode of travel in the lane, which is the bicycle.

I think it is worth mentioning that the consultation document referred to a study into the use of bus lanes undertaken in 2008. This study concentrated on five routes with bus lanes coming into the city and an integral part of the study was an examination of the views of the different types of user on these routes. In response to the question "Do you think that introducing taxis in bus lanes will affect your travel behaviour as a bus passenger?" 68 per cent of bus passengers responding said that they would continue to use the bus. The surveys also indicated an equal split in terms of for and against from bus passengers to the question "do you support permitting private taxis in bus lanes?"

I would conclude by saying that I have yet to make a final decision on whether to allow all taxis into bus lanes and that it is my intention to announce my decision in due course once I have considered all the relevant factors.

A20 Newtownards to Portaferry Road

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the average daily volume of traffic travelling along the A20 Newtownards to Portaferry road.

(AQW 23100/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has a permanent traffic counter located on A20 Portaferry Road, Newtownards, close to its junction with Old Shore Road. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flow information for this site, recorded in March 2013, indicated an average daily two-way flow of 9,970 vehicles.

G8 Summit

Mr McNarry asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the reasons why it is necessary to discontinue road works on sites up to ninety miles from the site of the G8 Summit.

(AQW 23120/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I would refer the Member to my answer to Assembly Question AQW 23407/11-15.

Local Speed Limits

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration has been given to the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 setting local speed limits, in particular the introduction of 20mph urban speed limits and zones.

(AQW 23121/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department for Transport Circular 01/13 is an amended version of Circular 01/06 and as such, is only applicable for the setting of local speed limits in England.

Balmoral Show: Traffic

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the outcome of the evaluation by the Roads Service of the capacity of access roads to cope with increased traffic going to the Balmoral Show; and how this matched up with the reality.

(AQW 23136/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Maze/Long Kesh site is being developed by the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation (MLKDC), under the auspices of OFMDFM. As part of the planning process, MLKDC has responsibility for any new roads infrastructure associated with the development of the site. To date, no planning application has been made.

The local road network in and around the Maze site is rural in nature and has limited capacity to cope with large volumes of traffic.

To enable the predicted Balmoral Show traffic to be efficiently managed on this network, RUAS prepared a Transport Management Plan. Routing vehicular traffic to the event on designated properly signed routes and invoking a shuttle bus service from Lisburn Train Station were the key elements of this plan.

Unfortunately on Wednesday 13 May, difficulties arose with access arrangements to car parks at the site and this led to severe congestion. On Friday 17 May there was congestion for an hour or so, when car parks on site reached capacity. However, in the main, the RUAS plans worked satisfactorily during Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and the majority of Friday.

RUAS will, in conjunction with DRD and PSNI, carry out a full evaluation of the effectiveness of its Transport Plan, in due course.

EU Habitats Directive

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the measures in place to ensure that all road schemes and repair work is in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive.

(AQW 23151/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: For major works schemes a three stage scheme assessment process is undertaken, part of which involves an environmental assessment and the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will take into consideration the relevant legislation and guidance available at that time, including European directives such as the Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directives.

Extensive consultation is undertaken throughout these stages with key statutory bodies which include the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Water Management Unit (WMU), and Department of Culture Arts and Leisure's (DCAL) Inland Fisheries and Rivers Agency.

During the construction phase, the appointed contractor will be required to provide method statements for undertaking any construction works and pollution control measures, including those that directly impact or include works to rivers and habitats. These will be submitted to NIEA, WMU and DCAL for review and comment.

For minor works proposals, the amount of environmental work undertaken will be commensurate with the size of the project. Scoping studies are undertaken to decide what environmental topics are to be examined.

If the results of the scoping study determine the scheme will have a significant effect on the environment, the proposal can then be taken through a formal planning application (together with a full EIA). This allows full consultation and opportunity for interested stakeholders to consult and /or object to the scheme.

Good environmental practice is important both in the construction of new works and in the maintenance and management of the existing road network.

Breaches of the EU Habitats Directive

Mr Girvan asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department has paid in fines, because of breaches of the EU Habitats Directive.

(AQW 23153/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has not paid any fines because of breaches to the EU Habitats Directive.

Rail Passenger Numbers

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the rail passenger numbers for each of the last five years, broken down by embarkation from each station.

(AQW 23192/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below shows the number of passengers boarding and alighting at the various stations/halts on the NIR network. The table covers the last full 5 years up to 2011/12. Statistics for the latter weeks of the 2012/13 financial year are currently being finalised.

Translink do not record “embarkation” statistics in isolation but rather the full passenger flows through a station to provide a more accurate assessment of the use of a station. There are stations which would have far more passengers using it as an origin rather than as a destination and vice versa, therefore passenger flows is the preferred measurement. I would add that the source of this information is Translink ticketing system and the figures also include a percentage uplift to cover journeys made which are not recorded through the machines such as commuter cards, school passes etc. It is important that this caveat is noted in referring to these figures.

Station	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
City Centre					
GVS	4,018,482	4,114,572	3,831,643	3,795,766	3,863,661
Central	1,855,507	1,923,351	1,878,133	1,938,708	2,052,065
Botanic	704,146	763,173	756,460	805,976	827,896
Yorkgate	140,429	171,137	180,882	233,588	265,614
City Hospital	309,301	341,760	325,437	334,318	349,342
Sub Total	7,027,865	7,313,993	6,972,555	7,108,356	7,358,578
Adelaide	211,242	223,626	202,324	204,275	202,223
Balmoral	137,099	191,298	183,455	196,016	188,025
Finaghy	157,486	179,915	159,713	161,695	173,120
Dunmurry	227,534	256,106	228,010	212,215	223,039
Derriaghy	135,850	159,149	138,834	152,390	163,119
Lambeg	118,256	125,226	117,332	114,934	118,741
Hilden	72,300	78,382	76,537	75,993	77,918
Lisburn	1,119,403	1,208,751	1,179,860	1,201,590	1,271,649
Sub Total	2,179,170	2,422,453	2,286,065	2,319,108	2,417,834
Moira	203,641	214,104	215,046	219,800	247,704
Lurgan	802,404	861,229	817,705	845,918	855,796
Portadown	784,202	853,239	826,477	869,613	933,745
Scarva	8,616	8,088	7,906	7,017	7,483
Poyntzpass	2,998	3,140	2,017	1,976	2,087
Newry	199,418	199,414	197,873	225,022	249,171
Sub Total	2,001,279	2,139,214	2,067,024	2,169,346	2,295,986
Station	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Bridge End	51,047	73,958	77,957	72,395	92,496
Sydenham	152,958	188,095	201,385	207,168	213,570
Hollywood	390,693	429,294	428,676	427,183	456,522

Station	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Marino	75,902	80,797	79,878	83,260	83,267
Cultra	62,237	78,439	69,315	66,243	72,445
Seahill	69,307	78,041	78,140	85,643	86,166
Helen's Bay	87,702	96,243	109,671	124,345	124,234
Carnalea	85,133	99,982	102,902	107,749	119,313
Bangor West	112,967	145,803	184,462	227,675	248,522
Bangor	1,454,400	1,583,827	1,587,508	1,605,843	1,662,540
Section Sub-total	2,542,346	2,854,479	2,919,894	3,007,504	3,159,075
Station	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Whiteabbey	227,316	246,622	243,033	240,210	241,575
Jordanstown	293,563	472,052	428,476	397,177	387,273
Greenisland	167,730	186,103	200,627	206,432	215,400
Trooperslane	18,183	25,431	27,618	28,289	28,487
Clipperstown	123,422	106,598	136,554	141,050	143,265
Carrickfergus	615,618	672,374	649,030	659,349	695,592
Downshire	164,617	177,282	158,900	152,398	135,301
Whitehead	264,401	272,235	267,846	273,117	267,205
Ballycarry	35,012	30,367	28,339	30,291	30,464
Glynn	8,140	8,498	7,876	8,898	9,844
Magheramore	5,992	5,645	5,427	4,394	4,905
Larne	223,185	240,727	242,748	243,219	229,816
Larne Harbour	15,156	21,415	20,199	23,887	27,149
Section Sub-total	2,162,335	2,465,349	2,416,673	2,408,711	2,416,276
Mossley West	72,501	126,807	117,717	130,147	144,222
Antrim	201,057	274,268	255,393	270,444	278,711
Ballymena	350,432	472,955	452,057	484,303	525,001
Cullybackey	51,886	64,367	48,400	66,040	73,216
Ballymoney	225,430	265,234	218,389	269,961	294,867
Coleraine	623,556	651,581	590,840	669,403	699,802
Section Sub-total	1,524,862	1,855,212	1,682,796	1,890,298	2,015,819
Station	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Castlerock	65,286	77,181	77,865	87,470	88,924
Bellarena	15,908	19,798	20,577	34,008	30,969
Londonderry	278,936	346,988	341,803	382,123	398,300

Station	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Section Sub-total	360,130	443,967	440,245	503,601	518,193
University	68,645	135,575	118,436	130,498	153,464
Dhu Varren	11,934	16,075	15,780	11,884	13,095
Portrush	305,460	396,319	351,249	406,260	391,404
Section Sub-total	386,039	547,969	485,465	548,642	557,963
Total Pax Flows	18,184,026	20,042,636	19,270,717	19,955,566	20,739,724

A5 Road Scheme

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, further to the indication from the First Minister to the Assembly on 14 May 2013 that his Department had an interest in diverting unspent funding on the A5 road scheme to shared future projects, whether he can give an assurance that such funds will be spent on roads and related projects.

(AQW 23194/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department received funding for the A5 dual carriageway project as a result of an Executive decision. Following the recent ruling on the scheme, I am obliged to declare a reduced budget requirement in relation to the 2013-14 year.

However, rather than await the June Monitoring round, I have already formally declared this reduced requirement to the Finance Minister, to allow the Executive to give urgent consideration as to how it can best be redeployed. I have set out spending proposals that my Department can deliver quickly and provided options to the Minister of Finance for other major road schemes which could commence in 2014-15.

In my view, it is essential we quickly redeploy this reduced requirement to provide support to the construction sector and the local economy at this most difficult time. I consider expenditure on roads to be a specific example of activity that improves vital infrastructure and facilitates economic growth, while at the same time providing much needed local employment.

Park and Ride Spaces in North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to increase the number of Park and Ride spaces in North Down.

(AQW 23230/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: 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 2013-15' which is a schedule of Park & Ride projects, with clearly defined responsibilities for funding, implementation, maintenance and operation, to be taken forward by my Department's Transport Projects Division, Transport NI and Translink.

I am aware that there is significant demand for Park & Ride facilities in North Down with many existing sites operating near to or over capacity levels. This demand highlights the success brought about by my Department's investment in the railway network in recent years and it is something that I would like to continue to build upon.

As a result, the Park & Ride Strategic Delivery Programme 2013-15 will include proposals for increasing capacity at locations in North Down, and Bangor in particular. My Department is currently developing a business case which will consider a number of options for the provision of additional Park & Ride facilities in Bangor, to supplement those currently available at Abbey Street.

Subject to the identification of a suitable site and the satisfactory completion of the necessary processes, which may include land purchase and attaining planning permission, the new facilities could be provided in late 2014/2015.

Welcome to Northern Ireland Sign on the A1

Ms Fearon asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost associated with erecting the Welcome to Northern Ireland sign on the A1 between Newry and the border.

(AQW 23235/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has recently erected the new Welcome to Northern Ireland sign on the A1 between Newry and the border, at a cost of £12,000. These costs include a new reinforced concrete base, a section of new retaining wall, the Traffic Management System to control traffic during construction and the cost of the sign face, poles and associated fixings.

The main purpose of the sign is to advise drivers using this road that the national speed limit is in miles per hour and to include the message 'Welcome to Northern Ireland'

Glenmachan Sewer Project

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the Glenmachan Sewer project and whether work will commence in 2015.

(AQW 23306/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that scoping work on the Glenmachan Sewer Project is progressing with the aim of commencing the main scheme in 2015, subject to the availability of funding and all statutory approvals being in place.

Technical surveys are on-going within the catchment area to enable completion of the project feasibility report and initial consultation with statutory authorities has already taken place. It is anticipated that an outline business case for funding approval will be completed this year to allow the scheme to be included in NIW's Price Control 15 Capital Works Programme which covers the period from April 2015 to March 2021.

Meanwhile, NIW is working with DARD Rivers Agency and other stakeholders to accelerate part of the Glenmachan Scheme to alleviate flooding in the Finaghy area.

Flood Prevention

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the capital investment his Department has undertaken in East Belfast since 27 June 2012 to ensure that the flooding, which occurred last summer, is not repeated this summer; (ii) the investment in capital projects to improve the infrastructure that has been allocated by his Department to prevent flooding in East Belfast; and (iii) the investment in capital projects to improve the infrastructure that is being considered by his Department to prevent flooding in East Belfast.

(AQW 23314/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: [i] In the past year approximately £1.8 million has been invested by NIW in the Sydenham/ East Belfast area to reduce the risk of out-of-sewer flooding. In the same period my Department's Roads Service has spent over approximately £300,000 on various structural drainage works across its Belfast South and Castlereagh Section Office areas, which includes East Belfast. These works have been undertaken primarily to address drainage issues in areas that are prone to flooding.

[ii] NIW is investigating a number of standalone and larger projects in East Belfast and these studies are due for completion towards the end of this calendar year. The projects will be considered by NIW to determine if they should be progressed to construction phase and assigned funds from its current capital works programme. £85,000 has been allocated for structural drainage works in the Roads Service Belfast South and Castlereagh Section Office areas in 2013/14.

[iii] For larger projects, business cases will be submitted by NIW to DRD for consideration for inclusion in the next Price Control Period which outlines NIW's investment plans from April 2015 to March 2021. Roads Service will continue to identify further small scale works that can be undertaken to address flooding issues and will programme them as funding becomes available.

In addition, I am advised that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Rivers Agency will be spending in the region of £11.7 million on a Flood Alleviation Scheme associated with the East Belfast Greenway Project.

Residents Parking Scheme in College Park Avenue, South Belfast

Mr Maskey asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on progressing a Residents Parking Scheme in College Park Avenue, South Belfast.

(AQW 23378/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Officials from my Department have recently forwarded a proposed plan of the Rugby Road / College Park Avenue Residents Parking Scheme, to the residents' association for its consideration. Subject to the agreement of the residents' association, officials aim to consult informally with local residents in September 2013, in order to gauge the overall level of local support for the proposals.

G8 Summit

Mr McAleer asked the Minister for Regional Development why a moratorium was placed on all road works except for the Ards-Peninsula and C class roads for an eleven day period in the run up to the G8 Summit 2013.

(AQW 23407/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The re programming of on all road works, except for those on the Ards Peninsula, has been put in place for an eleven day period in the run up to the G8 Summit at the request of the PSNI.

Storm Sewers in Mill Street and High Street, Cushendall

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Northern Ireland Water will extend the storm sewers on Mill Street and High Street, Cushendall.

(AQW 23439/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it is planning to install a new storm sewer at the junction of Mill Street and High Street this summer. The work, which will reduce the risk of out-of-sewer flooding, is being implemented in advance of the on-going Drainage Area Study (DAS) for Cushendall which is due to be completed early next year. The outcome of the DAS will determine if further capital investment is required to further reduce the risk of out-of-sewer flooding in the area.

Free Public Transport for all School Pupils

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister for Regional Development, further to the Private Member's Motion on 4 February 2013 on school transport, for an update on the feasibility study into providing free public transport for all school pupils.

(AQW 23441/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Following the Assembly debate on the Private Members Motion on 4th February 2013, I am advised that the feasibility of providing free public transport for all school pupils will be considered by the Department of Education (DE) as part of a wider Review of the Home to School Transport

policy. I understand that officials in DE are currently taking forward work to establish the Review and that the Minister for Education hopes to make an announcement in the near future. At this stage the Department for Education has not yet sought any engagement with my Department on any such review. Any request to participate in any such review will be considered.

G8 Summit

Mr McAleer asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will put measures in place that will guarantee the incomes of the estimated one thousand employees who will be affected by the moratorium that will be put in place on road works in the eleven days leading up to the G8 Summit 2013. **(AQW 23463/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the member it was the PSNI that requested a moratorium be placed on road works in advance of and during the G8 Summit.

During this period, no work is being cancelled. I have put in place measures to re-programme schemes to either before or after the moratorium period. Road upgrades on the A2 and A8 are unaffected by the moratorium. Small scale and emergency works are also unaffected.

In conjunction with the PSNI, I have put in place measures to allow for specific exemptions for certain schemes during the moratorium. To date, the PSNI has allowed 11 such exemptions.

My Department invests heavily throughout the year on roads infrastructure projects that benefit the industry and its employees and I am fully aware of the pressures on the construction industry due to the economic downturn. Due to the range of measures outlined above, it is not anticipated that the moratorium will have an adverse impact on employees of contractors employed by my Department or others.

Department for Social Development

Paragraph 2.6 of the Dignity at Work Policy

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 21576/11-15, to outline his Department's policy position as referred to in the answer. **(AQW 22253/11-15)**

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The Department operates under the NICS Dignity at Work (DAW) policy, and is committed to equality of opportunity for all and to creating and sustaining of an environment where everyone is treated with respect, dignity and free from any form of inappropriate behaviour.

Social Security Agency Staff

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the (i) number; and (ii) percentage, by community background, of staff recruited to the Social Security Agency, in each of the last three years. **(AQW 22825/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: As required by the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998 (FETO), information is collected on the perceived community background of staff and applicants for posts in the NICS annually at the 1 January. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has provided the information requested in the table below.

NUMBER OF STAFF RECRUITED TO SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY FROM 2010-2012

Year	Total number of staff recruited	Total number of Protestants recruited	Total number of Roman Catholics recruited	Total number of Not Determined recruited
2010	17	10 (59%)	7 (41%)	0 (0%)
2011	19	12 (63%)	7 (37%)	0 (0%)
2012	148	67 (45%)	72 (49%)	9 (6%)

The information provided is an Official Statistic. The production and dissemination of all such Statistics is governed by the Principles and Protocols of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This is enforced by UK Statistics Authority.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Properties

Mr Swann asked the Minister for Social Development how many Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties in the (i) Ballymena; (ii) Ballymoney; and (iii) Moyle District areas are currently awaiting an asbestos survey.

(AQW 22897/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that at 16 May 2013 the number of their properties awaiting an asbestos survey in their following District Office areas are:-

- Ballymena 569
- Ballymoney 353
- Moyle 336

Shared Social Housing Development

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number and location of existing shared social housing developments; (ii) the number of units in each development; (iii) whether, prior to the publication of Together: Building a United Community document any new developments that had been proposed; and (iv) to detail (a) the location; (b) the number of units; and (c) whether planning applications had been submitted for the proposed developments.

(AQW 22937/11-15)

Mr McCausland: To date there have been 11 shared social housing new build developments:

- Carran Crescent, Enniskillen 20 properties
- Causeway Meadows, Lisburn 22 properties
- Ballyfatton Close, Sion Mills 20 properties
- Gowanvale, Banbridge 15 properties
- Pond Park, Lisburn 112 properties
- Abbey Drive, Enniskillen 15 properties
- Sycamore Drive, Cavanaleck, Enniskillen 18 properties
- Curzon, Ballynafeigh, South Belfast 42 properties
- Woodside Park, Loughbrickland 24 properties
- Springhill Drive, Newry 24 properties
- Ardmore Road, Armagh 26 properties

In addition to the above, the two tables appended detail the Housing Executive:

- Shared Neighbourhood Programme 2008-2011 (30 NIHE estates)
- Shared Communities Programme 2011-2014 (20 NIHE estates)

All of these schemes had been selected prior to the Together: Building a United Community announcement.

The Housing Executive considers that all schemes in the social housing development programme have shared future potential, however no schemes have been proposed.

New proposals will be developed to deliver the commitment in the the Together: Building a United Community document.

APPENDIX 1

TABLE 1 - SHARED NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME 2008-2011 (30 NIHE ESTATES)

Area	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Belfast	Ballynafeigh (2,500)	Suffolk/Lenadoon (3,423) Skegoneil/Glandore (221)	Forthspring (1,500) REAL Project (1,324) The Village (1,350)
South East	Knockmore/Tonagh (1,100)	Areema (230) Redburn/Loughview (1,500)	Killyleagh (750) Belvoir/Milltown (1,500) Dunmurry (200)
North East	Springfarm (460)	Whiteabbey Village (900) Castle St/Westgate (110) Windmill/Minorca (400)	Sallagh Park (160) Armoy Village (200)
South	Lissize (100)	Belfast Road (549) Central Brownlow (709)	Cavanaleck (250) Drumbeg/Drumbawn (250) Fivemiletown (280)
West	Gortview/Killybrack (120)	Sion Mills Village (800) The Glen (299)	Claudy (700) Castledawson (120) Riverside/Blackhill (90)

TABLE 2 - SHARED COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME 2011-2014 (20 NIHE ESTATES)

Area	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Belfast	Inner East (Short Strand, Ballymacarrett, Lower Castlereagh, Lower Ravenhill, Oasis Group) (13,000) Inner South (The Markets, Donegall Pass, Lower Ormeau) (2,300)	Whitewell (North Belfast) Finaghy Crossroads & Taughmonagh	To be confirmed
S East	Bloomfield (550)	Whitehill, Bangor The Glen, Newtownards	Hilden, Lisburn
N East	Greystone, Antrim	Dhu Varren, Portrush Killowen & The Heights, Coleraine	North Ballymena Cluster Group
South	Brookfield (120)	Lisanally & Alexander, Armagh (225) Carrowshee Park & Sylvan Hill, Lisnaskea (250)	Moy Village (500+)
West	Fox Park, Omagh (40)	Gortalowry Park/ Killymoon Crescent, Cookstown (250) Strathfoyle, Londonderry (700)	Drumachose Park, Limavady (200) Reserve – Mullaghmore/ Castleview, Omagh

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Social Security Agency Procedures

Mr Rogers asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the procedure that is followed by the Social Security Agency when it is undertaking a check, that has been requested by an outside agency such as a charity, on the existing benefits received by a claimant.

(AQW 22944/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Department for Social Development has procedures in place which must be satisfied before consideration is given to releasing information on benefits, currently in payment, to an outside agency. Staff will only divulge information to a third party when the claimant has given authority for the information to be released. Staff will speak to the claimant and ask a series of security questions such as name, address, National Insurance Number and date of birth in order to confirm identity and only then will the relevant information be released

Emergency Housing on the West Bank in Coleraine

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Social Development whether any efforts have been made to secure emergency housing on the West Bank in Coleraine.

(AQW 23011/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive consistently advertises and trawls local estate agents in an attempt to source properties that could be used as temporary accommodation. To date there has been little response from private landlords within the West Bank area in Coleraine.

Whilst the majority of private properties within the West Bank catchment area are typically used as seasonal lets the Housing Executive will continue to seek properties within the West Bank area and they are planning to re-advertise in the Autumn.

Multiple Occupation Legislation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to which geographical areas does the current houses in multiple occupation legislation apply; and how these areas were designated.

(AQW 23018/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive House in Multiple Occupation Registration Scheme has been implemented progressively from 2004. Since April 2013, all HMOs in Northern Ireland, regardless of location, are specified to be registered.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Scheme

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether the Housing Executive is administering the Houses in Multiple Occupation Scheme for private residences where owners have homes on which they have a mortgage.

(AQW 23021/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Article 75 of the Housing (NI) Order 1992 states that where more than 2 persons, who are unrelated live in a house, it is a House in Multiple Occupation. (HMO) Whether or not the owner has a mortgage or is resident in the house does not affect this designation.

Double Glazing Windows in Social Housing

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development whether any of the companies he met in 2012, prior to his decision to review the specifications for installation of double glazing windows in social housing, have a direct interest in changing these specifications; and to list these companies.

(AQW 23023/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I received a number of requests for meetings to discuss the double glazing contracts from companies with an interest in the specifications. I agreed to meet in April 2012 with representatives of the Glass and Glazing Federation and Fusion 21 and in September 2012 I met with Superseal. However, any changes to the specifications for installation of double glazing is entirely an operational matter for the Housing Executive.

Social Security Agency Recruitment

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what action he is taking to ensure that recruitment to the Social Security Agency reflects community balance.

(AQW 23054/11-15)

Mr McCausland: For the purposes of the Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998, the NICS is treated as being a single employer.

All recruitment to the NICS is undertaken in line with NICS Recruitment Policy which reflects the NICS statutory obligations as a large employer, including in terms of creating equality of opportunity for all applicants and recruiting and appointing individuals on the basis of the merit principle. This is a principle enshrined in statute. The Civil Service Commissioners for Northern Ireland have a statutory role to ensure the merit principle is upheld for all recruitment to the NICS and successful candidates are offered posts as they arise in merit order. Community background is not a consideration in allocating posts.

House of Multiple Occupancy Legislation

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development how many owner occupiers have received demands from the Housing Executive to comply with House of Multiple Occupancy legislation and provide gas and electric safety certificates; and why they are being issued with these demands when they are not landlords.

(AQW 23084/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has told me that the total number of HMO properties with owner occupiers in residence that have had notices issued against them is 18. The total number of Electric/Gas Certificates requested is 12.

Although these types of properties are HMOs under the current definition, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has said that it will cease issuing notices in respect of owner occupied self-contained converted apartments and withdraw those notices it has already served. However, where a dwelling has three or more unrelated people living in it the Housing Executive will continue to enforce HMO regulations.

Specialist Benefit Advice Services: Undergoing Cancer Treatment

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has considered funding specialist benefit advice services for employment support allowance and disability living allowance claimants who are undergoing treatment for cancer.

(AQW 23095/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department does not routinely fund specialist advice services in respect of specific benefits or health conditions. However, as part of the 2011/12 Benefit Uptake Programme, the Department funded a hospital based model for the provision of advice and information services to people newly diagnosed, living with or affected by cancer. This was one of seven different projects funded as part of the Department's Innovation Fund for Improving Benefit Uptake pilot.

An evaluation of the Innovation Fund has just been completed and the Evaluation Report will be published in the near future. Decisions on how successful outcomes and other learning will be used to inform future benefit uptake approaches are currently being considered. I will be launching Maximising Incomes & Outcomes – a 3 Year Plan for Improving Benefit Uptake in June.

Housing Executive Properties: Cavity Wall Insulation

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of Housing Executive properties that have cavity wall insulation.

(AQW 23098/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised me that, they have in the region of 14,000, traditional and non traditional property types which do not have cavity walls (such as No Fines, Orbits or Easiform). They are confident that cavity wall insulation has been installed in nearly all their remaining 75,000 (approximately) stock where it has been feasible to do so, apart from a small number of properties where tenants refused work. They advise that insulation of their non traditional stock is being addressed through alternative means.

Help to Buy Scheme

Mr Elliott asked the Minister for Social Development to detail progress on the Help to Buy Scheme that is being introduced to assist people in acquiring new homes.

(AQW 23107/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Within the Budget the Chancellor announced two major investments to assist the housing market under the banner Help to Buy. The first is to help homeowners secure affordable mortgages through the provision of equity loans for new build properties and the second is designed to enable lenders to use Government guarantees to offer £130 billion worth of mortgages with smaller deposits, as little as 5%, on new and existing properties.

At present the Help to Buy Equity Loans Scheme is only available in England and the Northern Ireland Executive is currently considering if it is possible to introduce a similar scheme here. However, an earlier attempt to do so in the form of FirstBuy NI met with little success; no applications being received by the scheme.

HM Treasury is currently working on the final scheme design for the Help to Buy Mortgage Guarantee which requires further analysis and discussion with the lending. This scheme will be available throughout the UK, on both new and existing properties and for first-time buyers, as well as existing homeowners and is due to be launched in January 2014.

Disability Discrimination Act

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Social Development what plans are in place to ensure that the Belfast premises for medical assessments will be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

(AQW 23122/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The medical examination rooms at Royston House, the Belfast Medical Examination Centre, are located on the 4th floor. The building complies with both health and safety and disability discrimination legislation.

Royston House, Belfast: Medical Assessments

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Social Development to list the number and type of medical assessments that have taken place in Royston House, Belfast over the last twelve months.

(AQW 23124/11-15)

Mr McCausland: During the period 1 May 2012 to 30 April 2013 a total of 13,303 assessments were completed in Royston House, as follows:

	No of Assessments
Employment and Support Allowance / Incapacity Benefit Reassessment	12,115
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	918
Disability Living Allowance	258
Overseas cases	12
Total	13,303

Incapacity Benefit to Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 22127/11-15, how many of the additional claimants in the years ending (i) 2010; (ii) 2011; and (iii) 2013 had migrated to Employment and Support Allowance from Incapacity Benefit; and how many were new claimants.

(AQW 23148/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The number of additional claimants that have migrated to Employment and Support Allowance from Incapacity Benefit and how many were new claimants are detailed in the table below. Please note prior to June 2011, it was not possible to extract migrated cases from data held.

Period ending	North Down Local Government District	North Down LGD, cases migrated from IB	Total ESA Claimants in North Down LGD
20 Nov 2009	410	-	410
3 Dec 2010	660	-	660

Period ending	North Down Local Government District	North Down LGD, cases migrated from IB	Total ESA Claimants in North Down LGD
2 Nov 2011	860	70	930
30 Nov 2012	990	590	1,580

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Housing Executive Properties in North Down: Double Glazing

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in North Down have yet to have double glazing installed, broken down by housing estate.

(AQW 23190/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that their records and surveys indicate that the following two schemes should complete their double glazing installations in the North Down area: -

Bangor Phase 1 double glazing mop up scheme currently programmed for January 2014 to include properties as follows:-

Rathgill	35 properties
Willowbrook	24 properties
Bloomfield	2 properties
Crawfordsburn	5 properties
Groomsport	37 properties
Kilcooley	140 properties

Bangor Phase 2 double glazing mop up scheme currently programmed for April 2014 to include properties as follows:-

Loughview	57 properties
Redburn	45 properties
Spencer Street	61 properties
Strand/Kinnegar	9 properties
Woodlands	12 properties
Helens Bay	1 property
Conlig	9 properties

Monkscoole House, Rathcoole

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the plans for Monkscoole House Rathcoole and the timescale that exists for development or return to the Housing Executive.

(AQW 23216/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The planned improvement scheme for Monkscoole House has been held pending the development of a Stock Transfer Programme that could see major improvements delivered to Housing Executive stock through transfer to housing associations. This programme is currently being finalised by the Housing Executive and my Department.

Once finalised, the Housing Executive will be initiating the process for the schemes later this year.

Regeneration of Randalstown

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the plans for the regeneration of Randalstown.

(AQW 23217/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Plans for the regeneration of Randalstown are managed through the town's Masterplan implementation group, led by Antrim Borough Council. My Department is represented on this implementation group.

An environmental improvements scheme for the town centre is one of the projects being taken forward through the Masterplan group. Other schemes to be developed in conjunction with the group include a Revitalisation scheme for the town centre. In addition, some expressions of interest have been received for financial assistance using the Department's Urban Development Grant for building or refurbishing business properties in the town centre. A satisfactory appraisal for all of these projects is necessary and also adequate funding available within the Department's budget allocation.

ATOS Healthcare

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 18194/11-15, to outline why Atos Healthcare can refuse a home visit for work capability assessments, even when a GP supports an application.

(AQW 23218/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Claimants requesting a home assessment are required to provide medical evidence to support their request.

The information provided is considered by a healthcare professional who will decide whether a home visit is necessary whilst home visits are usually only carried out when a claimant is unable to leave their home for any reason, it is apparent that they are able to attend GP/hospital appointments, then they will normally be expected to attend an assessment centre for their medical assessment appointment.

Housing Policy and Structures

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development what measures will be put in place to enfranchise tenants in influencing housing policy and structures; and how tenants will be consulted and afforded influence.

(AQW 23226/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The planning phase for the Social Housing Reform Programme has been initiated. A programme team comprising staff from DSD, the Housing Executive and the Strategic Investment Board has been established. This team is currently in the early stages of exploring and developing my proposals for reform which will include measures on how tenants will be engaged in housing policy and structures.

This exploration and development of the proposals cannot, and will not, be done in isolation. Regular engagement with key stakeholders (of which NIHE tenants are one) will take place throughout the programme.

On 12 June I am meeting with the Central Housing Community Network. This organisation was established in partnership with NIHE as a mechanism to ensure tenants have meaningful involvement with them. The Housing Community Network has agreed to act as a conduit between my Department, NIHE and tenants.

This meeting is the first step in direct engagement with tenants and their representatives; beginning discussions on how the process of engagement will work moving forward to ensure tenant views are built into proposal options.

Housing Benefit

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in the Shankill Area of Belfast will be affected by the need to move to a smaller home because of the change in Housing Benefit. **(AQW 23242/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the number of households within their Shankill District Office area that are estimated to be affected by under occupancy is 1,502.

Social Housing Units in Ballymena District Council Area: Double Glazing

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many social housing units in each village and town in the Ballymena District Council area are in need of double glazing; and when the double glazing will be installed.

(AQW 23269/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that within their Ballymena District Office area - which covers the Ballymena District Council area - they have a double glazing Phase 2 scheme programmed for February 2014 for 268 properties. These properties are situated in the following areas:-

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Ballymena town centre | ■ Kells |
| ■ Dunclug | ■ Moorfields/Glenwherry |
| ■ Harryville | ■ Tullygarley |
| ■ Glarryford | ■ Dunvale |
| ■ Slatt/Straid | |

Social Housing Units in Moyle District Council Area: Double Glazing

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many social housing units in each village and town in the Moyle District Council area are in need of double glazing; and when the double glazing will be installed.

(AQW 23271/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that within their Ballycastle District Office area - which covers the Ballycastle District Council area - their double glazing programme is complete.

Social Housing Units in Ballymoney District Council Area: Double Glazing

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many social housing units in each village and town in the Ballymoney District Council area are in need of double glazing; and when the double glazing will be installed.

(AQW 23272/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that within their Ballymoney District Office area - which covers the Ballymoney District Council area - they have a double glazing scheme programmed for December 2013 for 104 properties. These properties are situated in the following areas:-

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| ■ Ballymoney town | ■ Seacon |
| ■ Balnamore | ■ Cloughmills |
| ■ Bendooragh | ■ Corkey |
| ■ Dervock | ■ Loughgiel |
| ■ Killrammer | ■ Clintyfinnan |
| ■ Dunloy | |
| ■ Rasharkin | |

Help to Buy Scheme

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development, following the introduction of the Help to Buy scheme at Westminster in April 2013, what is the current position in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 23301/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Within the Budget the Chancellor announced two major investments to assist the housing market under the banner Help to Buy. The first is to help homeowners secure affordable mortgages through the provision of equity loans for new build properties and the second is designed to enable lenders to use Government guarantees to offer £130 billion worth of mortgages with smaller deposits, as little as 5%, on new and existing properties.

At present the Help to Buy Equity Loans Scheme is only available in England and the Northern Ireland Executive is currently considering if it is possible to introduce a similar scheme here. However, an earlier attempt to do so in the form of FirstBuy NI met with little success; no applications being received by the scheme.

HM Treasury is currently working on the final scheme design for the Help to Buy Mortgage Guarantee which requires further analysis and discussion with the lending industry. This scheme will be available throughout the UK, on both new and existing properties and for first-time buyers, as well as existing homeowners and is due to be launched in January 2014.

Zero Carbon Social Housing

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development whether he intends to introduce a target date after which all new social housing will have to be zero carbon; and what action he is taking to incentivise the construction of zero carbon social housing.

(AQW 23317/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department's policy is that all new build social housing must meet current Building Regulations. Responsibility for the development and implementation of policy relating to Building Regulations rests with the Department of Finance and Personnel.

In the spring 2013 Budget, the UK Government reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring all new homes are zero carbon from 2016. You may wish to seek the views of the Minister for Finance and Personnel on his intentions in this matter.

Kilclief Flats in the Kilcooley Estate, Bangor

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the timescale for the demolition of the Kilclief flats in the Kilcooley Estate, Bangor.

(AQW 23352/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is in the process of tendering for a specialist demolitions contractor to allow them to progress the demolition of Kilclief Flats in the Kilcooley Estate, Bangor.

This process involves the preparation of the contract documents, the tender process itself and the subsequent analysis and awarding of the tender.

This is being treated as a priority and it is anticipated that work will commence on site in September 2013.

Panel Members of Benefits Appeal Tribunals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development whether an appellant or advocate can halt a benefits appeal tribunal hearing in the event that any member of the panel displays an unacceptable or insensitive attitude or causes distress to the appellant.

(AQW 23394/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Appeal Tribunal is an independent judicial body. Responsibility for the operation of the Tribunals is a statutory function of the President of the Appeal Tribunals, Mr Conall MacLynn. The President can be contacted directly at Office of the President of Appeal Tribunals, 6th Floor, Cleaver House, 3 Donegal Square North, BT1 5GA.

Help for Farmers

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will meet the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to identify ways in which his Department can help farmers; and whether he will communicate to the farming community the ways in which his Department can help through the current crisis in farming.

(AQW 23410/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Minister for Social Development is pleased to accept any invitation from other Ministers to consider how the work of his Department can help. He would be happy to discuss with the Minister of Agriculture how his Department may help through the current crisis in farming.

Bungalows at Ballyree Drive, Bangor

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the reasons for the delay in the stock transfer of bungalows at Ballyree Drive, Bangor; and when these homes will be refurbished.

(AQW 23427/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As I have outlined in recent responses to Assembly Questions on this matter my Department and NIHE had been awaiting approval of the relevant Economic Appraisal from the Department of Finance and Personnel. This is an important step in moving forward as we must be sure that value for money is being achieved by the public purse when transferring assets.

However, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the necessary approval to proceed was received on 15 May 2013. As a result of this approval NIHE issued the Formal Consultation 1st Notice to the tenants in Bloomfield Bungalows on Friday 17 May 2013; this consultation period will now be open until 21 June 2013 and will include a public meeting between staff from NIHE and Oaklee Housing Association and the tenants on Thursday 24 May. I understand invites for this meeting have been issued to elected representatives.

Following this consultation period any comments, queries and responses from tenants will be considered and the NIHE will then issue the Formal Consultation 2nd Notice which will include the papers for the tenant ballot. This second consultation period will last for 4 weeks from 5 July to 2 August 2013. Should the tenant vote outcome be in favour of the transfer the NIHE Board will ratify the result at its Board meeting in August 2013 and DSD will subsequently give its formal consent to transfer. The formal transfer to Oaklee Housing Association will then complete in September 2013 and the work to undertake the multi-element improvements will then commence.

Volunteer Now

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister for Social Development, in light of his recent announcement on funding changes for volunteer organisations, for his assessment of how the changes will impact on the work and services of Volunteer Now.

(AQW 23589/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I cannot comment on the work and services provided by any independent Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. What I can comment on is my funding changes for supporting volunteering activity in Northern Ireland.

By nearly doubling the resources being made available for the Volunteering Small Grants Programme, rising from £300k per year to £600k per year, I am making sure that resources are firmly directed to front line volunteering activity.

By significantly increasing the resources available to volunteering innovation projects , up from £300k per year to £500k per year, I am providing support to areas of volunteering such as sport , faith based and people with disabilities which have never received DSD support in the past.

While such rebalancing of resources will result in a reduction of financial support for Volunteering Infrastructure , down to £600k per year from £1.1m per year, I remain confident that this allocation is sufficient to meet the objective agreed by the NI Executive, namely the successful implementation of our first ever Volunteering Strategy.

Village, Belfast: Regeneration

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the regeneration of the Village area of South Belfast.

(AQO 4120/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The overall regeneration plan has progressed well. Most of the properties due to be demolished have been. Phases 1 and 2, totalling 87 new homes, are currently under construction. The first 10 houses in Phase 1 were handed over in March 2013 with the remaining 77 houses to be handed over in phases ending at Christmas 2013.

Phase 3 comprising 27 dwellings has been agreed and will be submitted for planning approval in the next few weeks and is scheduled to start in March 2014. The detailed scheme design for this final phase is currently being worked up in consultation with the local community, residents groups and the Housing Executive. The planning application for this phase will incorporate plans for an adjacent play park.

Fold Housing Association has also recently started to rehabilitate nine previously derelict properties in the area and has plans to rehabilitate a further 12 similar properties later this year. Grants for homeowners are being promoted in the area and the Housing Executive has installed new kitchens and double glazing to almost 150 of its properties in the area.

Welfare Reform: Advice

Mrs McKeivitt asked the Minister for Social Development what additional funding his Department has identified for those providing advice on welfare rights in anticipation of the expected changes to the benefits system.

(AQO 4121/11-15)

Mr McCausland: It is recognised that Welfare Reform will have a significant effect on claimants. A dedicated team has been set up within the Social Security Agency tasked with preparing, informing and supporting claimants, staff, stakeholders and the public through the forthcoming changes. The Social Security Agency provides comprehensive advice and support to claimants through an extensive network of services available at their nearest Jobs & Benefits Office and through the enhanced telephony service provided under Customer First.

Across the Social Security Agency network of offices and processing centres there are 447.27 Full Time Equivalent staff members in front-line and telephony roles who give advice and information to claimants as part of their roles. The Agency provides high quality, accurate, timely and consistent information and advice to claimants.

My Department has delivered annual benefit uptake programmes since 2005 using a range of evidence based approaches. These have included direct and indirect targeting, advertising and community outreach activities. Programmes to date have generated more than £50million in additional benefit for over 15,000 people. Last year saw outcomes which were more than three times that of the previous year with over £13.1m in new and additional benefits being generated for more than 4,000 mainly older people – an average of £60 per household benefiting.

In addition my Department provides substantial funding in the region of £4.5m annually to support voluntary advice services across the region. My officials are already working with the Northern Ireland Advice Service Consortium (the umbrella group that provides regional support for advice services in

Northern Ireland) to consider the potential impact of the Welfare Reforms and how best to support our claimants through the changes. The Northern Ireland Advice Consortium is required to monitor and provide robust evidence of any changing demand for advice services on the ground, thereby enabling my Department to make key decisions about resourcing levels and priorities as we move through the Welfare Reforms.

Houses in Multiple Occupation: Apartments

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development how many owner-occupied apartments have been inspected by the Housing Executive to check for compliance with Houses in Multiple Occupation legislation, where only a main front door and stairwell are shared.

(AQO 4122/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised me that they do not record the tenure type of the property on their Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) database and are therefore unable to identify those properties that are owner-occupied self contained flats/apartments.

Housing Executive: Insulation

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the insulation requirements placed on the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, when constructing and acquiring residential property.

(AQO 4123/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In responding to this question I would like in the first instance to point out that building requirements are not the responsibility of DSD and that the Housing Executive does not build new social housing and have not in fact done so since 1996.

All new build properties constructed by Housing Associations must comply with the standards laid down in the current Building Regulations.

For acquired properties, there is no requirement to upgrade on purchase to current Building Regulations standards; however if any significant refurbishment work is undertaken, Building Control may deem it necessary to improve the energy efficiency of the property to the current Building Regulations.

In addition, any Housing Association should consider the condition of its stock and comply with the Decent Homes Standard, particularly with regard to energy efficiency.

Housing Executive: Contracts

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development what procedures are in place to ensure that contractors tendering for Housing Executive contracts have the financial ability to complete the contract.

(AQO 4124/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations (2006) The Northern Ireland Housing Executive carries out checks of all contractors using the Government's Constructionline service. This service is provided to all UK public sector bodies to allow for financial and technical checks of contractors that may tender for government work.

Contractors tendering for Housing Executive work must either provide their Constructionline registration number and have 'active status', or, if they are not registered they must provide their last three years audited accounts. The Constructionline 'active status' is only given to contractors following a review of their annual accounts. Should they not submit their accounts on time, they are marked as 'suspended'.

The Housing Executive, when considering the financial status of a contractor, will only accept those that either have an 'active status' on Constructionline or if not registered, pass a full analysis of their company accounts. This process is fully accepted by the Construction Employers Federation. In addition, the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland which comprises the Government Construction Clients Group and the Construction Industry Group has also endorsed this process.

The Housing Executive considers that the process of using Constructionline is an appropriate tool for checking contractor's financial stability.

In addition, the Housing Executive also requires a contractor's annual turnover to be a certain percentage of the annualised contract value. This ensures that only those contractors with the appropriate financial capacity can win Housing Executive contracts.

Welfare Reform: Underoccupancy Penalty

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Social Development how many households in the South Belfast constituency will be affected by the under occupancy penalty within the Welfare Reform Bill.

(AQO 4125/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information by Parliamentary constituency. However, I can advise that the number of households within the Housing Executive's South Belfast District Office area that are estimated to be affected by under occupancy is 1,503.

Housing: Private Tenants

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the legislation that supports home owners who experience problems with tenants of privately rented accommodation in their area.

(AQO 4126/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Article 26 of the Housing (NI) Order 2003 introduced powers to allow the Housing Executive, Registered Housing Associations and private sector landlords to deal with anti-social behaviour by or affecting their tenants. These landlords can seek an injunction to restrain any individual over 18 from anti-social behaviour. Because the residential premises to which this Article applies include Housing Executive, housing association and private tenancies, there is no specific protection for persons in residential premises which are owner-occupied. However, an Article 26 injunction could be used by a landlord to prohibit a person from engaging in conduct likely to cause a nuisance or annoyance to a person in the locality of the landlord's premises, such as a neighbour, regardless of that neighbour's tenure (rented or owner-occupied).

Housing Executive: Redecoration Grants

Ms McCorley asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the criteria for redecoration grants to be awarded to Housing Executive tenants after having window and kitchen replacements.

(AQO 4127/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Housing Executive has advised that the main objective when replacing windows is to avoid as far as reasonably practicable unnecessary damage to the internal plastered reveals irrespective of how they may be finished. However, a redecoration payment will be made in relation to window replacements if the walling and the fronting into the room are damaged during the installation. In relation to kitchen replacements, there is almost always disruption to internal décor as there is usually rewiring involved and the tenant in these circumstances would be entitled to redecoration allowance for the kitchen.

The Housing Executive also advises that there may be cases where a higher rate of redecoration allowance can be considered. The qualifying criteria for the higher rate of redecoration allowances is as follows: -

All of the following criteria must be satisfied:

Community Based Schemes

There must be no community based schemes available to tenants to undertake the redecoration work. It is the responsibility of the District Manager to confirm if such a community based scheme is in existence and available for tenants and

Financial Hardship

The tenant(s) must be in receipt of a means tested benefit (e.g. Housing Benefit, Income Support etc.)
and

Capability

The tenant(s) must be considered to be of a disposition where it would be unreasonable to expect them to carry out the redecoration work, i.e.

- Tenants(s) must be aged 60 or older (both male and female) or
- Tenant(s) must have a disability

Reference to benefit entitlement may be made when considering if a tenant is deemed to have a disability. A tenant can be deemed to have a disability if he/she are in receipt of disability linked benefits: and

Non Dependent Household

Tenant(s) will not qualify for the higher rate of redecoration allowance if there is an able bodied person living in the household i.e. (persons between 18 and 59 inclusive and without a disability).

For joint tenants to receive the higher rate of redecoration allowance both tenants must fulfill the qualifying criteria.

Office's must pay the higher rate of redecoration allowance in situations where:

- The checking procedures failed to identify information which would have resulted in a higher rate being paid and
- The tenant can verify the necessary information.

In all instances when processing redecoration allowances Office's must check the Housing Management and Housing Benefit systems for details of:

- Means Tested Benefits
- Dates of Birth
- Disability Linked Benefits and
- Non dependents within the household.

Tenants / residents who meet the relevant criteria must be paid the higher rate. Offices must ensure in all instances that the maximum payment level for redecoration allowances (currently £770) is never surpassed.

Regional Infrastructure Programme: Woman

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the progress of the Regional Infrastructure Support Programme for the women's sector.
(AQO 4128/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Good progress is being made in terms of regional support for women in disadvantaged and rural areas. Interim arrangements are already in place to ensure the continued delivery of regional support pending the development of new arrangements geared to ensure a more collaborative approach and better quality services, which are planned to come into effect in October 2013. In support of this, the Department conducted research to identify the specific support needs of frontline women's organisations, thereby ensuring that their views were not overlooked. Going forward this research will inform key service delivery priorities under the new arrangements. All of the key organisations which expressed an interest in delivering the new arrangements are currently engaged in collective discussion to explore how they might work together collaboratively in delivering the new arrangements, so that scarce resources can be utilized effectively and that all women in disadvantaged/rural areas can receive the important support they need.

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