

# Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

**Friday 11 April 2014**

**Volume 94, No WA2**



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Byrne, Joe (West Tyrone)  
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Campbell, Gregory (East Londonderry)  
Clarke, Trevor (South Antrim)  
Cochrane, Mrs Judith (East Belfast)  
Copeland, Michael (East Belfast)  
Craig, Jonathan (Lagan Valley)  
Cree, Leslie (North Down)  
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Dobson, Mrs Jo-Anne (Upper Bann)  
Douglas, Sammy (East Belfast)  
Dunne, Gordon (North Down)  
Durkan, Mark (Foyle)  
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Fearon, Ms Megan (Newry and Armagh)  
Flanagan, Phil (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Ford, David (South Antrim)  
Foster, Mrs Arlene (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Frew, Paul (North Antrim)  
Gardiner, Samuel (Upper Bann)  
Girvan, Paul (South Antrim)  
Givan, Paul (Lagan Valley)  
Hale, Mrs Brenda (Lagan Valley)  
Hamilton, Simon (Strangford)  
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Hazzard, Chris (South Down)  
Hilditch, David (East Antrim)  
Humphrey, William (North Belfast)  
Hussey, Ross (West Tyrone)  
Irwin, William (Newry and Armagh)  
Kelly, Mrs Dolores (Upper Bann)  
Kelly, Gerry (North Belfast)  
Kennedy, Danny (Newry and Armagh)  
Kinahan, Danny (South Antrim)  
Lo, Ms Anna (South Belfast)  
Lunn, Trevor (Lagan Valley)  
Lynch, Seán (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Lyttle, Chris (East Belfast)  
McAleer, Declan (West Tyrone)

McCallister, John (South Down)  
McCann, Fra (West Belfast)  
McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)  
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McGimpsey, Michael (South Belfast)  
McGlone, Patsy (Mid Ulster)  
McGuinness, Martin (Mid Ulster)  
McIlveen, David (North Antrim)  
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McKay, Daithí (North Antrim)  
McKevitt, Mrs Karen (South Down)  
McKinney, Fearghal (South Belfast)  
McLaughlin, Ms Maeve (Foyle)  
McLaughlin, Mitchel (South Antrim)  
McMullan, Oliver (East Antrim)  
McNarry, David (Strangford)  
McQuillan, Adrian (East Londonderry)  
Maginness, Alban (North Belfast)  
Maskey, Alex (South Belfast)  
Milne, Ian (Mid Ulster)  
Morrow, The Lord (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Moutray, Stephen (Upper Bann)  
Nesbitt, Mike (Strangford)  
Newton, Robin (East Belfast)  
Ní Chuilín, Ms Carál (North Belfast)  
Ó hOisín, Cathal (East Londonderry)  
O'Dowd, John (Upper Bann)  
O'Neill, Mrs Michelle (Mid Ulster)  
Overend, Mrs Sandra (Mid Ulster)  
Poots, Edwin (Lagan Valley)  
Ramsey, Pat (Foyle)  
Ramsey, Ms Sue (West Belfast)  
Robinson, George (East Londonderry)  
Robinson, Peter (East Belfast)  
Rogers, Sean (South Down)  
Ross, Alastair (East Antrim)  
Ruane, Ms Caitríona (South Down)  
Sheehan, Pat (West Belfast)  
Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)  
Storey, Mervyn (North Antrim)  
Swann, Robin (North Antrim)  
Weir, Peter (North Down)  
Wells, Jim (South Down)  
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

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# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 11 April 2014

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### Good Relations Programme

**Mr McCarthy** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what impact the reform of local councils will have on the delivery of the Good Relations Programme.

**(AQO 5826/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister):** The reform of local councils offers a unique opportunity to bring good relations issues to the heart of council decision-making. We have already taken steps to align the district council's good relations programme to the strategic aims and objectives of the Together: Building a United Community strategy.

The strategy also commits to ensure that good relations issues are mainstreamed through the review of local government. This is being advanced through discussion with DOE and through the work of the Ministerial Panel.

In addition, OFMDFM is represented at senior official level on a cross-departmental working group to ensure that the community planning element of the reforms puts good relations at the centre of that process.

#### Vacancies and Agency Staff

**Mr Dallat** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in their Department, broken down by grade.

**(AQW 32573/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The position at 1 April 2014 within the Department is as follows:

Vacancies		Agency Staff	
Grade	Number	Grade	Number
Grade 5	2	DP Accountant	2
Grade 7	5	SO Accountant	1
DP	4	Information Officer	1
SO	2	Personal Secretary	1
E01	2	AO	2
SGB2	1	SGB2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

## Goods, Facilities and Services Legislation

**Mr Lyttle** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what are the implications of the legal opinion provided to the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People by Robin Allen QC and Dee Masters BL regarding Goods, Facilities and Services legislation.

**(AQW 32660/11-15)**

**Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness:** The Equality Commission and NI Commissioner for Children and Young People used the legal advice to produce a joint policy paper to make the case for strengthening the rights of children and young people against unlawful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services. Junior Ministers met recently with the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission and Robin Allen QC to discuss the proposed extension of age discrimination legislation to the provision of goods, facilities and services. We are still considering the scope of the proposed age discrimination legislation.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### Single Farm Payments: Farmers

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, as of 21 March 2014, how many farmers are awaiting their Single Farm Payments, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 32251/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development):** The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 98% of Single Farm Payment (SFP) claims finalised to date. The number of farmers awaiting their payments, broken down by constituency, is detailed in the table below.

Constituency	SFP 2013 Payments outstanding as of 21 March 2014
Belfast East	5
Belfast North	3
Belfast South	6
Belfast West	1
East Antrim	9
East Londonderry	54
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	243
Foyle	10
Lagan Valley	14
Mid Ulster	137
Newry and Armagh	62
North Antrim	157
North Down	4
South Antrim	12
South Down	36
Strangford	19

Constituency	SFP 2013 Payments outstanding as of 21 March 2014
Upper Bann	16
West Tyrone	128
No Constituency*	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>

The constituency information is drawn from the postcodes of businesses that submitted a Single Application Form in 2013.

\* The “No Constituency” figure represents businesses that either do not have a valid postcode recorded against their business or are businesses where the addresses held is outside the 18 constituencies listed above.

The number of outstanding claims across the north of Ireland has since reduced to 733.

### Events the Minister has Attended

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the percentage of events to which she was invited that she attended.

**(AQW 32252/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** As Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, I receive a substantial number of invites, some of which do not relate specifically to my portfolio. Officials provide advice on whether invites should be accepted or declined as appropriate.

In 2013, I received over 300 invitations and accepted 41% of them.

### Events the Minister has Attended

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail all the events she attended in 2013.

**(AQW 32253/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I have provided a detailed list of all events attended from January to December 2013 in the attached table, a copy of which has been placed in the Assembly Library.

### Animal Cruelty Cases

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she is considering a review of sentencing in animal cruelty cases, to seek stronger minimum and mandatory sentencing, following the sentences handed down in a recent cruelty case in Belfast.

**(AQW 32288/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The welfare of animals here is protected by the Welfare of Animals Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), which recognises that causing any animal unnecessary suffering is a very serious offence. To reflect this, it significantly increased the penalties from those that were available under the previous 1972 Act. The 2011 Act affords a high degree of protection to animals and I believe the penalties within it are appropriate.

However, for the 2011 Act to be effective it is important that the full range of sentences available for animal welfare offences is applied by the courts so that perpetrators of extremely serious offences receive a punishment that fits the crime. This will serve as a deterrent to others who may consider engaging in this type of abhorrent behaviour. Whilst I respect the decision of the Courts, I am disappointed that in the recent case in East Belfast the maximum penalties available were not applied.

I have been pressing for the Courts to give strong sentences for serious animal welfare offences for some time now. However, you will appreciate that sentencing within the legislative framework is a matter for the Judiciary and I understand that in making sentencing decisions, Judges take into account

the law, the seriousness of the offence, any aggravating or mitigating factors, sentencing guidelines and all the relevant circumstances in each case.

Following the East Belfast case, I have written to the Lord Chief Justice to highlight the public concern regarding the sentences in this case, given his responsibilities in relation to sentencing matters. I have also written to the Minister for Justice to ask him to specifically consider animal welfare offences, such as the recent dog fighting case in East Belfast, in any future review of the criteria under which the DPP may apply to the Court of Appeal for a review of an unduly lenient sentence. I will continue to highlight any future issues of this type to both the Lord Chief Justice and Minister for Justice.

The Assembly agreed on 31 March 2014 in response to a Private Member's Motion that the implementation of the 2011 Act, particularly as regards sentencing guidelines and practices, should be reviewed. I am currently considering what other action can be taken by my Department, in conjunction with the Department for Justice, to ensure that stronger sentences are handed down.

### **Driver and Vehicle Agency in Coleraine: Premises**

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she will consider moving her departmental headquarters to the premises that will be vacated by Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland in Coleraine, instead of the Ballykelly site.

**(AQW 32300/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** In September 2012, I announced Ballykelly as the preferred location for my departmental headquarters. I remain committed to this decision.

As I have outlined before I want to play my role, along with my Executive colleagues, to try and accommodate staff from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Coleraine to other areas. I have asked my Permanent Secretary to consider the ways in which my Department can help.

### **Landowners Renting Land in Conacre**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the exceptional circumstances in which landowners renting out land in Conacre will be able to establish entitlements on that land.

**(AQW 32307/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** CAP direct payments provide income support to farmers who are engaged in agricultural activity. They do not represent a payment simply for owning land or for renting it out in conacre. The return to the landowner in the case of the latter is via the rent.

The Direct Payments Delegated Act adopted by the European Commission on 11 March 2014 requires that payment entitlements to be issued under the new support regime will be allocated to the person enjoying decision-making power, benefits and financial risks in relation to the agricultural activity on the land for which an allocation is requested.

This provision has particular relevance for land let under conacre arrangements. In general terms, this means that in 2015, when all existing Single Farm Payment entitlements are abolished and new entitlements are established under the Basic Payment Scheme, landowners renting out land in conacre will not be able to establish entitlements on that land. Where land is let, the farmer actively farming the land will be the one claiming direct payments on that land.

The Department cannot be prescriptive concerning the circumstances under which landowners renting out land in conacre will be able to establish entitlements on that land. If a landowner wishes to make a case, the Department will investigate this and judge eligibility on a case-by-case basis against the principles set out in the Delegated Act. The onus will be on the applicants to prove that he or she meets the requirements of the Scheme.

The EU legislation (Delegated Act) will be confirmed within two months provided there is no objection from the European Parliament or the EU Council.



## Common Agricultural Policy

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps her Department is taking to ensure Common Agricultural Policy reforms are for the benefit of all sections of the local farming industry.

**(AQW 32308/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The process of reforming the Common Agricultural Policy has been ongoing for some time at both European and local levels. I and my officials have been fully involved in this throughout the last few years and have sought to keep stakeholders in the north of Ireland informed of progress through a range of different media, including presentations, correspondence, meetings, press articles and the DARD website.

My Department has held two separate public consultation exercises on CAP Reform, the second of which ran from October 2013 to 17 January 2014. That consultation set out the agreed Pillar I reform framework and options for implementing these reforms. It provided considerable analysis and outlined a suggested package of support to help focus the debate and sought views on that package. During the consultation period, my Department undertook and published additional analyses on the Department's website considering the impact by farm type on payments and income. During and after the consultation period, I have met personally with a range of organisations which represent all sections of the farming community. Officials also attended a large number of stakeholder meetings during, and indeed following, the consultation period right across the north and these meetings have been attended by around 3,000 people.

The Department received over 850 responses to the consultation exercise from organisations and individuals, which have been published on the DARD website and I am currently considering the responses to the consultation before coming to a position on the wide range of decisions which have to be taken.

## Local Fishing Industry

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what funding opportunities exist for the local fishing industry to organise a Boat Show to promote fishing as a worthwhile industry and highlight to the local community the importance of supporting the local fishing industry.

**(AQW 32309/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The European Fisheries Fund (EFF) remains open for applications and this may provide an opportunity to fund the proposed Boat Show to promote the fishing industry. However, it should be noted that this funding program is due to close for new applications at the end of June 2014. Another possible option may be to make an application to the Fisheries Local Action Group.

In order to ascertain the best route to make the prospective applicant should contact my Fisheries Grants Unit on 028 90378324 and also provide a brief written outline of the proposal.

## New Council Areas: Staff Commute

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of staff in her Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32317/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The NI Statistics and Research Agency, Department of Finance and Personnel, has provided the information for DARD staff by grade, including analogous grades travelling from the eleven new council areas to work locations in the Greater Belfast area. The details are provided in the table below.

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade										Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	Industrial	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0	1	3	12	11	7	5	6	2	0	47
Armagh, Bandbridge and Craigavon	0	1	5	16	7	6	9	3	0	0	47
Belfast	3	1	21	31	39	33	34	32	14	0	208
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	2	3	7	3	1	1	0	1	1	19
Derry and Strabane	0	1	3	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	9
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	2	3	7	1	0	0	0	0	13
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3	1	12	20	17	7	9	8	5	0	82
Mid and East Antrim	1	1	5	10	13	9	9	3	1	5	57
Mid Ulster	1	0	3	2	5	2	9	2	1	0	25
Newry, Mourne and Down	3	0	4	18	17	11	5	14	1	0	73
North Down and Ards	2	1	14	27	34	28	55	49	17	1	228
<b>Total *</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>865</b>

**Notes:**

\* Total includes 57 (6.6%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area.

Data is taken at 01 January 2014 from HRConnect database.

Number of staff does not include those seconded outside of the NICS or staff on a career break

As there is no definition for Greater Belfast, the above analysis calculates travel for NICS staff from the new council areas to The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA). The BMUA is defined in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (February 2005).

## Stray Dogs

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the number of stray dogs; and how this compares with number of licensed dogs.

**(AQW 32329/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** Dog control is provided for by the Dogs Order 1983, as amended by the Dogs (Amendment) Act 2011. Councils implement this legislation and provide statistics to my Department regarding its operation.

The number of dogs licensed and the number of stray dogs impounded by Councils from 2011 to 2013 are detailed in the table below. The number of stray dogs impounded as a percentage of the number of licensed dogs has declined from 5.6% in 2011 to 4.5% in 2013.

**Table – Dogs Licensed and Stray Dogs Impounded by Councils from 2011 to 2013**

Year	Dogs Licensed	Stray Dogs Impounded
2011	130,667	7,276
2012	123,034	6,252
2013	129,180	5,836

### Northern Ireland Civil Service Analogous Grades

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW 31662/11-15, to detail the approximate numerical breakdown of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Analogous Grades outlined between AA up to G5+ in the (a) current headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; and (b) initial 350 staff complement being moved to Ballykelly by the end of 2017. **(AQW 32357/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The breakdown of staff in the NI Civil Service Analogous Grades between AA up to G5+ currently working in DARD in Dundonald House and the posts identified in our planning assumptions as moving to Ballykelly by the end of 2017 is provided in the table below.

Analogous Grade	Number of staff in DARD HQ on 26 March 2014	Complement planned to move to Ballykelly by end of 2017
AO/AA - Admin	150	87
SO/EO1/EO11 - Executive	342	169
G6/G7/DP - Senior/Deputy/Principal	212	79
Senior Civil Servants (G5+)	18	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>350</b>

The table will be finalised following further detailed work on reviewing operating models and associated staff resources.

### Motions Debated in the Assembly

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that she has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that she has taken following any Motion that was passed. **(AQW 32423/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** I have responded to 20 Motions since March 2012 and a summary of the action taken is outlined below:-

<b>Assembly Motion/ Date Debated (from March 2012 to-date)</b>	<b>Action taken following a Motion that has been agreed by the Assembly.</b>
Dog Control – 13/3/2012	Legislative changes which came into operation on 9 April 2012:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations 2012; and</li> <li>■ The Dogs (Amendment) (2011 Act) (Commencement No 3) Order.</li> </ul> Guidance for Dog Owners was also published on the NI Direct website.
Welfare of Animals -20/3/2012	Legislative changes which came into operation on 2 April 2012:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2012; and</li> <li>■ The Welfare of Animals (Permitted Procedures by Lay Persons) Regulations 2012.</li> </ul>
Lough Neagh – 17/4/2012	An Interdepartmental Working Group on the future of Lough Neagh was established.
Animal Cruelty – 24/9/2012	I met with the Minister for Education and Minister of Justice. Subsequently, the Lord Chief Justice published new sentencing guidelines for magistrate's court in December 2013 covering animal cruelty, tail docking of dogs' tails and animal fighting.
Crisis in farming – 8/10/2012	I announced a reduction in the amount of modulation money taken from farmers' Single Farm Payment (SFP) in 2013, thus making an additional €19million (roughly £15million) available to farmers in their 2013 payments.
Docking of Working Dogs' Tails – 15/10/2012	Legislative change which came into operation on 1 January 2013:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Welfare of Animals Act (Docking of Working Dogs' Tails and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2012.</li> </ul>
Bovine Tuberculosis – 26/11/2012	My Department is engaged in work to implement the recommendations from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development's report on its review into bovine tuberculosis is ongoing. My officials provide regular progress updates to the Committee.
Single Farm Payments – 14/1/2013	My Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014.
Dog Breeding – 18/2/2013	Legislative changes which came into operation on 1 April 2013:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013; and</li> <li>■ The Dogs (Guard Dog Kennels) Regulations 2013.</li> </ul>
Forestry (Felling of Trees) – 7/5/2013	The Assembly approved the draft regulations. My Department made the 3rd Commencement Order of the Forestry (NI) Act 2010 and complementary regulations on 17 June 2014.

<b>Assembly Motion/ Date Debated (from March 2012 to-date)</b>	<b>Action taken following a Motion that has been agreed by the Assembly.</b>
Hill Farming – 20/5/2013	<p>Actions taken as a result of the debate include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Extension of Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowance (LFACA) for a further year (2014);</li> <li>■ Ongoing support from countryside management and agri environment schemes;</li> <li>■ Continued opportunities available under the current Rural Development Programme and from College of Agriculture, Food &amp; Rural Enterprise;</li> <li>■ Continued support from the Tackling Poverty and Social Isolation Framework;</li> <li>■ Successful negotiation of the Common Agriculture Policy regulations post 2013 ensuring flexibility at a regional level; and</li> <li>■ Development of a new Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) with a range of supports (including capital investment on farms) available to all farmers.</li> </ul>
Farm Incomes – 21/5/2013	<p>I detailed the actions taken during the debate. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bringing forward by three weeks, the payment of claims under the 2013 LFACA scheme (this scheme contributes around £25 million a year to farmers);</li> <li>■ Bringing forward payments under the Countryside Management Scheme by some five months;</li> <li>■ Introducing a hardship scheme to cover the cost of collection and disposal of fallen stock as well as providing a hardship payment to affected farmers.</li> </ul> <p>After the debate, in response to the emerging fodder shortage issues, I also introduced a fodder scheme to help farmers with the transport costs of bring fodder in from overseas.</p>
Single Farm Payments: Farm Inspections – 10/6/2013	<p>My Department delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with 90% of Single Farm Payment claims finalised in December 2013 and 96% of claims finalised in February 2014.</p>
Fishing: Aid Package – 17/6/2013	<p>Legislative change which came into operation on 2 September 2013:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Sea Fish Industry (Harbour and Landing Dues) Scheme (NI) 2013. The Scheme resulted in £408,307 being paid to 152 NI fishing boats.</li> </ul>
Plant Health and Tree Disease – 9/9/2013	<p>I accepted the recommendations in the Agriculture &amp; Rural Development Committee's position paper and these are being implemented.</p>

<b>Assembly Motion/ Date Debated (from March 2012 to-date)</b>	<b>Action taken following a Motion that has been agreed by the Assembly.</b>
Farm Safety Investment Scheme – 30/9/2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ During this debate I announced plans to extend Tranche 3 of the Farm Modernisation Programme (FMP) measure of the RDP 2007-13 to offer financial support to farm businesses that applied, but just missed out under the first allocation of FMP Tranche 3 funding.</li> <li>■ I announced the extension on 21 October 2013 following the allocation of additional funding from the 2014/15 Capital Reallocation exercise.</li> <li>■ A further £2.9m financial support has been awarded to an additional 1,125 farm businesses.</li> <li>■ Letters of Offer were issued in late 2013 and payments to farm businesses have now commenced.</li> <li>■ Work is ongoing to develop the next Rural Development Programme incorporating a focus on improving farm safety.</li> </ul>
Single Farm Payments – 26/11/2013	Additional resources have been made available in my Department at both Stage 1 and stage 2 of the Review of Decision process.
Remote sensing Inspections – 17/2/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ My Department is reviewing the issue of timing of notification letters to affected businesses;</li> <li>■ The Department is increasing the number of zones for inspection for 2014;</li> <li>■ DARD is continuing to work towards having all Remote Sensing cases processed by the end of April;</li> <li>■ The Department is working towards an earlier start to all inspections for 2014.</li> </ul>
Rural Communities – Key services – 24/2/2014	My Department has commenced work on developing proposals to strengthen rural proofing within government and identify new models to champion rural issues more effectively.

## Single Farm Payment: Agricultural Production Levels

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of whether the movement towards a flat rate of Single Farm Payment will impact on agricultural production levels. **(AQW 32478/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Single Farm Payment is a decoupled direct payment. As such, it is designed to have no direct influence on production levels. However, there may be indirect influences through wealth effects or by mitigating business risk. It is clear the move towards a flat rate payment regime will cause significant redistribution of support by altering the level of direct payment receipts that individual farmers receive. Therefore, the economists from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) were asked to carry out an assessment of the production impacts of moving to a flat rate payment.

The research by the AFBI Economists looked at a specific scenario where there would be a gradual move to a full flat rate support regime by 2019 and the results indicated that this had a minimal production impact on most agricultural sectors at the EU level. The sector most affected was the beef sector. The modelling results indicated that as a result of a move to flat rate support by 2019, beef cow numbers in the north of Ireland as a whole might fall by 1.5%, though the fall would be concentrated in the lowland and disadvantaged area (DA), with no significant change in the severely disadvantaged area (SDA). The impact on other sectors was found to be minimal. These results provide

reassurance that production levels are unlikely to change significantly as a result of moving to a flat rate support regime.

We can also look at evidence from other countries. In 2005, England chose to migrate towards a flat rate payment regime over eight years, and this has now been achieved without dramatic movements in production levels.

I will give careful consideration to these issues when coming to a view on our policy options under the CAP Reform agreement.

## **Super-Injunctions**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether at any time her Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

**(AQW 32488/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department has not funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in the north of Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

## **Bovine Tuberculosis**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the threat of Bovine Tuberculosis spreading to domestic animals; and to detail any prevention strategies she is pursuing.

**(AQW 32521/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** It is a legal requirement to notify all cases of TB infection whether in farmed animals or in pets to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

When my Department is notified of a case of bovine TB in a domestic animal it will inform local health authorities of the relevant details; and may also take appropriate disease control action if any cattle herds have been in proximity.

There have been two cats reported as infected with bovine TB in the north of Ireland to date. The first was in 2006 and the most recent case was confirmed this year. Appropriate public health advice was given as the risk for transmission was recognised as possible, although there have been no reports of spread to humans here.

You will be aware of a cluster of nine TB infected cats found in Berkshire, England. This is unusual as previous cases in cats have been sporadic. Twenty four close human contacts were screened and two were found to have active infection with bovine TB. Molecular analysis of the infection determined that the bacterial isolates are identical in both the cats and humans. In the absence of any other known risk factors, transmission of disease from the cats to humans is considered the cause.

Previously, whilst theoretically possible, the risk of cat to human spread was considered negligible. Following this cluster in Britain, the risk is assessed by the Public Health Authorities as very low.

Treatment of the disease is extremely difficult in cats and is likely to prolong the risk from any infected cat to humans. Cats may only be treated, once diagnosed with the disease, under a licence from my Department.

My Department's Veterinary Service has published an advisory leaflet for pet owners on the DARD website, 'Bovine tuberculosis in domestic pets - what this means for you', which is available at: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/leaflet-btb-domestic-pets.pdf>



## Bovine Tuberculosis

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps are being taken to prevent the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in animals.

**(AQW 32522/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** My Department has a robust EU Commission approved TB eradication programme in place 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.

This rigorous TB eradication programme remains a priority to ensure continued access to the export trade by our livestock and livestock products industry, which is worth over £1,000 million per year.

My Department provides generic TB disease control advice for all herdkeepers and provides specific advice to those who have a TB herd breakdown. The "Biosecurity Code for NI Farms" includes advice about reducing the risk that is posed by wildlife. The publication "TB in your Herd", which is issued to all herdkeepers who have a TB herd breakdown, also includes specific advice in relation to mitigating the risk of badgers spreading bovine Tuberculosis to cattle. We have also recently, with input from stakeholders, produced easy to understand leaflets entitled "Biosecurity Measures which help protect your herd against TB" and "Wildlife Biosecurity". 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 relevant to their farm business.

In addition to our EU approved TB eradication programme I will continue to invest in TB research, and learn from the outcome of research undertaken by other administrations, to enable us to refine our approach to TB in light of new scientific developments.

## Single Farm Payments: Outstanding Payments

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many outstanding Single Farm Payments have yet to be paid.

**(AQW 32864/11-15)**

**Mrs O'Neill:** The Department has delivered a record payment performance in 2013 with over 98% of Single Farm Payment (SFP) claims finalised to date. The number of claims yet to be finalised for any reason, including reasons outside the Department's control, is 595.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### Excellence for Disabled Equestrianism

**Mr Buchanan** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the assistance that has been provided, or that will be provided, to the Omagh Riding for the Disabled Project of Excellence for Disabled Equestrianism.

**(AQW 29523/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):** Under the Sport Matters Capital and Equipment Programme 2010/11, Omagh Riding for the Disabled Association was awarded £9,024 of exchequer funding from Sport NI to upgrade the flooring in their arena and to purchase equipment.

I visited Omagh Riding for the Disabled on Monday 22 July 2013 and agreed that DCAL would help the Organisation with the preparation of a business case for any future funding that may become available. This is currently progressing.



## European Programme FP7

**Mr Attwood** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the funds provided under the European Programme FP7 to (i) her Department; (ii) arm's-length bodies; and (iii) any third party in (a) 2010/11; (b) 2011/12; and (c) 2012/13 financial years.

**(AQW 31044/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department, through its ALBs has secured the following funds under FP7 as outlined in the table below:

Year	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Amount	22,214	207,667	198,109

## National Museums of Northern Ireland: Flags

**Mr Hussey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 25444/11-15, whether it is departmental policy that no flags are to be flown at any National Museums of Northern Ireland building; and if so, to detail (i) when was this policy announced; (ii) whether it had been the policy to fly the Union Flag on nominated days over the Ulster Museum; and (iii) whether this policy is in line with The Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000, particularly Regulation 2.

**(AQW 31063/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The flying of flags over National Museums' buildings is a policy matter for the Board of Trustees of the organisation.

## Preventative Spending

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what consideration she has given to the need for preventative spending within her departmental budget.

**(AQW 31810/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department's core objective is to use the arts, culture and leisure to promote equality and to tackle poverty and social exclusion. Preventative spending is key to achieving this objective by addressing disparities in educational and health outcomes through early interventions.

As you will appreciate, the Department and its Arm's Length Bodies are involved in a very wide range of activities. I have provided a number of examples of interventions and I hope these give a flavour of the important work my Department is engaged on. These are attached in Annex A.

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

## ANNEX A

Area	Background	Specific programmes
Sport	Objective is to encourage lifelong participation in sport with benefits for physical and mental well being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Active Communities</li> <li>■ Active schools</li> <li>■ Active 8</li> <li>■ Positive Children's coaching programme</li> <li>■ Suicide Prevention Awareness</li> <li>■ Football Governing Bodies educational and outreach programmes</li> </ul>

Area	Background	Specific programmes
Languages	Objective is to tackle lower educational and health outcomes for Deaf People.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Family Sign Language courses</li> <li>■ Sign language courses for children of Deaf Adults</li> <li>■ Leadership in the Community project to develop trained community leaders</li> </ul>
Museums	Objective is to promote science and general education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ STEM nursery programme</li> <li>■ Pre-school literacy project</li> </ul>
Libraries	Objective is to promote mental health – in conjunction with Lottery Fund.  Objective is to develop early learning skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Health in Mind</li> <li>■ Rhythm and Rhyme</li> </ul>
Arts	Objective is to increase employability, especially of disadvantaged young people.  Objective is to make art accessible to patients and residents in a wide variety of health and social care settings.  Objective is to address mental health needs of young people in deprived inner city areas.  Objective is to address isolation and loneliness and generally promote positive mental health among older people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Funding Creative Learning Centres to provide training in digital technologies</li> <li>■ Funding Arts Care Charity</li> <li>■ Funding participative community arts groups</li> <li>■ Arts and Older People Programme</li> </ul>

## Funding Provided to Disability Sports

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the funding provided to disability sports; and (ii) the percentage this represents as a total for all sports, in each of the last three years. **(AQW 31984/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** During the last three years up to 31 March 2013, Sport NI, an arms length body of my Department, has provided funding totalling £2,240,281 to disability sports. The details are broken down as follows:

Programme	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	Total £
Athlete Investment Programme	-	59,500	127,242	186,742
Sport Matters: Capital & Equipment	71,370	-	-	71,370
Awards for Sport	-	16,714	-	16,714
Building Sport	21,000	120,000	-	141,000
Pre Games Training Camps	5,000	5,000	-	10,000
Business Case Investment	214,585	766,187	818,843	1,799,615
Investing in Performance Sport	-	4,640	10,200	14,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>311,955</b>	<b>972,041</b>	<b>956,285</b>	<b>2,240,281</b>

The table below details the percentage these figures represent as a total for all sports:

	<b>2010/11 £</b>	<b>2011/12 £</b>	<b>2012/13 £</b>
Total Sport NI investment in Sport	21,110,144	20,295,344	20,591,668
Sport NI investment in Disability Sport	311,955	972,041	956,285
% of funding to Disability Sport	1.5%	4.8%	4.6%

In addition, Sport NI requires all funded capital projects to positively impact on opportunities for people with disabilities and achieve related targets. In 2013/14 this related to approximately £4m of capital investment that does not feature in the above figures or percentages.

### Support and Promotion of Hockey

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how her Department plans to support and promote hockey.

**(AQW 32109/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Responsibility for the promotion of hockey rests, in the first instance, with the Governing Body of the sport, Ulster Hockey.

I met recently with Ulster Hockey and heard of their plans to develop the sport. I have asked my officials and Sport NI to help Ulster Hockey as they develop their plans.

Sport NI has invested the following to support the development of the sport of hockey across the north of Ireland:

- £30,650 to enable Ulster Hockey to employ a Grassroots Participation Officer through to September 2014;
- Funding to District Councils via Active Communities to help to increase participation in sport and physical activity, which has seen over 7,000 people participate in hockey.
- During the period 2010/2014, £67,114 was provided for one full time Active Communities Hockey Coach employed by Ulster Hockey.
- Sport NI has agreed to invest £840,440 into Ulster Hockey through the Performance Focus Programme for the period 2013-2017.
- £33,612 was invested in Ulster Hockey under the International Sports Events Programme to support the Under 21's Mens Hockey Four Nations Tournament.

Ulster Hockey may be eligible to apply to the Active Clubs Programme, due to be launched before the end of April 2014, which has the potential to increase participation opportunities in hockey.

### Irish Football Association

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on when funding of £36.2m will be released to the Irish Football Association for Irish League Clubs to apply for capital projects.

**(AQW 32129/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The Executive previously endorsed the development of sub-regional stadia as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period.

As such, funding for infrastructure projects for soccer has still to be secured and no decision on timescale has yet been taken.

## European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

**Ms Ruane** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of whether the Assembly Commission's position that Commission Members are not able to respond to Assembly Written Questions in Irish is compliant with commitments under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

**(AQW 32164/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) does not have the same legal status as domestic legislation as it is an international convention designed to protect and promote regional or minority languages. The charter does not establish any individual or collective rights for the speakers of regional or minority languages.

## Football Stadia

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the business case for the £36.2m funding package for football stadia, including whether it has been presented to the Department of Finance and Personnel.

**(AQW 32259/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** My Department is giving consideration to the future facility needs for association football at sub-regional level.

The Executive previously endorsed the development of sub-regional stadia as a priority area of spend in the next CSR period. Therefore funding has still to be secured.

The Department will consider any options put forward, for my consideration and sign-off in due course. This will inform a Strategic Outline Case on the proposed programme, for submission to DFP and thereafter my Department will move to require specific business cases depending on the options that are identified.

## St. Paul's Amateur Boxing Club

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether approximately £56,000 has been allocated to St. Paul's Amateur Boxing Club to refurbish changing facilities which are owned by St. Paul's Gaelic Athletic Club, when St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club is due to move to other premises.

**(AQW 32351/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I understand that St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club has not informed Sport NI of any intentions to move from their current premises at St Paul's Gaelic Athletic Club.

The indicative award of £56,077 has been made to St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club and not the facility owner. Sport NI's award is for a number of capital works to improve the standard of facilities at the disposal to St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club. Due processes will be put in place to reflect that investments made by Sport NI through the Boxing Investment Programme and security of tenure/lease agreements by the club need to be in place to achieve good value for public money.

## Closure of the Library Headquarters in Ballynahinch

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the whereabouts of the Down Democrat newspaper archive following the closure of the library headquarters in Ballynahinch; and if she would give consideration to relocating the collection to Downpatrick Library.

**(AQW 32402/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Libraries NI has informed me that the Down Democrat newspaper archive was relocated from the former Ballynahinch Library Headquarters to the Newspaper library in Belfast Central Library when the building closed in June 2010.

There are 30 bound volumes of the newspaper now stored in Belfast Central's Newspaper Library where there is specialist industrial shelving which is necessary for the appropriate and safe storage of bound volumes of newspapers because of their size and weight.

Libraries NI has stated that there is insufficient space in the Heritage Gallery in Downpatrick Library for this type of shelving or for the amount of shelving that would be required. However, staff in Belfast Central's Newspaper Library are available to respond to requests for information from the Down Democrat newspaper if and when required.

### Foras na Gaelige: Income

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the projected income of Foras na Gaelige in (i) 2014; (ii) 2015; and (iii) 2016, broken down by source, including (a) government Departments in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; (b) earned income; and (c) all other sources. **(AQW 32411/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** The projected income from the Sponsor Departments for Foras na Gaeilge for 2014, 2015 & 2016 is shown in the table below. The amounts are indicative only and subject to the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel in the North, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in the South and the North South Ministerial Council.

The amounts projected take account of the minimum efficiency savings required by both Finance Departments over the next three years.

Projected income for 2014, 2015 and 2016 from the Sponsor Departments is shown in the table below:

Source	2014	2015	2016
DCAL	£3,418,843	£3,228,329	£3,099,196
DAHG	£10,098,652	£9,694,706	£9,306,918
DCAL (Colmcille)	£132,126	£136,840	£131,366
DAHG (Colmcille)	£108,717	£104,368	£100,193
DAHG (Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge)	£954,746	£916,556	£879,894
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,713,084</b>	<b>£14,080,799</b>	<b>£13,517,567</b>

Funding from sources other than the Sponsor Departments cannot be projected for 2014, 2015 and 2016 as no indicative figures are available from other Departments or their Arms Length Bodies. This will also be dependant what funding applications Foras na Gaeilge make to other bodies.

### Emerald Amateur Boxing Club

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether any funding has been allocated to Emerald Amateur Boxing Club; and if so, for what purpose. **(AQW 32465/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Emerald Amateur Boxing Club has been offered an indicative award of £14,652 from the Boxing Investment Programme. The indicative investment is aimed at priority areas identified in the independent building survey which was carried out on their current premises, namely:

- Replacing timber floor;
- Overhauling and cleaning of toilet facilities;
- Overhauling or replacing ceiling/wall mounted extract fans;
- Conducting health and safety testing and upgrade/repairs to emergency lighting;
- Replace/repair light switches and fittings.

However, I am aware that Emerald Amateur Boxing Club has verbally informed Sport NI that they will be moving to new premises and will not be accepting the indicative award.

### Sarsfields Gaelic Athletic Club

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether Sarsfields Gaelic Athletic Club will benefit from infrastructural improvements as a consequence of a funding offer to Emerald Amateur Boxing Club.

**(AQW 32466/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** Emerald Amateur Boxing Club has been offered an indicative award of £14,652 from the Boxing Investment Programme.

However, I am aware that Emerald Amateur Boxing Club has verbally informed Sport NI that they will be moving to new premises and will not be accepting the indicative award.

### Seamus Heaney Poetry Month

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether she will consider establishing an annual Seamus Heaney Poetry Month to honour the memory of the Nobel Laureate and promote local poetry.

**(AQW 32515/11-15)**

**Ms Ní Chuilín:** I support the concept of establishing a fitting memorial to acknowledge and celebrate Seamus Heaney's significant contribution to the arts. My Department is considering how this meaningful legacy can best be achieved, through ongoing consultation with the Heaney Family and the Arts Council

## Department of Education

### Closed Schools: Cost

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education to detail the costs incurred in each of the last three years associated with schools which have closed.

**(AQW 31885/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education):** Costs incurred in respect of schools that have closed will be met by different bodies, depending on the sector the particular school was in. Within the controlled sector such costs are met by the relevant Education and Library Board while in the Voluntary Grammar, Maintained and Grant-maintained Integrated sectors these costs are the responsibility of the school Trustees. Accordingly, I can only answer in respect of schools falling within the controlled sector.

Education and Library Boards have advised that the costs incurred by them relating to schools that have closed in the last three financial years are as follows:

Year	Costs Incurred
2010/11	£740,690.65
2011/12	£621,553.77
2012/13	£676,672.42

It should be noted that costs quoted above relate solely to building works i.e. security, maintenance, rates, health & safety issues and, where relevant, demolition. Other expenditure, such as staff costs, have been excluded;

The above costs also exclude schools which have closed but which are still being used for other educational purposes.

## Permanent Tree Preservation Orders

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Education what account his Department takes of the existence of Permanent Tree Preservation Orders on prospective sites for development before allocating funding.  
(AQW 32088/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The existence of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on prospective sites is not taken into account by my Department before the allocating of funding. Tree Preservation Orders would be taken on a case by case basis by the professional team responsible for the design of the project.

## St. Columb's College, Derry: School Enhancement Programme

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Education to detail the funding being allocated to St. Columb's College, Derry through the School Enhancement Programme.  
(AQW 32133/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** On 18 March 2014 I announced 51 projects to proceed in planning under the School Enhancement Programme, St. Columb's College, Derry was one of the projects included in this announcement.

The St Columb's College, Derry project consists of new build sports facilities and conversion of existing accommodation to a Drama Suite. It is estimated that this project will cost £2.2m, however his cost estimate has been based on an initial scoping exercise and cannot be confirmed until professional consultants have been appointed and design work undertaken. All figures may be subject to change.

## Temporary or Time-Limited Statement of Special Educational Need

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education (i) what provision is available for a temporary or time-limited statement of special educational need; (ii) the rationale for providing such a statement; (iii) how many children across each Education and Library Board area have such a statement; and (iv) for a breakdown of the specific reason for the temporary or time-limited statement by category.  
(AQW 32238/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Neither special educational needs (SEN) legislation nor the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of SEN make reference to either temporary or time-limited statements of SEN.

## Further Education Colleges: Entitlement Framework

**Mr Anderson** asked the Minister of Education to outline the amount of money Further Education Colleges have received under the Entitlement Framework since its introduction.  
(AQO 5882/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Schools are funded via the Local Management of Schools (LMS) arrangements to deliver their statutory obligations, including the revised curriculum. Since 2008, my Department has provided additional Entitlement Framework funding to schools as a contribution to the additional costs associated with applied courses delivered collaboratively between schools, with Further Education Colleges, and with Training Organisations.

Before the 2013/14 financial year, the contribution provided to schools in support of their collaboration with Further Education Colleges cannot be disaggregated from the funding provided through a formula calculation including other collaborative activity and development factors. The table below therefore sets out the total formula calculations provided to mainstream and special schools under the Entitlement Framework since 2008. As this covers more than Further Education collaboration it does not provide a direct comparison with the 2013/14 information, provided separately.

Year	Total formula calculation
2008/09	7.8m



Year	Total formula calculation
2009/10	7.9m
2010/11	8.8m
2011/12	8.4m
2012/13	8.1m

The total contribution provided to schools and used in support of courses delivered in collaboration with Further Education Colleges in 2013/14 was 6.2m.

### Teachers Qualified in the Republic of Ireland

**Mr Byrne** asked the Minister of Education what action he is taking to ensure that teachers who obtained their qualifications in the Republic of Ireland are recognised as qualified teachers in Northern Ireland.  
(AQW 32262/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Teachers who obtain their teaching qualification in the south of Ireland and want to work here need to register with the General Teaching Council (GTC). They can apply under the terms of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications ("the EC Directive") using the GTC's simplified registration process for teachers who qualified in the South. Under this process a teacher is required to provide a letter from the Teaching Council of Ireland (TCI) confirming that they hold an approved teaching qualification and are not currently restricted in any way. GTC also requires evidence of educational qualifications which are checked against the equivalent qualifications in the North. They also check that the applicant attended an accredited University.

The GTC and the TCI have met under the auspices of the North South Ministerial Conference (Education Sectoral Meeting), to review the issue of teacher mobility North and South. They reported that both Councils would work together to facilitate teacher mobility under the legislation and regulations that are in place in either jurisdiction and within the provisions of the Directive. The Councils continue to work together to make teacher mobility as easy as possible.

### Kilcooley and Clandeyboye Primary Schools

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Education for an update on the joint development proposals for Kilcooley and Clandeyboye Primary Schools.  
(AQW 32290/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** Development Proposals No. 243 and 244 published by the SEELB on 12 September 2013, propose to decrease the approved admissions and enrolment numbers at Kilcooley PS and Clandeboye PS with effect from 31 August 2014 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The 2-month objection period ended on 12 November 2013.

Officials have been gathering all pertinent information in relation to the proposals and are expected to conclude this work shortly. Once I have all this information before me I will make my decision as soon as practically possible.

### Former Balmoral High School

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 31631/11-15, to outline the ownership arrangements at the end of the PFI contract.  
(AQW 32291/11-15)

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Belfast Education and Library Board, as the contracting authority, will have ownership of the former Balmoral High School premises at the end of the PFI contract.



## Programmes Funded by the British Council

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 30867/11-15, what plans his Department has to increase the number of schools involved in international programmes through the British Council.  
**(AQW 32292/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department is keen to support the British Council in providing their International Education programmes to schools and is presently engaged with the British Council to identify ways that my Department can support the British Council in promoting these programmes. This includes working with the British Council to identify existing schools with an interest in International education and to identify the benefits gained from this with a view to enabling schools to promote and share their experiences with other schools.

The British Council is in the process of establishing a steering group and my Department will be represented. The Steering Group will discuss specific issues relating to the Erasmus+ programme, and its delivery in England, Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland.

An Assistant Chief Inspector of the Education and Training Inspectorate, on behalf of the Department of Education, gave the keynote presentation on "The International Dimension in Education" at a British Council conference on 26 February 2014 to an audience of principals and teachers. The presentation outlined the benefits to pupils, to schools and their communities, and to north of Ireland companies, of having an international dimension threaded through the pupils' learning.

The policy framework in respect of the Curriculum falls under the raising standards agenda and Every School a Good School. International education combined with the experience of international programmes, supports good quality teaching and learning by helping to develop and improve teaching, learning and educational outcomes, while also supporting the delivery of the curriculum through areas such as Global Citizenship, Languages and ICT.

## Programmes Funded by the British Council

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 30867/11-15, under which policy framework will this work take place.  
**(AQW 32293/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** My Department is keen to support the British Council in providing their International Education programmes to schools and is presently engaged with the British Council to identify ways that my Department can support the British Council in promoting these programmes. This includes working with the British Council to identify existing schools with an interest in International education and to identify the benefits gained from this with a view to enabling schools to promote and share their experiences with other schools.

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An Assistant Chief Inspector of the Education and Training Inspectorate, on behalf of the Department of Education, gave the keynote presentation on "The International Dimension in Education" at a British Council conference on 26 February 2014 to an audience of principals and teachers. The presentation outlined the benefits to pupils, to schools and their communities, and to north of Ireland companies, of having an international dimension threaded through the pupils' learning.

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## Common Funding Formula: Schools with High Free Meals Uptake

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education to list the additional funding, outside the Common Funding Formula, which he currently allocates to schools with high free meals uptake.

**(AQW 32295/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** In 2013-14 £12.048m was allocated outside the common funding formula to schools with high free meals uptake. This related to the Extended Schools Initiative and the criteria for allocation to schools included having a Free School Meal Entitlement of 37% or higher.

## Pupil Teacher Ratios

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many additional teachers would be employed if Pupil Teacher Ratios in each sector reflected best practice in the UK and Ireland.

**(AQW 32296/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education does not set a limit on pupil/teachers ratios (PTR). While the Department collates statistics on the overall PTR each year, this is at a whole school level, not at individual class level.

Your question infers that best practice information is available for other regions of the UK and Ireland. While the Department is aware that other regions have, like the north of Ireland, class size policy in place, officials are not aware of any limits set for PTR.

DE policy gives schools as much autonomy as possible and it is a school's Board of Governors that has responsibility for determining their school's staffing complement and for managing the school's education budget. The Department does not employ teachers, individual employing authorities do. It is a matter for the Board of Governors for individual schools to determine the staffing levels for their school on an annual basis.

## Capital Spend in Fermanagh

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Education to detail the capital spend by his Department in Fermanagh in each of the last ten years, broken down by school.

**(AQW 32299/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Information is only readily available in the requested format for the last seven years.

The attached table provides details of capital spend in Fermanagh for this period, broken down by school.

School	2006/07 £'s	2007/08 £'s	2008/09 £'s	2009/10 £'s	2010/11 £'s	2011/12 £'s	2012/13 £'s
Kesh PS	0.00	863.00	22,529	1,276	0	4,960	0
Moat PS	109,984	29,427	22,895	15,547	25,333	17,894	15,730
Belleek PS	334.00	0	4,027	95,197	7,880	4,703	29,792
Aghadrumsee PS	11,168	0	4,355	5,760	84.00	23,868	23,151
Newtownbutler PS	0	3,357	29,419	4,817	822.00	41,055	7,649
Florencecourt PS	10,979	22,982	45,409	29,529	20,339	28,387	5,519
Ballinamallard PS	200,047	11,943	22,348	33,916	23,549	9,109	30,704

<b>School</b>	<b>2006/07 £'s</b>	<b>2007/08 £'s</b>	<b>2008/09 £'s</b>	<b>2009/10 £'s</b>	<b>2010/11 £'s</b>	<b>2011/12 £'s</b>	<b>2012/13 £'s</b>
Brookeborough PS	8,770	19,441	8,605	13,653	2,879	29,381	17,962
Derrygonnelly PS	0	0	4,057	1,119	0	0.00	0.00
Jones Memorial PS	131,089	42,910	19,277	35,850	18,977	28,089	13,968
Tempo PS	0	0	21,788	10,057	9,425	15,104	346,675
Maguiresbridge PS	3,691	375	46,255	8,688	16,281	9,019	29,518
Irvinestown PS	20,617	375	69,156	3,631	14,776	3,686	2,640
Enniskillen Model PS	17,173	28,449	4,912	8,269	13,520	83,880	52,462
Lack PS	19,052	50	23,987	26,452	79,506	21,303	0
Lisbellaw PS	29,204	33	715.00	75,985	0	15,405	19,395
St Patrick's PS, Mullanaskea	65,817.79	863.39	0.00	22,167.52	68,442	0	17,461
Tattygar PS	80,695	22,684	10,324.83	16,279.68	5,823.89	0.00	0.00
St Tierney's PS	0	0	0	2,676	507.55	2,400	7,432.08
St Mary's PS, Newtownbutler	0	16,487	67,832	0	146,996.02	56,165.84	7,647.07
St Patrick's PS, Derrygonnelly	1,395.88	20,723.49	0	10,284	0	1,272.79	0
St Mary's PS, Brookeborough	3,527.17	24,538	36,534	12,394.15	2,271	0	3,467
St Ninnidh's PS	32,525	18,280	39,466	80,331	0	0	38,185.79
St Mary's PS, Killesher	14,860	1,583.64	7,004.12	73,467	23,674	0	2,104
St John the Baptist PS	1,632	1,583	24,899.71	2,440.22	67,273.86	244	20,337
St Mary's PS, Mullymesker	55,708.24	0	85,500	3,233.96	32,627	0	768.60
St Mary's PS, Maguiresbridge	245,298.55	81,107	20,439.12	0	2,310.33	0	0
Killyhommon PS	87,470	12,053	41,912.52	95,154.84	853.43	2,500	0
St Paul's PS	0	8,251.75	0	41,302	24,971.52	1,027.78	0
St Ronan's PS	87,939.47	159,951	17,470.85	0	14,578	237	82,752.14
St Joseph's PS, Ederney	0	40,682	49,052	28,771.80	211.28	2,203	370

<b>School</b>	<b>2006/07 £'s</b>	<b>2007/08 £'s</b>	<b>2008/09 £'s</b>	<b>2009/10 £'s</b>	<b>2010/11 £'s</b>	<b>2011/12 £'s</b>	<b>2012/13 £'s</b>
St Naile's PS	0	0	52,203.28	38,598.66	68,222.11	233,172.65	18,932.34
St Martin's PS	3,035.28	15,590	2,193	3,622.50	5,759.93	33,023	1,738
St Joseph's PS, Donagh	24,197.05	442.77	18,432.57	0	0	7,200	279,271
St Mary's PS, Teemore	24,435	9,285.95	33,999	0	6,457.80	1,897.34	0
St Columban's PS	23,637.79	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Davog's PS	184.78	2,379.94	0	0	7,352	40,660	2,590.76
St Mary's PS, Tempo	1,758.25	0	8,812.50	0	12,816.78	2,487	35,908
Holy Trinity PS	4,332.87	14,054.24	10,734.08	130,252	14,863.95	0	0
St Macartan's PS	24,875	0	10,178	34,518	1,880	1,524,134	315,632
Bunscoil an Traonaigh	0	14,476	13,692.50	1,995	0	0	0
Enniskillen Integrated PS	793,829	1,689,987.36	101,165.35	156,977.92	1,140	1,200	4,369.10
Enniskillen Nursery	16,617	4,933	3,878	4,734	575	36,313	103,846
Lisnaskea High School	40,918	3,600	13,378	55,028	15,573	22,892	808.00
Devenish College	566,009	6,055	160,924.71	155,829	35,949	182,588	156,482
St Mary's High School	14,314	0	0.00	7,864.87	22,325	0	0
St Fanchea's College	368,468	289,018	47,165	81,596	19,115	155,013	0
St Joseph's College	616.00	70,719	22,105.21	114,177.91	12,628	168,307.08	38,629
St Mary's College	25,622	21,503.65	0	0.00	65,681.66	52,043	0
St Aidan's High School	4,384.93	9,078	0.00	68,814.49	90,087	352,988.91	47,379
St Eugene's College	8,102.37	24,074	83,078.69	1,069.77	8,404.27	1,728	0
St Comhghall's College	85,069.60	57,925.76	175,111.39	48,710.90	400,482.01	70,147.99	33,809
Erne Integrated College	336,003.57	99,635.05	6,837	544,938.96	67,229.96	4,200	8,181

<b>School</b>	<b>2006/07 £'s</b>	<b>2007/08 £'s</b>	<b>2008/09 £'s</b>	<b>2009/10 £'s</b>	<b>2010/11 £'s</b>	<b>2011/12 £'s</b>	<b>2012/13 £'s</b>
Erne Special School	9,226	29,892	10,057	57,569	29,913	53,015	68,109
Elmbrook Special School	7,290	42,673	5,876	22,569	40,236	72,482	2,398
Collegiate Grammar School	42,990	21,359	60,334	28,068	4,407	25,062	8,186
Mount Lourdes Grammar School	1,510,859.44	3,464,321.78	2,441,981.38	238,581.24	267,776.23	107,618.33	16,624
Portora Royal School	9,554.10	112,945.20	14,529.24	44,525.75	17,523.91	130,810.17	7,646
St Michael's College	56,393.59	168,313.47	355,186.66	324,459.91	26,781.16	319,587	32,307
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,241,699.72</b>	<b>6,741,254.44</b>	<b>4,402,021.71</b>	<b>2,922,749.05</b>	<b>1,867,090.65</b>	<b>4,000,462.88</b>	<b>1,958,534.88</b>

## Physical Activity and Academic Achievement

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Education what studies have been undertaken into the links between increased physical activity and academic achievement in (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools.

**(AQW 32370/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** While the Department of Education has not commissioned any studies into the links between increased physical activity and academic achievement the Department is aware of other research in this area.

For example, the Sport and Recreation Alliance (SRA), the umbrella body for sport and recreation in England, Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland which represents more than 300 member organisations such as The Football Association, the Rugby Football Union, British Athletics, the Ramblers, British Rowing and the Exercise Movement and Dance Partnership, undertook a comprehensive literature review on the subject. This review indicates that physical activity increases cellular components which (amongst other things) support the systems in the brain that are responsible for learning, decision making and memory. Being more active can also lead to increased self-esteem through the accomplishment of physical achievements. This can help children to develop motivation and determination – skills which are particularly useful in acquiring new information for passing exams.

The Department does recognise the importance of physical activity to our young people hence Physical Education is a mandatory element of the revised curriculum through all key stages of compulsory education.

## C2K Services

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Education what level of training has been given to teaching staff in the use of C2K services, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 32446/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** C2k has confirmed that the number of teaching staff who have attended C2k training courses in the last three years has been:

<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
3,696 (1140 VC)	3,592 (200 VC)	2,895 (190 VC)

The figures in brackets indicate the number of staff who accessed training via, or in, Elluminate video-conferencing and the figure for 2011/12 is high as this was the initial training year. In terms of the video-conferencing training it should also be noted that the vast majority would have been teachers, however a proportion would have been admin or ICT technicians.

Staff also have access to online training as there are a number of learning videos available to schools within the C2k Learning Exchange. These short videos offer instruction on aspects of the new service and are available to schools within the Fronter online learning platform.

Increased training is planned to help embed the new C2k services. Information on all available training is communicated to school Principals who are then responsible for nominating staff as they deem necessary.

### **C2K 0870 Helpdesk Telephone Number**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Education what rate schools are charged when contacting the C2K 0870 helpdesk telephone number.

**(AQW 32447/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The decision on a telephony provider, and contract with that provider, is a matter for each school and consequently charges will vary and it is not possible to know what rates schools are charged for calls to the C2k Helpdesk.

Ofcom's guide to call charges states that some providers now include calls to 0845 and 0870 numbers in call packages, making them free at certain times of the day.

### **Children that left Post-Primary Education**

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of children, broken down by school, that left post-primary education in years (i) 13; and (ii) 14 in the last academic year.

**(AQW 32460/11-15)**

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

#### **Number of pupils leaving the post primary education system from schools with a post 16 provision 2011/12**

<b>School</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>(i) Year 13 School Leavers</b>	<b>(ii) Year 14 School Leavers</b>
Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School	Newry	*	107
Antrim Grammar School	Antrim	7	95
Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School	Belfast	*	114
Ashfield Boys' High School	Belfast	*	40
Ashfield Girls' High School	Belfast	6	49
Assumption Grammar School	Ballynahinch	5	133
Ballycastle High School	Ballycastle	7	23
Ballyclare High School	Ballyclare	6	139

<b>School</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>(i) Year 13 School Leavers</b>	<b>(ii) Year 14 School Leavers</b>
Ballyclare Secondary School	Ballyclare	19	52
Ballymena Academy	Ballymena	8	162
Banbridge Academy	Banbridge	*	184
Banbridge High School	Banbridge	14	34
Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Bangor	30	95
Bangor Grammar School	Bangor	10	116
Belfast Boys' Model School	Belfast	33	49
Belfast High School	Newtownabbey	*	112
Belfast Model School For Girls	Belfast	30	62
Belfast Royal Academy	Belfast	13	193
Bloomfield Collegiate	Belfast	5	89
Cambridge House Grammar School	Ballymena	*	132
Campbell College	Belfast	24	88
Carrickfergus College	Carrickfergus	9	55
Carrickfergus Grammar School	Carrickfergus	16	95
Castleberg High School	Castleberg	8	33
Christian Brothers School	Belfast	41	70
Christian Brothers' Grammar School	Omagh	8	128
City Armagh High School	Armagh	5	6
Colaiste Feirste	Belfast	11	58
Coleraine Academical Institution	Coleraine	13	69
Coleraine College	Coleraine	8	15
Coleraine High School	Coleraine	*	106
Collegiate Grammar School	Enniskillen	0	68
Cookstown High School	Cookstown	9	74
Corpus Christi College	Belfast	28	27
Cross and Passion College	Ballycastle	11	67
Cullybackey High School	Ballymena	6	30
Dalriada School	Ballymoney	9	108
De La Salle College	Belfast	63	73
De La Salle High School	Downpatrick	*	15
Dean Maguirc College	Omagh	0	29
Devenish College	Enniskillen	19	43

<b>School</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>(i) Year 13 School Leavers</b>	<b>(ii) Year 14 School Leavers</b>
Dominican College	Portstewart	*	64
Dominican College, Belfast	Belfast	11	120
Down High School	Downpatrick	5	135
Downshire School	Carrickfergus	11	34
Dromore High School	Dromore	*	0
Drumglass High School	Dungannon	*	14
Drumragh College	Omagh	5	44
Dunclug College	Ballymena	8	29
Edmund Rice College	Newtownabbey	35	25
Erne Integrated College	Enniskillen	15	30
Fivemiletown College	Fivemiletown	7	43
Fort Hill College	Lisburn	7	41
Foyle & Londonderry College	Derry	17	113
Friends' School	Lisburn	*	129
Glastry College	Newtownards	5	30
Glengormley High School	Newtownabbey	59	69
Glenlola Collegiate	Bangor	17	127
Grosvenor Grammar School	Belfast	6	143
Hazelwood College	Newtownabbey	52	55
Holy Cross College	Strabane	14	92
Holy Trinity College	Cookstown	15	106
Hunterhouse College	Belfast	12	96
Immaculate Conception College	Derry	12	*
Integrated College Dungannon	Dungannon	12	31
Kilkeel High School	Newry	9	60
Lagan College	Belfast	8	96
Larne Grammar School	Larne	*	94
Larne High School	Larne	16	24
Laurelhill Community College	Lisburn	13	54
Limavady Grammar School	Limavady	17	108
Limavady High School	Limavady	10	53
Lismore Comprehensive School	Craigavon	20	111
Lisnagarvey High School	Lisburn	10	19



<b>School</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>(i) Year 13 School Leavers</b>	<b>(ii) Year 14 School Leavers</b>
Lisneal College	Derry	18	43
Little Flower Girls' School	Belfast	33	56
Loreto College	Coleraine	*	95
Loreto Grammar School	Omagh	6	123
Lumen Christi College	Derry	*	110
Lurgan College	Craigavon	*	101
Magherafelt High School	Magherafelt	*	40
Malone Integrated College	Belfast	13	55
Methodist College	Belfast	7	256
Monkstown Community School	Newtownabbey	*	12
Mount Lourdes Grammar School	Enniskillen	*	141
New-Bridge Integrated College	Banbridge	*	48
Newry High School	Newry	10	51
Newtownbreda High School	Belfast	7	39
North Coast Integrated College	Coleraine	7	36
Oakgrove Integrated College	Derry	10	56
Omagh Academy	Omagh	*	75
Omagh High School	Omagh	8	32
Orangefield High School	Belfast	9	17
Our Lady and St Patrick's College	Belfast	*	176
Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School	Belfast	22	31
Our Lady's Grammar School	Newry	*	120
Portadown College	Craigavon	13	186
Portora Royal School	Enniskillen	11	59
Priory College	Holywood	*	27
Rainey Endowed School	Magherafelt	*	89
Rathmore Grammar School	Belfast	*	180
Regent House School	Newtownards	18	157
Sacred Heart College	Omagh	32	89
Sacred Heart Grammar School	Newry	*	125
Shimna Integrated College	Newcastle	6	45
Slemish College	Ballymena	5	54
Sperrin Integrated College	Magherafelt	*	29

<b>School</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>(i) Year 13 School Leavers</b>	<b>(ii) Year 14 School Leavers</b>
St Brigid's College	Derry	27	38
St Catherine's College	Armagh	13	136
St Cecilia's College	Derry	11	94
St Ciaran's High School	Dungannon	7	68
St Colm's High School	Magherafelt	*	26
St Colm's High School	Belfast	30	45
St Colman's College	Newry	14	132
St Colman's High School	Ballynahinch	20	34
St Columb's College	Derry	38	162
St Columbanus' College	Bangor	19	45
St Comhghall's College	Enniskillen	*	26
St Dominic's High School	Belfast	*	132
St Eugene's College	Enniskillen	*	6
St Fanchea's College	Enniskillen	*	13
St Gemma's High School	Belfast	10	18
St Genevieve's High School	Belfast	26	82
St Joseph's Boys' School	Derry	24	58
St Joseph's College	Belfast	21	40
St Joseph's College	Enniskillen	*	21
St Joseph's College	Coleraine	8	29
St Joseph's Grammar School	Dungannon	0	74
St Joseph's High School	Newry	5	38
St Killian's College	Ballymena	14	86
St Louis Grammar School	Ballymena	5	124
St Louis Grammar School	Kilkeel	7	81
St Louise's Comprehensive College	Belfast	16	184
St Malachy's College	Belfast	10	115
St Malachy's High School	Castlewellan	37	72
St Mark's High School	Newry	17	67
St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School	Belfast	6	132
St Mary's College	Derry	17	85
St Mary's College	Ballymena	8	16
St Mary's Grammar School	Magherafelt	*	137

<b>School</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>(i) Year 13 School Leavers</b>	<b>(ii) Year 14 School Leavers</b>
St Mary's High School	Downpatrick	15	33
St Mary's High School	Newry	*	53
St Mary's Limavady	Limavady	36	45
St Michael's College	Enniskillen	7	98
St Michael's Grammar	Craigavon	6	136
St Patrick's Academy	Dungannon	8	182
St Patrick's Co-ed Comprehensive College	Maghera	12	140
St Patrick's College	Belfast	56	38
St Patrick's College	Derry	6	24
St Patrick's College	Ballymena	25	31
St Patrick's College	Banbridge	*	20
St Patrick's College	Dungannon	13	32
St Patrick's Grammar School	Downpatrick	13	89
St Patrick's Grammar School	Armagh	13	91
St Patrick's High School	Lisburn	*	26
St Patrick's High School	Keady	17	112
St Paul's High School	Newry	30	114
St Peter's High School	Londonderry	21	0
St Pius X College	Magherafelt	*	77
St Rose's High School	Belfast	6	40
Strabane Academy	Strabane	9	52
Strangford Integrated College	Carrowdore	11	32
Strathearn School	Belfast	0	97
Sullivan Upper School	Holywood	*	143
The Royal Belfast Academical Institution	Belfast	11	118
The Royal School Armagh	Armagh	*	92
The Royal School Dungannon	Dungannon	11	94
Thornhill College	Derry	*	187
Ulidia Integrated College	Carrickfergus	*	35
Victoria College	Belfast	8	107
Wallace High School	Lisburn	9	149
Wellington College	Belfast	11	86

**Source:** School Leavers Survey

**Notes:**

1. \*denotes fewer than 5 pupils
2. The information is sourced from the school leavers survey which collects the qualifications and destinations of all pupils leaving grant aided mainstream post primary schools. The information relates to those pupils leaving the education system and does not include those transferring to other schools.
3. Data excludes special and independent schools.
4. School leaver information for the 2012/13 year will be published in May 2014.

**Motions Debated in the Assembly**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

**(AQW 32481/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Assembly Library.

**Super-Injunctions**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Education whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

**(AQW 32486/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education has not at any time funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

**Pupil Places: Primary Schools in Upper Bann**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Education for an estimate of the number of pupil places each primary school in Upper Bann will require in each of the next two academic years.

**(AQW 32533/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The approved Primary 1 admissions numbers of the schools in the Upper Bann constituency for the 2014/15 school year, are set out in the table below.

Ref	School	Approved Admissions
5010992	Lurgan Model Primary School	28
5011124	King's Park Primary School	94
5011127	Carrick Primary School	60
5011129	Hart Memorial Primary School	60
5011165	Rich Mount Primary School	20
5011174	Birches Primary School	23
5011189	Edenderry Primary School	57
5011190	Tullygally Primary School	30
5011594	Abercorn Primary School	60
5011596	Gilford Primary School	25

<b>Ref</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Approved Admissions</b>
5011598	Waringstown Primary School	56
5011602	Bleary Primary School	21
5011651	Milltown Primary School	12
5011664	Scarva Primary School	14
5011687	Maralin Village Primary School	41
5013019	Edenderry Primary School	60
5016007	Millington Primary School	95
5016065	Dickson Primary School	30
5016080	Drumgor Primary School	54
5016117	Ballyoran Primary School	57
5016138	Bocombra Primary School	46
5016178	Donacloney Primary School	37
5016543	Moyallon Primary School	29
5031103	Tannaghmore Primary School	87
5031107	St Teresa's Primary School, Mountnorris	7
5031164	St Mary's Primary School, Dungannon	18
5031168	St Patrick's Primary School, Lurgan	35
5031184	St Anthony's Primary School, Legahory	83
5031667	St Patrick's Primary School, Magheralin	18
5031669	St John's Primary School, Craigavon	25
5033324	St Patrick's Primary School, Craigavon	25
5036006	St Mary's Primary School, Craigavon	21
5036009	St Mary's Primary School, Lurgan	17
5036043	St Mary's Primary School, Banbridge	58
5036101	St Brendan's Primary School, Moyraverty	81
5036173	St John The Baptist Primary School, Portadown	71
5036400	St Colman's (Bann) Primary School	19
5036457	St Francis' Primary School , Aghderg	25
5036586	Presentation Primary School, Portadown	42
5036633	St Francis Primary School, Lurgan	106
5046137	Seagoe Primary School	36
5066540	Bridge Integrated Primary School	58
5066553	Portadown Integrated Primary School	29

Admissions numbers are unlikely to change from one year to the next unless there has been a change to the teaching accommodation as a result of an approved Development Proposal.

The admissions process for intakes in September 2014 is currently ongoing and data on the actual number of admissions to these schools is not yet known.

### Appointments to Public Bodies

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education how many appointments to public bodies his Department made in the last twelve months.

**(AQW 32539/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014 a total of 18 Ministerial appointments (broken down in the table below) have been made to public bodies sponsored by my Department:

Public Body	Total
Belfast Education and Library Board	4
North Eastern Education and Library Board	1
Western Education and Library Board	1
Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	10
Middletown Centre for Autism	2
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>18</b>

### Vacancies and Agency Staff

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in his Department, broken down by grade.

**(AQW 32571/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The 'approved to fill' vacancies in the Department of Education as at 1 April 2014 are as follows:

No	Grade
1	AA
2	AO
1	E02
1	E01
2	S0
2	S0 Auditor
1	DP
4	G7

Agency placements in the Department of Education as at 1 April 2014 are as follows:

No	Grade
3	AA
5	AO

No	Grade
2	SO Acct
1	SO Translator

## Physical Education in Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Education to detail the average weekly time set aside in the school curriculum for physical education in (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools.

**(AQW 32584/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** While Physical Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils at every Key Stage from the ages of 4 to 16, legislation governing the revised curriculum prevents the Department from prescribing the amount of time to be allocated to any particular subject. The Department of Education has however issued guidance to schools recommending a minimum of two hours PE per week.

In terms of available data on PE provision, part of the Department of Education's contribution to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Sports Strategy includes work to establish a baseline for the number of children of compulsory school age participating in a minimum of two hours quality per week physical education. Stage 1 of this work, an electronic survey of schools, has been completed and a copy of the survey report dated October 2012 is available on the DE website at [http://www.deni.gov.uk/de1\\_12\\_79109\\_\\_electronic\\_pe\\_survey\\_-\\_final\\_report\\_october\\_2012.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/de1_12_79109__electronic_pe_survey_-_final_report_october_2012.pdf). Stages 2 and 3 involve follow-up visits to schools by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) – the timescale for these visits has yet to be decided.

## Careers Education Staff

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many post primary schools do not have in house careers education staff.

**(AQW 32585/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not formally record information on the number of careers teachers in schools.

Careers education is part of the statutory curriculum under the Learning for Life and Work Area of Learning. Schools are responsible for the delivery of the statutory curriculum and any associated costs are met from their delegated budget. It is a matter for the Board of Governors of each school to determine expenditure priorities, including staffing, incurred in the delivery of the curriculum for all pupils enrolled in their school.

## Continuing Professional Development Module

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education which body will accredit the new continuing professional development module for careers teachers.

**(AQW 32586/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** No decision has been taken on the accreditation of the four training modules, which will be delivered to careers teachers over the next two years.

As part of the review of the careers strategy, we will examine the existing opportunities for the professional development of career teachers and the benefits that can be realised by further development of the qualifications framework.

## Teacher into Industry Scheme

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how much funding has been provided to support the Teacher into Industry scheme in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 32587/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Teacher into Industry Scheme is run by the STEM/CEIAG Inter-board Group on behalf of the Department. In 2013/14 fifty seven teachers were awarded a bursary which enabled them to participate in an industrial placement at a cost of £93,400. In 2012/13 fifty six teachers took part in the industrial placement scheme at a cost of £114,000. The scheme did not run in 2011/12 therefore no expenditure was incurred.

## CEOs and Head Teachers: Link Schemes with Business

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many CEOs and Head Teachers have been involved in link schemes with Business.

**(AQW 32588/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department does not hold information on the number of CEOs and Head Teachers involved in link schemes with Business as this is a matter for individual schools to determine.

Following the recent publication of the CBI report 'Evaluation of Education and Employer Partnerships in NI', discussions have taken place between the Education and Library board STEM/CEIAG group and the CBI to explore and develop a Pilot of the "Buddy" programme between CEOs and Head Teachers mentioned in the CBI report. This work is at an early stage and nine head teachers representing different school sectors have expressed an interest in the pilot through the STEM/CEIAG group. In addition, I am also informed that the CBI has indicated that sixteen head teachers have also expressed an interest in this programme through their contacts with the Association of School and College Leaders.

Principals in schools also have indirect links with business through the various STEM/CEIAG programmes delivered in individual schools and through Business Education Partnerships.

## Schools: Links with Large Employers

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Education how many schools have ongoing links with large employers.

**(AQW 32589/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education does not hold information on how many schools have ongoing links with large employers as this is a matter for individual schools to determine.

Employability is a key theme underpinning the revised curriculum which aims to prepare our young people for all aspects of life and work enabling them to develop as confident and articulate individuals, able to play their full part in society and our economy. I am aware that a lot of excellent business education work and STEM enrichment activity takes place directly between schools and local businesses, some of which have developed into sustainable local relationships.

The contribution of the business sector in helping in the development of our young people and working with our delivery partners is significant both in terms of in-kind staff time and expertise and in providing financial support. I recognise the role of employers is invaluable in providing careers information and advice to teachers and young people in our schools. In my engagement with business and its representative bodies, I regularly encourage them to engage directly with schools, to share their knowledge and expertise.

## School Leavers Available for Work

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Education to detail the change in the number school leavers available for work in each constituency between 2008 and 2013.

**(AQW 32613/11-15)**



**Mr O'Dowd:** Available for work has been defined as those school leavers not in Higher or Further Education. The table overleaf shows those school leavers with destination of employment, training, and unemployment by their constituency of residency. The most recent year available is 2012 however information relevant to the 2012/13 academic year will be published in May 2014.

Change in the number and percentage of school leavers with a destination of Employment, Training and Unemployment by constituency of pupil residence 2008 to 2012

	2008		2012		Change 2008 to 2012	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	% point
Belfast East	277	27.1	209	23.8	-68	-3.3
Belfast North	622	46.0	379	34.2	-243	-11.8
Belfast South	202	19.0	140	14.4	-62	-4.6
Belfast West	654	46.9	448	36.5	-206	-10.4
East Antrim	419	36.5	293	27.1	-126	-9.4
East Londonderry	335	27.3	233	19.5	-102	-7.8
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	345	26.5	282	21.8	-63	-4.7
Foyle	444	27.4	314	21.2	-130	-6.2
Lagan Valley	338	28.8	214	19.2	-124	-9.6
Mid Ulster	342	24.9	222	17.8	-120	-7.1
Newry and Armagh	402	25.9	257	16.7	-145	-9.2
North Antrim	365	27.7	235	18.3	-130	-9.4
North Down	249	23.7	107	11.7	-142	-12.0
South Antrim	273	22.6	247	20.3	-26	-2.3
South Down	461	30.9	309	21.5	-152	-9.4
Strangford	272	25.0	147	13.7	-125	-11.3
Upper Bann	360	22.9	316	21.3	-44	-1.6
West Tyrone	379	29.8	223	18.2	-156	-11.6

**Source:** School Leavers Survey

## Pupils with Autism

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister of Education what measures his Department has taken since May 2007 to assist pupils with autism.

**(AQW 32653/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** The Department of Education (DE) remains committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with autism, receive a high quality education that enables them to fulfil their full potential with special educational needs (SEN) provision matched to the individual needs of the child.

A key factor in effectively meeting the needs of pupils with autism is ensuring that schools have the capacity to meet those needs. In this connection a key aim of the ongoing Review of SEN is to improve the capacity of schools to recognise and support children and young people's SEN. This capacity building takes the form of a number of SEN pilot projects and the publication of a Resource

File on SEN, developed by practitioners, which was issued to all schools in 2011. A chapter within the Resource File is dedicated to autism and contains advice and practical materials to be used by school staff.

DE also continues to fund the Education and Library Boards' (ELBs) inter-board autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) group to provide support to children on the autistic spectrum within each board. Each ELB's ASD advisory service provides valued and worthwhile practical support to schools and is a resource of knowledge and skill, with the capacity to raise the standards of education and the social inclusion for children on the autistic spectrum. These ELB services are used to support children at Stages three to five of the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of SEN.

Guidance materials also remain readily available to assist schools and parents in relation to autism, including:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorders – A Guide to Classroom Practice;
- Evaluating Provision for Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Schools.

In addition, the Autism Act (NI) 2011 places a duty upon the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) to act as the lead Department in producing, reviewing and implementing a cross-Departmental Autism Strategy. The Act also places a duty on DHSSPS to clearly detail how the needs of families and carers of children and young people with autism are to be addressed. DE participated in the public consultation and continues to work closely with the ELBs and the Middletown Centre for Autism (MCA) in developing and delivering the DE actions contained in the Strategy.

Opened in 2007 the MCA is an all-island Centre dedicated to providing educationally based support to children and young people with autism. It has recently expanded its provision of multi-disciplinary support on an outreach basis to those children referred to the Centre by the inter-board ASD Group. This support is delivered alongside a training and advisory service for educational professionals and parents of children with autism and a research and information service.

The Centre's service delivery was subject to a joint inspection in 2012 from the Education and Training Inspectorate and the Inspectorate in the south. This inspection described the quality of the service provision as "outstanding".

## **C2K/Northgate Contract**

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the new C2K/Northgate contract, what additional financial support is being provided to schools to assist them with installing relevant software to stand alone machines which the schools have purchased themselves to supplement their original C2K allocation.

**(AQW 32665/11-15)**

**Mr O'Dowd:** Under previous C2k contracts some school users invested in additional software packages to complement those provided by C2k and the facility was made available for teachers to install such packages locally. Increasingly teachers have been investing in online resources so there is no installation task required.

However, C2k is aware that some schools which have been transformed to the new network may have some legacy software to reinstall. This can take time if it is required on a large number of devices and this task is carried out by the school staff. There is no financial support provided by C2k for 3rd party, school purchased software installation. Many of these packages may also be so old they are not Windows 7 compatible and therefore will not work on the new platform. The onus is on the school to investigate updates from 3rd party suppliers.

Schools have been fully informed of the potential challenges for them regarding 3rd party software they have purchased.

# Department for Employment and Learning

## New Council Areas: Staff Commute

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32321/11-15)**

**Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning):** As the Department for Employment and Learning does not hold this information, the data was obtained from the Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency (NISRA) and relates to 1 January 2014. The Greater Belfast area has been interpreted as the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) defined in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (February 2005).

On this date there was a total of 1024 staff in the Department travelling daily to the Greater Belfast area from the eleven new council areas. Details of the number of staff, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area are set out in Table 1 attached.

**Table 1**

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2	1	4	12	28	21	22	13	5	108
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	0	0	6	15	18	9	6	9	2	65
Belfast	6	4	19	32	47	68	107	121	24	428
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	2	4	1	1	4	1	0	13
Derry and Strabane	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	5
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	0	5	11	11	11	10	17	3	68
Mid and East Antrim	0	0	1	9	11	8	15	6	3	53
Mid Ulster	0	0	1	7	6	4	7	6	1	32
Newry, Mourne and Down	1	1	3	6	9	10	9	9	2	50
North Down and Ards	1	1	6	20	7	12	25	27	5	104
<b>Total *</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1024</b>

\*The total includes 94 (9.2%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area. The number of staff does not include those seconded outside of the NICS or staff on a career break.

### **University Supplied Student Accommodation**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail any plans to increase university supplied student accommodation.

**(AQW 32391/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My Department provides funding to the Higher Education Institutions for teaching and learning and research purposes. It has no remit to intervene in respect of student accommodation.

As my Department does not hold the information you have requested I have asked officials to refer your question to the higher education institutions so that they can respond to you directly on this matter.

### **University Supplied Student Accommodation**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many student accommodation places have been provided by each of the universities, in each of the last 5 years.

**(AQW 32392/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** My Department provides funding to the Higher Education Institutions for teaching and learning and research purposes. The Universities are responsible for their own policies and procedures, including those relating to student accommodation.

As my Department does not hold the information you have requested I have asked officials to refer your question to the higher education institutions so that they can respond to you directly on this matter.

### **Higher Education Institutes: Profoundly Deaf Students**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 32067/11-15, (i) whether he plans to bring forward assistance schemes to help Higher Education Institutes provide support services to profoundly deaf students who undertake extra-curricular activities; and (ii) for his assessment of the impact of the current non-provision of such services to profoundly deaf students.

**(AQW 32531/11-15)**

**Dr Farry:** As I advised in my response to your earlier Written Question, my Department provides funding, through Disabled Students Allowances (DSA), to help students pay for the extra costs they may incur when studying their higher education course, as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty.

In the current fiscal climate it is important that my Department manages the significant budgetary pressures within Higher Education including the increasing demand on the DSA budgets. The focus of expenditure must therefore be on supporting academic progression and success and I have no plans to bring forward assistance schemes to help Higher Education Institutes provide support services to profoundly deaf students who undertake extra-curricular activities.

As I also advised, the Higher Education Institutions have in place a range of measures to facilitate and encourage students with disabilities to engage in extra-curricular activities. I am confident that the each Institution will do all that it can to support students with disabilities in order to ensure that they have equitable access as far as reasonably possible to all aspects of university life.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Pilot Enterprise Zone in Coleraine

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what involvement her Department had in locating the pilot Enterprise Zone in Coleraine.

**(AQW 32208/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment):** The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure. The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive.

In selecting a location for a pilot Enterprise Zone, the over-riding criteria was that it could potentially assist the development of new capital-intensive projects where ECAs would provide an attractive incentive and would outweigh other forms of available financial support. In addition, due to the then legislation cut-off date of April 2017 for projects to benefit from ECAs, any potential project needed to be operational before that date.

The pilot Enterprise Zone adjacent to the University of Ulster Coleraine Campus was put forward as the investment was already at an advanced stage and 5NINES had already received planning permission (in October 2013) so the project could potentially benefit from ECAs before the April 2017 cut-off date. ECAs would provide the incentive for the project to proceed and could potentially lead to further phases. It is also an important infrastructure investment for the ICT sector and builds on the area as a digital hub.

The final decision to designate a zone offering ECAs is a decision for Treasury. DETI and DFP are working alongside Treasury to ensure that the necessary arrangements are taken as quickly as possibly following the Budget announcement.

### Pilot Enterprise Zone

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the locations considered for the pilot Enterprise Zone.

**(AQW 32214/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure. The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive.

In selecting a location for a pilot Enterprise Zone, the over-riding criteria was that any zone would be likely to attract large capital-intensive projects where ECAs would provide an attractive incentive and would outweigh other forms of available financial support. In addition, due to the then legislation cut-off date of April 2017 for projects to benefit from ECAs, any potential project needed to be operational before that date.

A number of options were considered for the pilot Enterprise Zone, including adopting a strategic approach by identifying existing sectoral clusters across Northern Ireland that could potentially benefit from ECAs in the medium/longer-term. However given the time constraints for the ECA incentive, a pilot Enterprise Zone adjacent to the University of Ulster Coleraine Campus was identified as that investment was already at an advanced stage and 5NINES had already received planning permission (in October 2013) and could therefore potentially benefit from ECAs before the then April 2017 cut-off date.

### Economic Zones

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in light of the Westminster decision to designate Coleraine as an Economic Zone, what consideration she will give to

zoning Derry and the wider North West area as an economic zone given the current unemployment and deprivation levels.

**(AQW 32289/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure. The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive. State Aid rules stipulate that ECAs cannot be offered alongside other forms of regional aid such as Selective Financial Assistance, business rate discounts etc. ECAs will therefore only be attractive for large, capital-intensive projects where the benefits from ECAs would outweigh other forms of available support.

The First Minister and deputy First Minister wrote to HM Treasury on 7 March to propose Coleraine as a location for a pilot Enterprise Zone offering ECAs. The final decision to designate a zone offering ECAs is ultimately one for Treasury who would consider the cost to HMT, the extent to which Northern Ireland is benefiting in line with other parts of the UK, and the cost to the NI Block should additional zones be designated beyond those funded by the UK Government.

**New Council Areas: Staff Commute**

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of staff in her Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32322/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is set out in the table below. The figures represent the position as at 1 January 2014. They also include staff working in the Health and Safety Executive who are civil servants.

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0	0	2	12	2	10	9	3	5	43
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	0	0	3	10	5	7	7	0	1	33
Belfast	5	4	19	32	21	18	19	26	15	159
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	1	4	2	1	0	1	1	10
Derry and Strabane	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1	0	6	11	10	8	2	3	4	45
Mid and East Antrim	1	0	1	8	4	1	2	5	0	22
Mid Ulster	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	3	0	10

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	
Newry, Mourne and Down	0	0	2	6	9	4	6	6	0	33
North Down and Ards	2	2	9	24	18	12	24	24	3	118
Home postcode missing or invalid on HR Connect	0	0	1	7	7	3	4	11	3	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>511</b>

### Regulated Tariff for Electricity Export Payments

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the regulated tariff for electricity export payments, set by the Utility Regulator, sufficiently allows for competition and assists efforts to achieve 40 percent renewable electricity by 2020.

**(AQW 32336/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Regulated export tariffs apply only to small renewable generators up to 1 megawatt capacity, which, at present, make up approximately 10% of total installed renewable generation capacity. Any supplier is free to offer a tariff, however Power NI is the only supplier required under its licence to offer a tariff. This condition was included in Power NI's licence by the Utility Regulator in order to ensure that small generators would have a route to market. The Utility Regulator approves the tariff offered by Power NI taking into consideration a number of factors. Other categories of renewable generation (which make up the vast majority of Northern Ireland's renewable output) are subject to other arrangements.

### Investors to the Causeway Coast Area

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps she can take to ensure that NI Electricity is prepared to respond positively to the case being made by those seeking to attract inward investors to the causeway coast area that sufficient energy generation will be available to meet the demand.

**(AQW 32359/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) does not generate electricity, but instead owns and operates the transmission and distribution networks used to bring electricity to customers. Its activities are overseen by the Utility Regulator under the Price Control process which is designed to balance investment, such as development of the electricity network, against impact on customer bills. My Department has no role in the price control process. The System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) assesses adequacy of generation capacity, and I am satisfied that electricity demand across all of Northern Ireland will continue to be met.

### Renewable Energy Sources

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what is defined as an acceptable balance of renewable energy sources; and what percentage should be wind energy.

**(AQW 32405/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The balance of renewable energy technologies is determined by a range of factors including available resource (such as wind, sunlight, tides and fuel e.g. energy crops), the regulatory



and planning framework and government policy. The Strategic Energy Framework target of 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020 is technology neutral and market led. The precise mix depends on decisions made by private sector energy companies.

### **InvestNI Offices in the USA**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what guidance exists in respect of the expression of political opinions by staff employed by InvestNI in their offices in the USA and elsewhere; and whether there is a complaint from the British Consul General being investigated regarding the head of the West Coast office, operated by InvestNI in San Francisco.

**(AQW 32407/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI enjoys the support of the British Consulate-General and UK Trade & Investment in San Francisco. There have been no complaints raised by the Consul General or her office regarding Invest NI's activities in San Francisco.

Invest NI's representatives in overseas markets, including the USA, are included in the circulation of relevant guidance from the Northern Ireland Civil Service about expected behaviour, including political impartiality. Invest NI's Vision and Values are well embedded in the organisation, with a robust process in place to set expectations of the standards required. Each representative receives an induction programme and guidance is also made available through the Invest NI intranet and e-learning system, both of which can be accessed by all overseas offices.

### **Motions Debated in the Assembly**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that she has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that she has taken following any Motion that was passed.

**(AQW 32424/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:**

- (i) 22
- (ii) Any actions taken or not taken, following motions responded to by me, have been dependent on my Department's ability to deliver the outcomes sought in each individual motion. Enterprise Investment Scheme

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assessment he has made of the impact of the UK Budget announcement that companies benefiting from Renewable Obligation Certificates or the Renewable Heat Incentive will be excluded from the Enterprise Investment Scheme on community energy projects; and whether any representation has been made regarding Northern Ireland's specific circumstances.

**(AQW 32475/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** As a tax relief, the operation of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) is a matter for HM Treasury. My officials have engaged with colleagues in DFP to discuss with HM Treasury any potential Northern Ireland specific issues arising from the Budget announcement on EIS.

### **Great Northern Business Park, Omagh**

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps her Department has taken, through InvestNI, to source tenants for available office space at the Great Northern Business Park, Omagh.

**(AQW 32479/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Invest NI has been engaging with both the developer of the Great Northern Business Park and their property agent over a number of years.



Through this engagement the organisation has been able to highlight their offering to potential investors. Whilst Invest NI is unable to direct investors to specific locations it has proactively marketed the available office space through its NI Business Information website.

In addition and where it has been appropriate for it to do so, the agency has included the office accommodation as a potential solution in bespoke searches and visit programmes conducted on behalf of potential investors.

I can assure you that Invest NI will continue to highlight both the Great Northern Business Park and other suitable property solutions of which it is aware to investors as it continues its efforts to attract investment to the Omagh area.

## Vacancies and Agency Staff

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in her Department, broken down by grade.

**(AQW 32569/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The information requested is set out in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

**Table 1: Vacancies**

Grade	No of Staff
Grade 7	4
Deputy Principal	1
Deputy Principal Accountant	1
Deputy Principal Information Officer	1
Staff Officer	2
Staff Officer Accountant	1
Staff Officer Auditor	1
Staff Officer Economist	1
Trainee Trading Standards Inspector	1
E01 Examiner	1
E02	2
E02 Trainee Examiner	3
Admin Officer	1
Admin Assistant	2
Support Grade Band 2	4
Technical Grade 1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28*</b>

\* It should be noted that not all vacant posts in DETI are currently being actively filled as some are under review.

**Table 2: Agency Staff**

Grade	No of Staff
Information Officer	1
Admin Officer	1
Admin Assistant	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>

## Enterprise Zone in Coleraine

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps she will take to promote the Enterprise Zone at Coleraine, locally and internationally, over the next twelve months.

**(AQW 32611/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure. The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive. State Aid rules stipulate that ECAs cannot be offered alongside other forms of regional aid such as Selective Financial Assistance, business rate discounts etc. ECAs will therefore only be attractive for large, capital-intensive projects where the benefits from ECAs would outweigh other forms of available support.

The final decision to designate a zone offering ECAs is a decision for Treasury. DETI and DFP are working alongside Treasury to ensure that the necessary arrangements are taken as quickly as possibly following the Budget announcement.

Subject to timescales for establishing the zone, we will liaise with the University of Ulster (UU) and Coleraine Borough Council as appropriate to agree how the site will be marketed.

Designating this Enterprise Zone in Northern Ireland is another tool to lever economic growth. Data centres are a strategically important piece of telecommunications infrastructure. Such investments can be crucial in the development of the ICT sector as a whole and will, without doubt, enhance the proposition Northern Ireland can offer to inward investors who are increasingly globally connected.

Invest NI's overseas sales teams will promote the new data centre to relevant companies in international markets. This, along with the excellent telecoms and IT research base at UU Coleraine and the engineering talent available in the North West region should help attract more FDI and local companies to explore the location as a suitable place to establish and grow their operations from.

## Broadband: North Antrim

**Mr Storey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on broadband provision in North Antrim.

**(AQO 5984/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Broadband services are already available to all premises across Northern Ireland through a mix of technology options. However, I recognise that more can be done to raise the speed and quality of those services.

Members are no doubt aware of the recent announcement I made regarding the 'Northern Ireland Improvement Project' which I anticipate will deliver improved broadband services to over 45,000 premises. These will be located all across Northern Ireland, including the North Antrim area.

Planning and survey work has commenced and will take place in a number of phases across Northern Ireland with a view to overall completion of the project by December 2015.

## Quinn Group: InvestNI Support Space

**Mr Elliott** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much financial support InvestNI has provided to the Fermanagh/Cavan based Quinn Group since 2004.

**(AQO 5982/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Since 2004 Invest NI has offered Quinn Group companies a total of two million, three hundred and nineteen thousand, three hundred and twenty two pounds of support towards job creation, capital expenditure and training.

## Economic Development

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the contribution local councils make to economic development in their area.

**(AQO 5983/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Local councils have a long history of encouraging and supporting economic development in their local areas, often in partnership with Invest NI.

Since 2007 Councils have been delivering support focused on helping small and micro businesses improve their capability through bespoke initiatives funded through the Local Economic Development Measure of the EU Sustainable Competitive Programme.

Almost One Hundred and Fifty of these projects are being delivered with support from Invest NI, my Department and Europe. Councils have invested more than Twenty Million pounds in Local Economic Development projects.

## TeleTech

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the TeleTech call centre in Belfast.

**(AQO 5985/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Teletext confirmed last week that it had not been successful in a re-bidding process for the Nissan Europe contract. This unfortunately means that the company will have around One Hundred and Eighty Five redundancies from its Duncairn Gardens site in North Belfast, which will take place on a phased basis between 14th May and the end of July.

Invest NI has been in regular contact with both the management team at the company's Belfast site and their management team at the company's headquarters in Colorado to establish if there are any other opportunities that the company may explore. In addition, colleagues from DEL have contacted the company to provide advice and support through DEL's redundancy service.

Invest NI continues to pro-actively engage with the company to explore any opportunities that may arise going forward.

## Tourist Facilities

**Mr McCarthy** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how her Department will co-ordinate with the eleven new councils in relation to promoting local tourist facilities.

**(AQO 5986/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department, through Tourism Ireland and Northern Ireland Tourist Board, will work with local councils to develop and promote local tourist facilities by focusing on our nine key tourism areas.

The Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board plans to meet with the Chief Executives of the eleven new councils to discuss how NITB will work with them in relation to the development and promotion of the tourism offering in their local areas going forward from 1st April 2015.

## Nevin Economic Research Institute

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the Nevin Economic Research Institute's most recent Quarterly Economic Observer.

**(AQO 5987/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have noted the findings of the research report in relation to low pay in Northern Ireland.

I have a concern that the paper doesn't give sufficient weight to the varying costs of living in different UK regions outside of London when defining a 'living wage', which may overstate the percentage of local people that earn below this threshold.

Nevertheless, I am well aware of the need to raise wages in the economy. That is why the Economic Strategy clearly outlines an aim to improve the wealth and living standards of everyone. My Department helps to deliver on this by promoting jobs that offer salaries above the private sector median wage.

## HGV Road User Levy

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the research by the Centre for Economic Policy Research on the economic impact of the Heavy Goods Vehicle Road User Levy.

**(AQO 5988/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** My Department, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Centre for Economic Policy, is carrying out research into the "Cost of Doing Business" in Northern Ireland. The aim of this research is to benchmark the cost of doing business in Northern Ireland across a wide range of areas, including transport costs.

The research will not include a specific assessment of the economic impact of the Heavy Goods Vehicle Road User Levy, rather it will identify the importance of transport costs for local companies, along with cost increases faced over the past year.

The UK Government estimates that nine out of ten UK registered Heavy Goods Vehicle operators should experience no overall change as a result of the Levy, due to reductions in Vehicle Excise Duty.

## HGV Road User Levy

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline any recent discussions she has had with the Irish and British Governments on the introduction of the Heavy Goods Vehicles Road User Levy.

**(AQO 5989/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** I have not had any discussions with the UK Government or the Government of the Republic of Ireland about the Heavy Goods Vehicle Road User Levy. This is a matter which falls to the Minister of the Environment and I am aware that he has corresponded with the UK Minister responsible for the Levy.

## Economic Indicators

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the figures in the latest Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey in regard to key economic indicators.

**(AQO 5990/11-15)**

**Mrs Foster:** Recent statistics on the labour market have been encouraging.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits fell for the thirteenth consecutive month, decreasing by seven thousand one hundred since January 2013.

The number of employee jobs also rose for the eighth consecutive quarter, with an additional twelve thousand three hundred jobs over the last year.

These figures, along with other improvements in economic data, have led independent forecasters to increase their forecasts for output and employment growth in the local economy.

## Department of the Environment

### Planning Permission: Discharge Consents

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he will take steps to prevent his Department from granting discharge consents to any more developments that do not have planning permission, in order to prevent a repeat of the Mobuoy Road situation.

**(AQW 32243/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment):** The Department of the Environment's (DOE) Planning Policy Statement 11 (PPS 11) states that the planning and pollution control systems are separate but complementary systems of control and regulation designed to protect the environment from harm as a result of development and related operations.

Planning control focuses primarily on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, rather than on the control of the processes or substances involved, and regulating the location of the development in order to avoid or minimise adverse effects on people, the use of land and the environment.

The pollution control regime is concerned with the control and regulation of proposed operations and processes and with their day to day operation.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), as a consultee, recommends in its advice that applicants should apply for and obtain any required environmental authorisations prior to beginning construction or operations on site.

However, in circumstances where NIEA is made aware of a site/activity operating without the necessary planning permissions, the Department's priority will be to use its legislative powers to protect the environment where possible.

NIEA will visit the site to determine if there are any potentially polluting discharges and where necessary require the site owner to apply for a consent to discharge under the Water (NI) Order 1999. NIEA will decide if a consent may be issued or not, and once a consent is issued will sample the discharge to ensure the consent holder complies with its conditions to ensure protection of the water environment.

By adopting this position in relation to such developments NIEA can bring potentially polluting discharges under the regulatory regime and therefore ensure that the water environment is being protected while the legality of the site is being resolved through the planning system.

Discharges are likely to occur from such sites whether or not Planning approval is in place, therefore it is important that these discharges are regulated.

The issue of a consent to discharge is not an endorsement of the development, it is rather an acknowledgement by the Department that the site is in existence and that there is an existing discharge that needs regulating.

### Driver and Vehicle Agency in Coleraine: Premises

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the maximum number of personnel who could be accommodated within the premises that are currently occupied by Driver and Vehicle Agency employees in Coleraine; and (ii) any other suitable office accommodation in the immediate location.

**(AQW 32245/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** As the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) has responsibility for the County Hall Coleraine site they have advised that the main County Hall building has 416 workstations of which 270 are currently occupied by DVA. In addition a separate building within the complex houses approximately 90 workstations for the DVA Driver Licensing staff, totalling 360 workstations.

DFP have further advised that if major structural modifications were carried out and the entire County Hall building was refurbished to Workplace NI standards, it could accommodate at least 570 workstations, an increase of 37%. It is estimated that the necessary structural refurbishment work would cost in the region of £6M.

In response to your enquiry regarding any other suitable office accommodation in the immediate location, DFP have confirmed that the only other office accommodation within the DFP estate is the Jobs and Benefits Office, Artillery Road, Coleraine which is currently fully utilised.

### **Meeting with Wired or Less: Taxi Meters, Signs and Calibrations**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 29799/11-15, in what capacity did the Chair of the Committee for the Environment advise she was attending.

**(AQW 32314/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Officials' recollection of the meeting, on 8 November 2013, is that Ms Lo advised that she was acting in her capacity as an MLA, rather than as Chair of the Environment Committee.

### **Land around Tullaghogue Fort, County Tyrone**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment what assurances he can give that the renting of departmental land near Tullaghogue Fort, County Tyrone, to the highest bidder will result in minimal impact on the historic and natural environment while complying with departmental policy, maximising the potential for this monument and enhancing biodiversity of the land.

**(AQW 32320/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** I have been advised by my Departmental officials that the lands acquired by my Department at Tullahogue Fort are not being 'rented to the highest bidder' but rather that DOE will issue a one-off licence to take a single hay crop from these lands during August 2014.

DOE has developed a legally-binding licence which includes a site-specific management prescription designed to enhance the biodiversity of the Tullahogue lands. These were cultivated and heavily fertilised prior to acquisition by my Department from DARD. The application of fertilizer will be prohibited and the seeding of wild flowers prior to cropping will aid the gradual development of a species- rich meadow.

Before awarding the licence, DOE will, with the permission of the applicant, undertake a range of checks to ensure that the highest bidder does not have a previous history of environmental or agricultural compliance breaches that would cause DOE concern over the applicant's ability to comply with the licence conditions. If these checks show that the highest bidder has a history of compliance breaches, warnings or prosecutions, DOE may decide not to award the licence to that bidder, thereby minimising the risk of damage to the site.

In taking forward the award of licences on Departmental lands such as those at Tullahogue, DOE will seek to ensure that the historic and biodiversity value of its lands are enhanced.

I hope this provides you with the assurances you require.

### **Land around Tullaghogue Fort, County Tyrone**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of the Environment what assurances he can give that the land around Tullaghogue Fort, County Tyrone will be managed to comply with his own Department's remit of nature

conservation while also allowing public access to these lands for the benefit of the community and their better understanding of our native heritage in terms of our history and biodiversity.

**(AQW 32331/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** My Department has commissioned studies into the development of lands adjacent to and including Tullahogue Fort as a visitor destination. Careful consideration is being given to protecting its historic heritage and enhancing its native biodiversity while complying with the current Departmental remit to maximise the potential of this important monument for the local economy.

I have been assured by my Departmental officials that, as an interim management regime for the coming summer, DOE will be licensing the taking of a single hay crop from the Tullahogue lands during the month of August. This will prevent the area from becoming overgrown and begin a process of converting previously fertilised and cultivated land into wildflower-rich meadow or permanent pasture. It will have no adverse impact on the historic heritage.

Revised plans will protect the existing mature woodland adjacent to the Cookstown-Tullahogue Road. Cookstown District Council has now acquired lands which will enable safe road access to be provided to the south of the existing access. DOE will provide car parking, visitor facilities, interpretation of the historic importance of the Fort for the inauguration of The O'Neill, and an area for the holding of public events with mown grassland. Preliminary investigation of the area where these developments will be carried out has shown that they are unimportant for archaeology.

I have also been assured that if, in the future, any parts of the site such as the woodland, were transferred, for example, to the local council, DOE officials would provide management advice to ensure its continued management for all its conservation interests.

In response to AQW 30523/11-15 I advised that upon completion of the site works a management plan will be drawn up that will focus on all aspects of this site, from maintenance of the car park, provision of toilets and access, to conservation of the fort itself and the use of land around it to ensure the long-term preservation of the site and ensure good management practice will be implemented. This position has not changed.

I trust this answer provides you with the assurances you require.

## **European Birds and Habitats Directives**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to outline his understanding of the precautionary principle; (ii) whether this principle underpins the proper implementation of the European Birds and Habitats Directives; and (iii) how this principle was considered and applied by his Department in relation to the unregulated mineral extraction from Lough Neagh Special Protection Area.

**(AQW 32333/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Where plans or projects are proposed which may have a likely significant effect on a site, an assessment of the impact is required. In these cases consent can only be given having ascertained no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. As the Department has never issued permission for extraction of sand from Lough Neagh no assessment has been undertaken.

## **Lough Neagh Special Protection Area: Mineral Extraction**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department's non-regulation of the unauthorised mineral extraction from Lough Neagh Special Protection Area places the UK Member State at risk of infraction proceedings from Europe.

**(AQW 32334/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Infraction proceedings against a Member State are a matter for the European Commission. I am unaware of any consideration of such proceedings by the Commission in respect of the Lough Neagh Special Protection Area



## Driver and Vehicle Agency in Coleraine

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of the Environment what support he received from the Secretary of State to retain the Driver and Vehicle Agency in Coleraine.

**(AQW 32339/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** From the outset of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) proposals for the centralisation of vehicle registration and licensing becoming known, my predecessor, Alex Attwood, and I have engaged with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on a number of occasions to seek support for the retention of these services and jobs locally.

While the Northern Ireland Secretary had expressed concern about the impact of the jobs losses in the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA), she also pointed out that the future of vehicle registration and licensing services was essentially an operational matter for the Transport Secretary.

## Driver and Vehicle Agency Staff

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of the Environment what evidence is available that the Prime Minister honoured his pledge that the future of the Driver and Vehicle Agency staff in Coleraine would be assessed by his Office.

**(AQW 32341/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Both I and my predecessor, Alex Attwood, have received full support from the First and deputy First Ministers in the campaign to retain vehicle licensing services and jobs in Northern Ireland. The First Minister and deputy First Minister raised this issue with the Prime Minister at a meeting in March 2013 and again when Mr Cameron attended the economic conference in Belfast in October last year.

I have no direct evidence of the degree to which the Prime Minister's office was directly involved in the decision to centralise vehicle licensing in Swansea, I have noted that both in the written statement by the Transport Secretary to the House of Commons on 13 March and in a letter to me from Stephen Hammond MP, the Transport Minister with responsibility for vehicle licensing, it is stated that the decision has been made after consultation with Ministerial colleagues.

## South Antrim Area Planning Office

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31678/11-15, (i) why South Antrim Area Planning office has the lowest number of staff; (ii) how this has affected the work of the area office; and (iii) what action he is taking address this issue.

**(AQW 32344/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:**

- (i) Staffing levels in the Area Planning Offices are mainly determined by using the outputs from the Department's Workforce Model for Planning. The Workforce Model takes account of the workload volumes in the Division and gives an indication of the numbers of staff required at the key grades. In light of the much reduced volume of planning applications, Planning has had to align its staffing levels and costs more closely to the work demands and revenue in each Area Planning Office. The South Antrim Area office has the lowest caseload and receives amongst the lowest number of applications.
- (ii) In terms of performance indicators the South Antrim Area Office has continued to perform well in processing times for planning applications. The Development Management statistics, available up to the second quarter of the financial year, demonstrate that the South Antrim Area Office was meeting all of its targets and was the highest performing Area Planning Office.
- (iii) The Workforce Model is a flexible manpower modelling tool that can be adapted to run alternative scenarios in terms of application numbers and application type. Should there be an increase or decrease in workloads in any Area Planning Office this will be reflected in the outputs from the Workforce Model and action can be taken to address any surplus or shortfall in staffing numbers.



## Economic Development Projects

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of the Environment what benefit the introduction of PPS23 would have on large scale economic development projects seeking planning approval.

**(AQW 32378/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Draft PPS 23 and its associated Best Practice Guide on enabling development were published for public consultation in January 2011. The public consultation period ended on 6 May 2011 and generated 62 responses from a diverse range of public, private and voluntary bodies. The issues raised through the consultation exercise have been considered and the document has been revised. I can advise that I submitted PPS23 to the Executive for their consideration on 7 April 2014. The Executive have agreed the policy and it is my intention to publish PPS23 as soon as possible. It would not be appropriate for me to comment on the final policy in advance of publication.

## PPS23: the Executive

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of the Environment when PPS23 will be brought to the Executive.

**(AQW 32380/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** I can advise that I submitted PPS23 to the Executive for their consideration on 7 April 2014. The Executive have agreed the policy and it is my intention to publish PPS23 as soon as possible.

## Driver and Vehicle Agency: Services

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail all the services and facilities which will no longer be available in Northern Ireland following the transfer of Driver and Vehicle Agency functions to Swansea.

**(AQW 32381/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Driver and Vehicle Agency is responsible for testing and licensing drivers, testing vehicles, licensing bus and taxi operators and taxi drivers, roadside enforcement to ensure compliance with licensing and testing requirements and, under an agency agreement with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Swansea, the registration and licensing of vehicles.

On 13 March 2014, the Transport Secretary announced that the agreement with my Department under which vehicle registration and licensing work is undertaken in Northern Ireland would be terminated and that the DVLA in Swansea would assume all responsibility for these functions.

While it will be for the DVLA and the Department for Transport to make known the new arrangements for the licensing and registration of vehicles and for the collection and enforcing payment of vehicle excise duty in Northern Ireland, I understand that the DVLA intends to replicate arrangements in Britain and to provide these services online, by post and telephone and through a number of Post Offices.

The DVA will provide no vehicle licensing services after July this year but all of the other functions of the Agency outlined above are unaffected by the DVLA plans for the centralisation of vehicle licensing.

## Part 16(A) of the General Development Order

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31843/11-15, to outline any additional benefits the petroleum and gas exploration and drilling industry will accrue from his recent introduction of Part 16(A) of the General Development Order.

**(AQW 32427/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Part 16A (Development Ancillary to Mining Operations) of Schedule 1 to The Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 S.R. 1993 No. 278 (as amended) provides permitted development rights for development ancillary to mining operations on land used as a mine. "Mining operations" are defined under the Order as "the winning and working of minerals in, on or under land, whether by surface or underground working". In addition, the principal purpose of the

development provided for by Part 16A must be connected to the winning and working of minerals and the treatment, storage and removal of such minerals.

For the purposes of the Order “mineral exploration” means “ascertaining the presence, extent or quality of any deposit of a mineral with a view to exploiting that mineral”. Mineral exploration is thus an activity distinct and separate from the later winning and working of minerals, to which the provision of plant and machinery permitted by Part 16A is ancillary.

Mineral exploration permitted development rights are separately provided for under Part 16 of Schedule 1 to the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993.

My Department therefore takes the view that Part 16A does not provide permitted development rights for exploratory drilling on land at a mine or indeed in any other location. As such, it is difficult to identify any additional benefits that the petroleum and gas exploration industry might accrue from the recent introduction of Part 16(A) of the General Development Order.

### **Part 16(A) of the General Development Order**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31843/11-15, what impact his Department's decision not to implement the Review of Old Minerals Permissions and the recent changes to Part 16(A) of the General Development Order has had on the ability of developers seeking to carry out exploratory drilling for petroleum to exploit any lack of environmental controls.

**(AQW 32428/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Part 16A (Development Ancillary to Mining Operations) of Schedule 1 to The Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 S.R. 1993 No. 278 (as amended) provides permitted development rights for development ancillary to mining operations on land used as a mine. “Mining operations” are defined under the Order as “the winning and working of minerals in, on or under land, whether by surface or underground working”. In addition, the principal purpose of the development provided for by Part 16A must be connected to the winning and working of minerals and the treatment, storage and removal of such minerals.

For the purposes of the Order “mineral exploration” means “ascertaining the presence, extent or quality of any deposit of a mineral with a view to exploiting that mineral”. Mineral exploration is thus an activity distinct and separate from the later winning and working of minerals, to which the provision of plant and machinery permitted by Part 16A is ancillary.

Mineral exploration permitted development rights are separately provided for under Part 16 of Schedule 1 to the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993.

My Department therefore takes the view that Part 16A does not provide permitted development rights for exploratory drilling on land at a mine or indeed in any other location. As such, it is difficult to identify any additional benefits that the petroleum and gas exploration industry might accrue from the recent introduction of Part 16(A) of the General Development Order.

### **Part 16(A) of the General Development Order**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31843/11-15, whether a rig for carrying out (i) exploratory drilling; and (ii) hydraulic fracturing could fall within the definition of plant and machinery for the purpose of Part 16(A) of the General Development Order.

**(AQW 32429/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Part 16A (Development Ancillary to Mining Operations) of Schedule 1 to The Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 S.R. 1993 No. 278 (as amended) provides permitted development rights for development ancillary to mining operations on land used as a mine. “Mining operations” are defined under the Order as “the winning and working of minerals in, on or under land, whether by surface or underground working”. In addition, the principal purpose of the development provided for by Part 16A must be connected to the winning and working of minerals and the treatment, storage and removal of such minerals.

For the purposes of the Order “mineral exploration” means “ascertaining the presence, extent or quality of any deposit of a mineral with a view to exploiting that mineral”. Mineral exploration is thus an activity distinct and separate from the later winning and working of minerals, to which the provision of plant and machinery permitted by Part 16A is ancillary.

Mineral exploration permitted development rights are separately provided for under Part 16 of Schedule 1 to the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993.

My Department therefore takes the view that Part 16A does not provide permitted development rights for exploratory drilling on land at a mine or indeed in any other location. As such, it is difficult to identify any additional benefits that the petroleum and gas exploration industry might accrue from the recent introduction of Part 16(A) of the General Development Order.

## Review of Old Minerals Permissions Legislation

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 31843/11-15, whether he will ensure that any old quarry that is operating, or capable of resuming operation outside of modern day environmental requirements, is first reviewed in accordance with the required Review of Old Minerals Permissions legislation before any proposal to locate exploratory drilling for petroleum is permitted. **(AQW 32430/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The legislative provisions in relation to the Review of Old Mineral Permissions (ROMPS) have not yet been commenced.

Permitted development rights for mineral exploration are provided for under Part 16 of Schedule 1 to the Planning (General Development) Order (NI) 1993. For the purposes of The Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 S.R. 1993 No. 278 mineral exploration means “ascertaining the presence, extent or quality of any deposit of a mineral with a view to exploiting that mineral”.

Importantly, there are certain limitations and conditions associated with Part 16 permitted development rights including pre-commencement notification to the Department of the Environment giving details of the location, target mineral, details of plant and operations and anticipated timescale. A developer, should they wish to invoke these permitted development rights, must notify the Department of these details in order that a decision can be taken on whether or not the permitted development right should be removed and the proposal made subject to the full planning application process.

Where this is the case, the developer must then submit an application for planning permission. This applies to all land, not just land at a mine.

## Local Area Planning Office

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment how many vacancies currently exist in each Local Area Planning Office; and what steps are being taken to fill these vacancies. **(AQW 32450/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The number of vacancies in each Planning Office is listed in the table below, showing Professional and Technical (P&T) administrative staff vacancies separately.

Planning Office and Council areas served	Vacancies @ 23 /3/14
Belfast Area Planning Office – Belfast City Council area.	1 P&T 2 Admin
Western Area Planning Office – Omagh, Fermanagh, Dungannon, Magherafelt, Cookstown Council areas.	0

<b>Planning Office and Council areas served</b>	<b>Vacancies @ 23 /3/14</b>
Northern Area Planning Office – Derry, Strabane, Limavady, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Moyle Council areas.	2 P&T 2 Admin
South Antrim Area Planning Office - Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne, Antrim and Newtownabbey Council areas.	2 Admin
Southern Area Planning Office - Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon, Down and Newry & Mourne Council areas.	3 Admin
Downpatrick Area Planning Office - Castlereagh, Lisburn , Ards and North Down Council areas.	2 P&T

- The Western Office has a sub office located in Enniskillen, and the Northern Office is split across two sites in Derry and Coleraine.
- Figures for the Northern Office include the Business Support Team which provides support to all of the Area Planning Offices.
- The P&T posts will be filled by internal promotion.
- The Admin posts will be offered to DVA staff as redeployment opportunities.
- One Admin post in Belfast is being filled from an external recruitment competition.

## Control of the Use of Snares

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the control of the use of snares.  
(AQW 32472/11-15)

**Mr Durkan:** Extensive debate during the passage of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act through the Assembly resulted in a majority vote for permitting the continued use of snares. It is the Department's objective to have in place an effective means of pest control which is mindful of animal welfare and is widely acceptable. I would also like to see a means of managing pest control which is not burdensome to undertake or overly bureaucratic to administer. In 2013 the Department undertook a consultation which sought views on a proposed Northern Ireland Snares Order and associated draft Code of Practice.

The Order proposed introducing further technical standards in relation to the design and use of snares while the code is intended to serve as best practice guidance material for snare users. The responses highlighted different attitudes towards snares between environmental non-governmental organisations, land manager and field sports interests; with no clear way forward being evident. My officials have held discussions with stakeholders on this issue and I am due to meet animal welfare interest groups shortly, which will assist in determining the way forward.

## Recycling

**Mrs Cochrane** asked the Minister of the Environment how he plans to support local councils to increase recycling rates following the introduction of the eleven council model.  
(AQO 5910/11-15)

**Mr Durkan:** Over the past four years the Department's Rethink Waste Programme has assisted local councils to increase their recycling rates through a range of incentives from the provision of financial assistance to technical advice to communications.

Under the Rethink Waste Fund, grants of £8.88 million have been awarded to councils to cover the capital costs of improving or extending their existing waste collection, re-use and recycling infrastructure.

Councils and other stakeholders have made great strides in increasing recycling rates and encouraging waste prevention over the last decade. To maintain the momentum of increasing recycling rates, further

plans for significant funding for the development of kerbside services and recycling infrastructure, communications and training are being developed by my Department to assist the new councils.

## **Future of Waste Disposal in the Western Region**

**Ms McGahan** asked the Minister of the Environment whether he has given consideration to a strategic sub-regional approach for the future of waste disposal in the Western region given that potential Southern Waste Management Partnership and North West projects have faltered.

**(AQW 32624/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** Local government is responsible for designated waste management functions and under current legislation it is for local government to determine how best to deliver those functions. In light of increasingly stringent waste targets, and the difficult challenges waste infrastructure procurement for long term contracts has presented at council level, councils are required to give careful and informed consideration to all the options available to maximise the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of their waste management services.

A new governance structure to facilitate more effective delivery of statutory waste functions by local and central government, the Waste Co-ordination Group, has been established by the Department. Local government is already considering strategic options for revised delivery of its waste management functions under the new council configurations and will bring those to the new Waste Co-ordination Group for consideration in due course.

## **Cycling: Accident Prevention**

**Mr McCartney** asked the Minister of the Environment what action he is taking to reduce serious injuries and deaths of cyclists caused by road accidents.

**(AQO 5909/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Road Safety Strategy contains over 200 action measures to be taken forward by road safety partners, including my Department. It includes a range of actions that relate to cyclists' safety.

Actions which my Department has taken include with regard to cyclist safety include:

A range of advertising campaigns including 'Be Cycle Aware', 'Respect everyone's journey' and 'Share the Road to Zero'. Drivers are responsible for the majority of collisions. Changing the attitudes and behaviours of drivers is therefore the most effective way of protecting all road users, and our campaigns concentrate on changing such behaviours.

A 'Cycling Skills & Cycling Safety' guide, developed jointly by DOE and DRD, which provides information on the benefits of cycling, on basic safety requirements and on the rules of the road.

The Cycling Proficiency Scheme (CPS) is offered by DOE to every primary school in Northern Ireland. Over 530 Primary Schools participate in the scheme, with over 8,000 children benefiting from the scheme each year. Following a review of CPS, DOE is creating an enhanced CPS which will incorporate the road safety objectives of the British National Standard for cycle training. The enhanced scheme is due to launch in 2015 with the new on-road training element launching in 2016.

Between 2008 and 2012, six cyclists died on our roads. The latest data available indicates that, in 2013, four cyclists died on our roads. In 2012, 55 cyclists were seriously injured, an increase of 53% from the 36 cyclists who were seriously injured in 2003. The rate of Pedal Cyclist deaths and serious injuries per 100 million kilometres cycled in 2012, the latest figures available, was 69, an increase of 15% on the 2004-2008 baseline of 60.

Given the rise in cyclist casualties, my Department has commissioned a new campaign around cyclist safety. This campaign is due to go on air from Friday 18 April 2014 and will run throughout the Giro D'Italia. An education pack based on the new campaign is in preparation and will be made available to schools and to a wider audience through the NI Direct website.

I recognise the continuing challenges of reducing casualties on our roads, and believe that any death is one too many. I will therefore continue to work to reduce road casualties, including those of cyclists.

## George Best Belfast City Airport

**Mr Maskey** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the impact on residents of south and east Belfast should the cap be lifted on passenger numbers at George Best Belfast City Airport.

**(AQO 5911/11-15)**

**Mr Durkan:** The Airport has formally submitted a request to the Department to vary the terms of the existing Planning Agreement to remove the Seats for Sale limit and replace it with a noise control contour cap.

The Department has not yet formed an opinion on the merits of the Airport's proposals which will be subject to an independent public inquiry to be held by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC). The potential impact on residents will ultimately depend on the size of the noise control contour which is finally agreed between the Department and the Airport following the inquiry. This control will, if agreed, operate in tandem with other restrictions and obligations that currently operate at the Airport.

It is the Department's intention to adopt a neutral stance at the public inquiry, pending the outcome. The purpose of the inquiry is to facilitate an open and informed debate and to allow the PAC to report on the evidence presented. Residents of south and east Belfast may wish to participate in the process. The inquiry will, among other things, consider the impact of noise on the local population.

I will make a final decision on if, and how the Planning Agreement should be modified following careful consideration of the PAC's findings.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### NICS and Agency Estate: Showers

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel pursuant to AQW 27675/11-15, to detail the 123 buildings in the NICS and agency estate that have showers available for cyclists.

**(AQW 29581/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton (The Minister of Finance and Personnel):** A further correction is required to AQW 27675/11-15 amending the original total of 123 buildings in the NICS and Agency estate that have showers available for cyclists to 111. The details of these 111 buildings are given overleaf.

	Building Name	Address
1.	Abbey Farm Livestock Development Centre	Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Muckamore, Antrim
2.	Academy House	121 Broughshane Street, Ballymena
3.	Adelaide House	39-49 Adelaide Street, Belfast
4.	Airport Road Depot (TICC)	Airport Road Depot, 1a Airport Road, Belfast
5.	Andersonstown Jobs & Benefits Office	Kennedy Centre, 580a Falls Road, Belfast
6.	Antrim Depot	160 Loughanmore Road, Antrim
7.	Armagh Centre	47 Hamiltonsbawn Road, Armagh



	<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
8.	Armagh Section Office and Roads Service Depot	17 Ballynahonemore Road, Armagh
9.	Arvalee Depot	32 Deverney Road, Omagh
10.	Ballykeel Depot	109 Larne Link Road, Ballymena
11.	Ballymena Centre	Pennybridge Industrial Estate, Larne Road
12.	Ballymena Chambers	4 Parkway, Ballymena
13.	Ballymena Jobs & Benefits Office	2 Parkway, Ballymena
14.	Ballymoney Depot	28 Market Street, Ballymoney
15.	Bedford House	16-22 Bedford Street, Belfast
16.	Belfast (HQ) Test Centre	Balmoral Road, Belfast,
17.	Belfast Benefit Delivery Centre	Plaza Building, 31-41 Chichester Street, Belfast
18.	Belfast Chambers	93 Chichester Street, Belfast
19.	Belfast Road Section Office and Roads Service Depot	1a Airport Road, Belfast
20.	Belvoir Park Forest Office	90 Belvoir Drive, Ballylenaghan Upper, Belfast
21.	Boyd Hall	Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Muckamore, Antrim
22.	Carleton House 1	Gasworks, Cromac Avenue, Belfast
23.	Carlisle House	Hawkin Street, Londonderry
24.	Castle Buildings	Stormont Estate, Belfast
25.	Castle Buildings Annexe	Stormont Estate, Belfast
26.	Castle Court	Royal Avenue, Belfast
27.	Castlearchdale	Castlearchdale Country Park Irvinestown
28.	Causeway Exchange	1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast
29.	CET Mobile	Loughry Campus, 76 Dungannon Road, Cookstown
30.	Clarence Court	Adelaide Street, Belfast
31.	Colby House (GSNI)	Stranmillis Court, Belfast
32.	Coleraine Area Office	Castleroe Road, Coleraine
33.	Coleraine Centre	2 Loughan Hill Industrial Estate, Coleraine
34.	Coleraine Jobs & Benefits Office	Artillery Road, Coleraine
35.	Consumer Affairs	176 Newtownbreda Road, Belfast
36.	Cookstown Centre	Sandholes Road, Cookstown
37.	Corbet Depot	15 Aughnacloy Road, Banbridge

	<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
38.	Corporation St SSO	148-158 Corporation Street, Belfast
39.	County Hall, Ballymena	Galgorm Road, Ballymena
40.	County Hall, Coleraine	Castlerock Road, Coleraine
41.	Craigavon Centre	3 Diviny Drive, Carn Industrial Estate, Craigavon
42.	Dill Rd Centre	Dill Road, Belfast
43.	District Forest Office	6 Forest Road, Garvagh
44.	Downpatrick Centre	2 Cloonagh Road, Downpatrick
45.	Dundonald House	Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast
46.	Eastern Regional Office	Ravarnet House, Altona Road, Lisburn
47.	Elmview	Elmview, 20 Derry Road, Strabane
48.	Enniskillen Centre	Chanter Hill, Coa Road, Enniskillen
49.	FDC Courtyard	Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Muckamore, Antrim
50.	Fisheries Office	Riverdale, Ballinamallard
51.	Food Technology Centre	Loughry Campus, 76 Dungannon Road, Cookstown,
52.	Foyle Chambers	35 Limavady Road, Londonderry
53.	Glenree House	2 Carnbane Industrial Estate, Carnbane, Newry
54.	Glenwherry Hill Farm Livestock Development Centre	62C Glenhead Road, Glenwherry, Ballymena
55.	Great Northern Tower	17 -21 Great Victoria Street, Belfast
56.	Greenmount Resource Centre	Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Muckamore, Antrim
57.	HSENI	83 Ladas Drive, Belfast
58.	Hydebank	4 Hospital Road, Belfast
59.	Hydebank Prison & YOC	Hospital Road, Belfast
60.	Inishkeen House	Killyhevin, Enniskillen
61.	James House	Gasworks, Cromac Avenue, Belfast
62.	Klondyke Building	Gasworks, Cromac Avenue, Belfast
63.	Laganside House	23 – 27, Oxford Street, Belfast
64.	Larne Centre	Ballyboley Road, Ballyloran
65.	Larne Depot	81 Belfast Road, Larne
66.	Lesley Exchange	24 East Bridge Street, Belfast
67.	Lighthouse Building	Gasworks, Cromac Place, Belfast



	<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
68.	Limavady Depot	77 Dowlands Road, Limavady
69.	Linum Chambers	2 Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast
70.	Lisburn Centre	Ballinderry Industrial Estate, Ballinderry Road, Lisburn
71.	Lisburn Chambers	23 Linenhall Street, Lisburn
72.	Londonderry Centre	New Buildings Industrial Estate, Victoria Road, Londonderry
73.	Loughry Depot Office	Loughry Campus, 76 Dungannon Road, Cookstown
74.	Machinery Building Centre	Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Muckamore, Antrim
75.	Maghaberry Prison	Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn
76.	Magilligan Prison	Point Road, Magilligan
77.	Magnet House	81 - 93 York Street, Belfast
78.	Mallusk Centre	Commercial Way, Hyde Park Industrial Estate, Mallusk
79.	Marlborough House	Central Way, Craigavon
80.	Maryfield	Belfast Road, Holywood
81.	Maynard Sinclair Pavilion	Stormont Estate, Belfast
82.	Movanagher Fish Farm	152 Vow Road, Ballymoney
83.	Netherleigh	Massey Avenue, Belfast
84.	Newry Centre	51 Rathfriland Road, Newry
85.	Newry Chambers	1 Downshire Close, Newry
86.	Newry Jobs & Benefits Office	Phoenix House, 40 Bridge Street, Newry
87.	Newtownards Centre	Jubilee Road, Newtownards
88.	NIEA Lisburn	17 Antrim Road, Tonagh, Lisburn
89.	North Down Section Office	72 Balloo Road, Bangor
90.	North/South Ministerial Council	Upper English Street, Armagh
91.	Northbrook Depot	17 Newmills Road, Coleraine
92.	Omagh Centre	Gortrush Industrial Estate, Derry Road, Omagh
93.	Omagh Chambers	2 Townhall Square, High Street, Omagh
94.	Orchard House	40 Foyle Street, Londonderry
95.	Park House	87-91 St Victoria Street, Belfast
96.	Plant Unit	Seagoe Industrial Estate, Craigavon
97.	Prison College	Millisle

	<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
98.	PRONI	2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast
99.	Rathgael House	43 Balloo Road, Bangor
100.	River Bush Salmon Station	Church Street, Bushmills
101.	Roads Service Training Centre	65 Newlodge Road, Antrim
102.	Roe Valley Country Park	Roe Valley Country Park, 41 Leap Road, Limavady
103.	Seapark	Belfast Road, Carrickfergus
104.	Shannon Hall	Loughry Campus, 76 Dungannon Road, Cookstown
105.	Stormont Castle	Stormont Estate, Belfast
106.	Waterman House	5-33 Hill Street, Belfast
107.	Waterside Tower	Clarendon Dock, Belfast
108.	Western Reg. Office	Woodside Avenue, Gortin Road, Omagh
109.	Woodburn Depot	1A Crescent Road, Londonderry
110.	Woodlands	Mosswood Close, Bangor
111.	YJA HQ	Waring Street, Belfast

## Preventative Spending

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what consideration he has given to the need for preventative spending within his departmental budget.

**(AQW 31853/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** I believe that a focus on preventative spending is key to encouraging innovation in our public services and will assist us in achieving better outcomes for our citizens. As such, I see prevention and early intervention as a key part of my public sector reform agenda.

Whilst I acknowledge that focusing much more on prevention can pose some challenges, I am keen to work with departments to evaluate how spending on prevention and early intervention can play a larger part in departmental budgets.

## Project Bank Accounts

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what guidelines Central Procurement Directorate has established for the operation of Project Bank Accounts; and whether these guidelines are publicly available.

**(AQW 32090/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) has prepared guidance for the application of Project Bank Accounts in construction contracts. This is currently being considered by the Procurement Board for its adoption as Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy Guidance. If endorsed, the guidance will be published on the CPD website in the form of a Procurement Guidance Note.

## Privatisation of Public Services

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline why the privatisation of public services was not included in the remit of the public sector reform division.

**(AQW 32097/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Part of the work currently being undertaken by the Public Sector Reform Division (PSRD) includes an examination of reform programmes in the rest of the UK, the Republic of Ireland and best practice countries to identify initiatives that could be taken forward within Northern Ireland. This work has identified examples where other countries have adopted alternative models of public service delivery provision via a combination of public, private and third sector mechanisms.

While privatisation of public services has been used as an alternative method of provision in the countries that are being researched, private sector involvement through alternative delivery vehicles such as social

enterprises, public sector mutuals and co-operative models has been found to be a more common method of reform in this area.

## Civil Servants Employed Locally

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many civil servants are employed locally, per head of the population, compared to the equivalent figure for England, Wales and Scotland.

**(AQW 32099/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The table below details the total number of civil servants per 100 persons in the population, by country.

**Table 1: Number of Civil Servants per 100 Population by Country**

Country	Civil Servants per 100 Population
Northern Ireland Civil Service <sup>1,2,3</sup>	1.53
England	0.67
Scotland	0.86
Wales	1.03

1 NICS figures at 1 April 2013

2 Excludes civil servants in the GB Civil Service based in NI at 31 March 2013

3 The NI figure includes staff in the Health and Safety Executive for NI, The Office of the Attorney General for NI and staff of the Assembly Ombudsman for NI/ The NI Commissioner for Complaints

## Enterprise Zone at Coleraine

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel in regard to the establishment of an Enterprise Zone at Coleraine, can he indicate if discussions will be held with interested parties to extend the Zone to any adjoining land which has already been identified as a possible location for a Data Centre.

**(AQW 32223/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** My Department is not currently planning on holding any discussions with interested third parties to extend the Enterprise Zone at Coleraine, which is being established as a pilot, to adjoining land.

DETI and DFP are working alongside Treasury to ensure that the necessary arrangements are taken as quickly as possible following the Budget to designate the zone announced. Ultimately, the final decision to designate a zone offering ECAs is a matter for HM Treasury.

## Rates Revaluation Process

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel when local businesses will be informed of the final outcome of the Rates Revaluation process.

**(AQW 32224/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Land & Property Services will have completed the valuation work by the autumn of this year. I am keen to let businesses know the outcome of the Revaluation as soon as possible after that part of the exercise is complete. A revaluation, however, is revenue neutral and therefore the regional and district rates per pound of value will change accordingly. Until the new district and regional rate poundages are struck in February 2015 using the new values, the final outcome of the rates revaluation process cannot be determined.

Nevertheless, I would like to give individual business ratepayers an early opportunity to assess whether their new rateable value represents a fair rental estimate and propose publishing a schedule of draft values before the end of this year. I still have to make a final decision about when this will occur and will be consulting with the Commissioner of Valuation about timing and handling in the coming weeks. I will of course advise the Assembly when the date is decided.

## PEACE IV and INTERREG V Process

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what is the anticipated timeline for the PEACE IV and INTERREG V process; and what imperatives inform any timeline.

**(AQW 32284/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Draft Operational Programmes for PEACE IV and INTERREG V must be submitted to the European Commission by 22 September 2014 in line with the Regulatory Time Frame. Submission will be followed by a period of negotiation between the Member States and the European Commission, prior to final Commission approval.

## Operational Programme for PEACE IV and INTERREG V

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) if there will be a formal consultation on any Operational Programme for PEACE IV and INTERREG V before submission of any proposals to the European Commission; (ii) who will have responsibility for such a consultation; and (iii) in what jurisdictions the public will be consulted and by whom.

**(AQW 32285/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) will conduct a formal consultation on proposals for the PEACE IV and INTERREG V Operational Programmes prior to submission of draft programmes to the European Commission.

The consultation will take place throughout the relevant programme eligible areas—Northern Ireland, the Border Region of the Republic of Ireland and, in the case of INTERREG V, Western Scotland.

## Operational Programme for PEACE IV and INTERREG V

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel will SEUPB be providing support to develop projects under PEACE IV and INTERREG V before the Operational Programme approval process is complete; and on what legal basis could this happen.

**(AQW 32286/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** No decision has been made on whether SEUPB will be providing support to develop projects under PEACE IV and INTERREG V before the Operational Programme approval process is complete.

The legal basis on which this could happen is provided by EU Commission Regulation 1299/2013, Article 23 and Regulation 1303/2013, Articles 59 and 65.

## Chancellor's 2014 Budget Statement

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what are the Barnett Consequentials of the Chancellor's 2014 Budget statement.

**(AQW 32330/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Chancellor's 2014 March Budget resulted in an overall increase to our budget.

On the Resource DEL side this amounted to £4.3 million and £6.8 million in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. There were also additions of £7.9 million and £1.2 million to our Capital DEL budget over the same two years. Finally, the Executive received £0.1 million and £1.0 million of Financial Transactions Capital in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

## Special EU Programmes Body

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the current staff complement of the Special EU Programmes Body; and (ii) the perceived community background of those employed.

**(AQW 32353/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Special EU Programmes Body has a staff complement of 57 Full Time Employees (FTEs).

The religious background of staff currently employed by the Special EU Programmes body is:

■ Protestant	19
■ Roman Catholic	34
■ Other	3

These figures relate to head count and only to staff employed in the SEUPB's Belfast and Omagh offices. The SEUPB is not legislatively required to monitor the community background of staff employed in its Monaghan office.

## Enterprise Zone: Location

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide details of the criteria in regard to the location of any Enterprise Zone by the Treasury, in advance of the decision by the Chancellor on 19 March 2014.

**(AQW 32361/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure. The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive. State aid rules stipulate that ECAs cannot be offered alongside other forms of regional aid such as Selective Financial Assistance, business rate discounts etc.

In selecting a location for a pilot Enterprise Zone, the over-riding criterion was that it could potentially assist the development of new capital-intensive projects where ECAs would provide an attractive incentive and would outweigh other forms of available financial support. In addition, due to the then legislation cut-off date of April 2017 for projects to benefit from ECAs, any potential project needed to be operational before that date.

The pilot Enterprise Zone adjacent to the University of Ulster Coleraine Campus was put forward for the following reasons:

- Investment was already at an advanced stage and 5NINES had already received planning permission (in October 2013), so the project could potentially benefit from ECAs before the April 2017 cut-off date;

- It is an important infrastructure investment for the ICT sector and builds on the area as a digital hub;
- The project would not qualify for Invest NI financial support;
- ECAs would provide the incentive for the project to proceed and could potentially lead to further phases; and
- It is a joint venture between the University of Ulster, Coleraine Borough Council and 5NINES which has the potential to promote economic development and further investment in the area.

### New Council Areas: Staff Commute

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32399/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The information requested is detailed in the table overleaf.

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade										Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	Industrial	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0	3	21	50	47	44	34	55	17	1	272
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	1	2	5	30	34	30	21	23	5	0	151
Belfast	17	28	75	146	143	121	107	209	62	6	914
Causeway Coast and Glens	1	0	1	9	9	10	4	29	6	1	70
Derry and Strabane	0	0	2	4	5	7	4	5	4	0	31
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	1	2	0	13
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	4	17	35	33	37	28	40	12	1	207
Mid and East Antrim	1	3	13	20	35	22	23	37	7	1	162
Mid Ulster	0	2	4	16	14	17	8	22	8	1	92
Newry, Mourne and Down	0	9	9	22	26	45	26	23	6	1	167
North Down and Ards	9	10	35	60	54	71	59	110	25	0	433
<b>Total *</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2804</b>

**Notes:**

- \* Total includes 292 (10.4%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area.

Data is taken at 01 January 2014 from HRConnect database.

Number of staff does not include those seconded outside of the NICS or staff on a career break.

As there is no definition for Greater Belfast, the above analysis calculates travel for NICS staff from the new council areas to The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA). The BMUA is defined in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (February 2005) and is available from NISRA at: [www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/urban\\_rural/ur\\_gaz.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/urban_rural/ur_gaz.pdf)

### **Motions Debated in the Assembly**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

**(AQW 32437/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** I have responded to four Private Members' Motions that were debated during the 2013/14 Assembly Session.

My Department considers the outcome of all Motions and takes the most feasible and appropriate action that is under our remit.

### **Ballynahinch and Newcastle Home-Start**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel following his meeting with Ballynahinch and Newcastle Home-Start on 20 February 2014 whether further funding has been sourced to secure their short to medium term future.

**(AQW 32473/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Decisions on the funding of services and organisations are the responsibility of relevant departmental Ministers taking into account budget pressures and competing priorities.

However, I have written to the Health Minister to advise him of the concerns around funding availability raised by Home-Start at the meeting. I have asked Minister Poots to ascertain why funding has not been provided to the Ballynahinch, Newcastle and Ards Peninsula areas.

### **Enterprise Investment Scheme**

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the impact of the 2014 Budget announcement that companies benefiting from Renewable Obligation Certificates or the Renewable Heat Incentive will be excluded from the Enterprise Investment Scheme on community energy projects; and has he made any representation in regard to Northern Ireland's specific circumstances.

**(AQW 32476/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The operation of the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) is a matter for HM Treasury. I understand DETI officials are considering any potential Northern Ireland-specific issues arising from the Budget announcement on EIS and my Department will work with them to raise any such issues with HM Treasury as necessary.

### **Location of Northern Ireland Civil Service Jobs**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of the location of Northern Ireland Civil Service jobs in each constituency.

**(AQW 32491/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The information requested is set out in the attached tables.

**NI Civil Servant jobs at 01 January 2014**

<b>Parliamentary Constituency</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Belfast East	4,086	14.6
Belfast North	935	3.3
Belfast South	9,583	34.3
Belfast West	1,180	4.2
East Antrim	381	1.4
East Londonderry	1,364	4.9
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	853	3.1
Foyle	1,759	6.3
Lagan Valley	1,683	6.0
Mid Ulster	429	1.5
Newry And Armagh	816	2.9
North Antrim	793	2.8
North Down	1,052	3.8
South Antrim	555	2.0
South Down	479	1.7
Strangford	231	.8
Upper Bann	827	3.0
West Tyrone	913	3.3
Outside NI	27	.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,958</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Total Includes 12 (0.1%) Missing Or Invalid Postcodes

Data is based on headcount, industrial and non-industrial. It does not include staff seconded outside of the nics or staff on a career break

Data sourced from hrconnect database and additional DOJ databases.

**Belfast East**

<b>Building Name</b>	<b>Postcode Location</b>	<b>Number</b>
Airport Road Traffic Control Centre	BT3 9DY	22
Annexe 2 Castle Buildings	BT4 3SQ	34
Annexe C Dundonald House	BT4 2SE	23
Block B Castle Buildings	BT4 3SL	7
Block E Castle Buildings	BT4 3SG	8



Building Name	Postcode Location	Number
Castle Buildings	BT4 3SL	966
Clare House	BT3 9ED	310
Craigantlet Buildings	BT4 3SX	258
Depot Airport Road	BT3 9DH	54
Dundonald House	BT4 3SU	1,031
Elizabeth House	BT4 1NY	8
Fisheries HQ	BT4 3SB	41
Government Office Ladas Drive	BT6 9FR	94
Hillview Buildings	BT4 3SG	56
Hollywood Road Jobs and Benefits Office	BT4 1JU	179
Imports Inspector Belfast City Airport	BT3 9JH	3
Knockview Buildings	BT4 3SJ	120
Massey House	BT4 3SX	97
Netherleigh	BT4 2JP	342
Parliament Buildings	BT4 3XX	11
Public Record Office	BT3 9HQ	78
Rosepark House	BT4 3NR	53
Stormont Castle	BT4 3ST	91
Stormont Estate	BT4 3TA	33
The Arches Centre	BT5 5AA	155
Unit 2 Walled Garden	BT4 3SH	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,086</b>

**Belfast North**

Building Name	Postcode Location	Number
148-158 Corporation Street	BT1 3DH	82
171-179 Duncairn Gardens	BT15 2GE	17
20-24 Donegall Street	BT1 2GP	1
41-43 Waring Street	BT1 2DY	58
Coastal House	BT3 9AL	25
Crown Buildings Corporation Street	BT1 3DR	39
Crown Buildings Shankill	BT13 1PP	17
Design Centre	BT1 3BA	55
Interpoint	BT15 1AQ	1

Building Name	Postcode Location	Number
Longbridge House	BT1 2EB	47
Magnet House	BT15 1AB	64
Newtownabbey Jobs and Benefits Office	BT36 7LB	103
North City Business Centre	BT15 2GG	9
River House	BT1 2DR	41
Section Office Belfast	BT1 3DH	39
Shankill Jobs and Benefits Office	BT13 1PP	29
The Design Centre	BT1 3BA	213
Waterman House	BT1 2LA	89
Waterside Tower	BT1 3BG	4
YJA North Belfast	BT15 2GE	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>935</b>

**Belfast South**

Location	Postcode	Number
14 Great Victoria Street	BT2 7BA	13
24-26 Arthur Street	BT1 4GF	1
Adelaide House	BT2 8FD	390
Arthur House	BT1 4GB	5
Balmoral Road	BT12 6QL	137
Bankmore House	BT2 7FH	42
Bedford House	BT2 7FD	184
Bedford Square	BT2 7ES	4
Belfast Chambers	BT1 3JR	178
BRO East	BT6 8PQ	7
Careers Resource Centre Belfast	BT1 4EG	17
Carleton House	BT7 2JA	22
Causeway Exchange	BT2 7EG	310
Centre House	BT1 4JR	60
Clarence Court	BT2 8GB	639
Cleaver House	BT1 5GA	11
Colby House	BT9 5BJ	171
College Street	BT1 6DR	52
Connor Buildings	BT2 7AG	72

Location	Postcode	Number
Consumer Affairs Building	BT8 6QS	59
Fermanagh House	BT2 8NJ	103
Forestview	BT8 7AR	4
Gloucester House	BT1 4RA	209
Goodwood House	BT1 4NN	439
Great Northern Tower	BT2 7AD	936
Hydebank	BT8 8JL	555
James House	BT7 2JA	784
Killymeal House	BT7 2JD	54
Klondyke Building	BT7 2JA	353
Knockbreda Jobs and Benefits Office	BT8 6SX	82
Laganside Courts	BT1 3LL	97
Laganside House	BT1 3LA	171
Lesley Exchange 1	BT1 3NR	134
Lesley House	BT1 9LU	5
Lighthouse Building	BT7 2JB	354
Lincoln Building	BT2 7SL	338
Linum Chambers	BT2 7ES	111
Londonderry House	BT1 4JB	1
LPS College Street	BT1 6DR	188
Mays Chambers	BT1 3JL	21
McAuley House	BT1 1SA	138
Microfocus House	BT1 3NQ	13
Millennium House	BT2 7AQ	666
Office of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland	BT1 9LU	12
Old Townhall Building	BT1 3GL	13
Oxford House	BT1 4HH	99
Oyster House	BT1 6GE	5
Park House	BT2 7AG	16
Plaza Buildings	BT1 4JF	482
Progressive House	BT1 6HN	19
PSCS - Cromac Wood	BT7 2JB	1
Queen's Court	BT1 6FD	173

Location	Postcode	Number
Royal Courts of Justice	BT1 3JF	161
Royston House	BT1 6FX	214
Shaftesbury Square Jobs and Benefits Office	BT2 7AG	46
Victoria Hall	BT1 4NL	59
Waterfront Plaza	BT1 3BS	153
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,583</b>

**Belfast West**

Location	Postcode	Number
43-45 Falls Road	BT12 4PD	34
580A Falls Road	BT11 9AB	155
Andersonstown Job Centre	BT11 9AB	54
Avenue House	BT1 1QE	3
Castle Court	BT1 1SD	816
Crown Buildings Falls Road	BT12 4PH	71
Falls Jobs and Benefits Office	BT12 4PH	40
Howard Building	BT13 2JF	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,180</b>

**East Antrim**

Location	Postcode	Number
Ballyboley Road	BT40 2SY	24
Carrickfergus Castle	BT38 8BP	7
Carrickfergus Jobs and Benefits Office	BT38 8DJ	37
Depot Larne	BT40 2PJ	12
Government Office Carrickfergus	BT38 8BN	12
Larne Jobs and Benefits Office	BT40 1SB	55
Larne Portal Inspection Office	BT40 1AH	19
Seapark	BT38 8PL	215
<b>Total</b>		<b>381</b>

**East Londonderry**

Location	Postcode	Number
2 Loughan Hill Industrial Estate	BT52 2NJ	31
Agricultural Office Limavady	BT49 0DN	9

Location	Postcode	Number
Beresford House	BT52 1LW	41
Coleraine Courthouse	BT52 1HY	9
Coleraine Jobs and Benefits Office	BT52 2AA	46
County Hall Coleraine	BT51 3HS	467
Crown Buildings Coleraine	BT52 2AH	155
Crown Buildings Limavady	BT49 0DU	17
Depot Aghanloo	BT49 0HR	16
Depot Northbrook	BT51 3HS	26
District Forest Office Garvagh	BT51 5EF	39
Dunluce Castle	BT57 8UY	4
Forestry Area Workshop Coleraine	BT51 3RJ	1
Limavady Jobs and Benefits Office	BT49 0DU	39
Mill House	BT52 1PE	17
Milligan Prison	BT49 0LR	367
Portrush Countryside Centre	BT56 8AP	5
Rivers Agency Coleraine	BT51 3RL	55
Roe Valley Country Park	BT49 9NN	7
Vets Office W D Meats	BT52 2JR	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,364</b>

### Fermanagh and South Tyrone

Location	Postcode	Number
Ballyvadden Depot	BT75 0LF	15
Castle Barracks Enniskillen	BT74 7HN	45
Castlearchdale Country Park	BT94 1EB	15
Chanterhill Road	BT74 6DE	23
County Buildings Enniskillen	BT74 7BN	26
Crown Buildings Dungannon	BT70 1EN	69
Crown Buildings Enniskillen	BT74 7JF	69
Depot Moygashel	BT71 7QR	44
Depot Silverhill	BT74 5JP	41
Dungannon Careers Office	BT70 1EN	10
Dungannon Courthouse	BT71 6DE	17
Dungannon Jobs and Benefits Office	BT70 1EN	101

Location	Postcode	Number
Enniskillen Campus	BT74 4GF	43
Enniskillen Courthouse	BT74 7BP	4
Enniskillen Jobs and Benefits Office	BT74 7JD	52
Forestry Area Workshop Enniskillen	BT94 3NB	6
Inishkeen House	BT74 4EJ	153
Londonderry Courthouse	BT74 7BP	34
Parkside EHS Depot	BT71 6NW	13
Rivers Agency Riversdale	BT94 2NA	35
Riversdale Fisheries Office	BT94 2NA	10
Vets Office Dunbia Dungannon Ltd	BT70 1NJ	10
Vets Office Granville Coldstore Ltd	BT70 1NJ	2
Vets Office Linden Foods Ltd	BT70 1NJ	12
Vets Office Moy Park Ltd	BT71 6LN	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>853</b>

**Foyle**

Location	Postcode	Number
28 Temple Road	BT47 6TW	180
Careers Office Richmond Chambers	BT48 6HN	23
Carlisle House	BT48 6RE	413
City of Derry Airport Portal Inspection	BT47 3GY	1
Crown Buildings Lisnagelvin	BT47 2NG	54
Crown Buildings Londonderry	BT48 7DZ	31
Depot Crescent Road	BT47 2NQ	60
Embassy Building	BT48 7BA	5
Foyle Chambers	BT47 6LP	50
Foyle Jobs and Benefits Office	BT48 7EA	273
Lisnagelvin Jobs and Benefits Office	BT47 2NJ	40
New Buildings Industrial Estate	BT47 2SX	37
Orchard House	BT48 7DZ	309
Vets Office Foyle Meats Ltd	BT47 6TJ	13
Vets Office Wm Grant and Co Ltd	BT48 8JP	1
Waterside House	BT47 1FP	256
Woodburn EHS Depot	BT47 2NQ	4

Location	Postcode	Number
YJA	BT48 7BH	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,759</b>

**Lagan Valley**

Location	Postcode	Number
Ballinderry Industrial Estate	BT28 2SA	30
Benson House	BT28 2GB	25
Bow House	BT28 1BJ	59
Depot Sprucefield	BT27 5QY	30
EHS Lisburn	BT28 3AL	214
Forestry Area Workshop Hillsborough	BT26 6DP	1
Lisburn Chambers	BT28 1FJ	82
Lisburn Courthouse	BT28 1XR	6
Lisburn Jobs and Benefits Office	BT28 1BJ	55
Lisburn Proteins	BT28 2SN	1
Lisburn Square House	BT28 1TS	19
LPS Lisburn	BT28 3AJ	34
Maghaberry	BT28 2PT	1,006
Moirs EHS Depot	BT67 0NE	12
Ravarnet House	BT27 5QB	109
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,683</b>

**Mid Ulster**

Location	Postcode	Number
Agriculture Development Centre	BT45 5DN	6
Cookstown EHS Depot	BT80 8NX	4
Cookstown Job Centre	BT80 8PA	19
Cookstown Test Centre	BT80 9AR	1
Crown Buildings Magherafelt	BT45 5DN	84
Government Office Cookstown	BT80 8AQ	14
Loughry Campus	BT80 9AE	160
Magherafelt Jobs and Benefits Office	BT45 5DJ	41
Moneymore Road, Magherafelt	BT45 6PR	32
Sandholes Road	BT80 9AR	30
Section Office Cookstown	BT80 8PA	3



Location	Postcode	Number
Section Office Magherafelt	BT80 8NX	22
Vets Office Karro	BT80 8PJ	12
Vets Office Vion Cookstown	BT80 8PJ	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>429</b>

**North Down**

Location	Postcode	Number
Bangor Job Centre	BT20 5BE	30
Crawfordsburn Country Park	BT19 1JT	4
Crown Buildings Bangor	BT20 4LQ	69
Donaghadee Harbour Office	BT21 0HE	2
Prison Service College	BT22 2HS	60
Rathgael House	BT19 7PR	726
Section Office North Down	BT19 2PG	10
Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre	BT19 1TA	151
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,052</b>

**Newry and Armagh**

Location	Postcode	Number
47 Hamiltonsbawn Road	BT60 1HW	22
51 Rathfriland Road	BT34 1LD	32
58 Upper English Street	BT61 7LG	12
Armagh Courthouse	BT61 9DJ	9
Armagh Jobs and Benefits Office	BT61 7JL	42
Armagh Test Centre	BT60 1HW	1
Atek Building	BT60 1NF	96
CADO Armagh	BT60 1EN	1
Crown Buildings Armagh	BT61 7JF	88
Depot Ballynahonemore Road	BT60 1JD	54
Dobbin Centre	BT61 7QP	8
DVO Armagh	BT61 9BL	5
Glenree House	BT35 6EF	108
Government Office Cecil Street	BT35 6AU	45
Holts Building	BT35 6AH	5
Newry Chambers	BT34 1FD	48

Location	Postcode	Number
Newry Courthouse	BT35 6JD	21
Newry Jobs and Benefits Office	BT35 8AJ	77
Phoenix House	BT35 8AJ	126
Southern Education and Library Board	BT60 1NR	2
Vets Office ABP Holdings Ltd (Newry)	BT34 2PD	12
Vets Office Rockvale Poultry	BT61 9ND	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>816</b>

**North Antrim**

Location	Postcode	Number
2 Parkway	BT43 5ET	76
Academy House	BT43 6BA	165
Ballymena Careers Office	BT43 5AL	9
Ballymena Chambers	BT43 5ET	52
Ballymena Courthouse	BT43 5BS	19
Ballymena Jobs and Benefit Office	BT43 5ET	46
Ballymena RDO	BT43 6DF	15
Ballymoney Jobs and Benefits Office	BT53 6DT	36
County Hall Ballymena	BT42 1QD	160
Crown Buildings Ballymoney	BT53 6DT	35
Depot Ballykeel	BT42 3HA	53
Depot Ballymoney	BT53 6EE	18
ECOS Centre	BT43 7QA	2
Kilpatrick House	BT43 6DT	4
Movanagher Fish Farm	BT53 7NT	10
Pennybridge Industrial Estate	BT42 3ER	34
River Bush Salmon Station	BT57 8QJ	10
Trillick House Ballymoney	BT53 6JD	12
Vets Office Ballymena Meats	BT42 3HD	6
Vets Office Dickey's Poultry	BT42 1EG	1
Vets Office Dunbia Ballymena Ltd	BT42 1EA	7
Vets Office Moypark Ballymena	BT42 3HH	9
YJA Ballymena and Antrim	BT43 6AT	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>793</b>

**South Antrim**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Count</b>
Antrim Courthouse	BT41 4AQ	12
Antrim Jobs and Benefits Office	BT41 4JE	41
Castleton House	BT36 4TY	56
Caulside	BT41 2GY	10
Crown Buildings Antrim	BT41 4JE	91
Depot Balloo	BT36 8RF	25
Depot Rathmore	BT41 4EA	16
Depot Sandyknowes	BT36 8RF	36
Greenmount Campus	BT41 4PU	227
Hydepark Industrial Estate	BT36 8YY	34
Imports Inspector Belfast International Airport	BT29 4AA	5
Vets Office Lakeview Farm Meats/Langford Processors	BT29 4RS	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>555</b>

**South Down**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Postcode</b>	<b>Count</b>
Castlenavan Quarry	BT30 8PR	2
Castlewellan Demesne	BT31 9BU	3
Crown Buildings Kilkeel	BT34 4DN	13
Depot Corbet	BT32 3RU	19
Depot Seaforde	BT30 8PR	28
District Forest Office Castlewellan	BT31 9BU	36
Downpatrick Courthouse	BT30 6AD	13
Downpatrick Job Centre	BT30 6LZ	17
Downpatrick Test Centre	BT30 6DU	1
Fisheries Office Kilkeel	BT34 4AX	2
Flying Horse Industrial Estate	BT30 6DU	21
Government Office Downpatrick	BT30 6AF	38
Government Office Newcastle	BT33 0EJ	13
Government Office Seaforde	BT30 8PR	11
Grange Yard	BT31 9BU	9
Imports Inspector Warrenpoint	BT34 3JR	1
Kilkeel Jobs and Benefits Office	BT34 4DN	14

Location	Postcode	Count
Newcastle Job Centre	BT33 0AE	13
Quoile Countryside Centre	BT30 7JB	5
Rathkeltair House	BT30 6UU	196
Strangford Ferry Terminal	BT30 7NE	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>479</b>

**Strangford**

Location	Postcode	Count
Ballynahinch Job Centre	BT24 8XP	10
Crown Buildings Ballynahinch	BT24 8XP	13
DVO Newtownards	BT23 4TJ	4
Fisheries Office Portavogie	BT22 1EA	2
Government Office Jubilee Road	BT23 4XP	33
Government Office Newtownards	BT23 3EL	20
Jubilee Road	BT23 4XP	41
Newtownards Courthouse	BT23 4LP	25
Newtownards Job Centre	BT23 4DA	26
Scrabo Country Park	BT23 4SJ	9
Sketrick House	BT23 4YH	48
<b>Total</b>		<b>231</b>

**Upper Bann**

Location	Postcode	Count
15a Castlewellan Road	BT32 4AX	16
3 Diviny Drive	BT63 5RY	47
Banbridge Jobs and Benefits Office	BT32 4AZ	83
Craigavon Courthouse	BT64 1AP	25
Crown Buildings Lurgan	BT66 6BB	69
Crown Buildings Portadown	BT62 3DA	32
DCAL, PORTADOWN FISHERIES	BT62 1HT	10
Depot Carn	BT63 5RY	76
Lurgan Jobs and Benefits Office	BT66 6BB	47
Magowan Building	BT62 3PN	10
Marlborough House	BT64 1AD	270

Location	Postcode	Count
Oxford Island Nature Reserve BT66 6NJ		2
Portadown Jobs and Benefits Office	BT62 3HA	40
Rivers Agency Armagh Sub Regional Office	BT63 5QD	55
Rivers Agency Plant Office Seagoe	BT63 5QD	32
Vets Office ABP Ltd (Lurgan)	BT67 9JL	8
Vets Office Oakdale Meats (Northern Ireland) Ltd	BT67 9JD	2
YJA Banbridge	BT32 4AX	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>827</b>

**West Tyrone**

Location	Postcode	Count
12-14 Dublin Road	BT78 1ES	47
Agricultural Office Strabane	BT82 9FR	3
Anderson House	BT78 1EE	14
Boaz House	BT78 1JG	86
College House	BT78 1ER	25
County Hall Omagh	BT78 1PS	113
Crown Buildings Omagh	BT79 7BB	84
Crown Buildings Strabane	BT82 9BX	26
Depot Arvalee	BT79 0ND	74
Elm View	BT82 8DX	36
Gortrush Industrial Estate	BT78 5EJ	24
Kevlin Buildings	BT78 1ER	11
Lancer Building	BT78 5EJ	5
McAleer Building	BT79 7AF	31
Omagh Chambers	BT78 1DU	55
Omagh Courthouse	BT78 1DU	16
Omagh Jobs and Benefits Office	BT79 7BB	49
Omagh Test Centre	BT78 5EJ	1
Rivers Agency Omagh	BT79 7BP	63
Sperrin House	BT79 7AQ	111
Strabane Job Centre	BT82 8AS	28
Vets Office Omagh Meats	BT79 0BQ	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>913</b>

## Patients who have Died in Hospital of Malnutrition

**Mr A Maginness** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of patients who have died in hospital of malnutrition in each year since 2008, broken down by age.

**(AQW 32577/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The table overleaf details the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland where malnutrition<sup>1</sup> was recorded as the underlying cause of death and where the place of death was in hospital between 2008 and 2012.

1. International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes: E40 – E46

**Table 1: Number of Deaths Registered in Northern Ireland where Malnutrition<sup>1</sup> was Recorded as the Underlying Cause of Death and Place of Death was in Hospital, 2008 – 2012**

Registration Year	Age			Total
	<65	65-74	74+	
2008	1	1	0	2
2009	0	0	1	1
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	1	1
2012	1	2	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

1. Malnutrition is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40 to E46.

## Vacant Dwellings in the Enniskillen District

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of vacant dwellings in the Enniskillen District.

**(AQW 32591/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** Domestic properties move in and out of occupancy on an ongoing basis.

A total of 2,144 domestic dwellings in the Fermanagh District Council area were recorded as vacant as at 31st March 2014. The attached table provides the number of occupied and vacant domestic dwellings in each ward in Fermanagh District Council.

**Domestic Dwellings in Fermanagh District Council as at 31st March 2014**

Ward Name	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ballinamallard	1,017	55	1,072
Belcoo & Garrison	1,091	140	1,231
Belleek and Boa	1,106	166	1,272
Boho Cleenish Letterbreen	1,151	115	1,266
Brookeborough	922	68	990
Castlecoole	1,649	61	1,710
Derrygonnelly	1,117	138	1,255

Ward Name	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Derrylin	1,027	110	1,137
Devenish	837	31	868
Donagh	886	78	964
Erne	1,098	48	1,146
Florence Ct and Kinawley	992	128	1,120
Irvinestown	1,129	76	1,205
Kesh, Ederny & Lack	1,496	109	1,605
Lisbellaw	1,142	81	1,223
Lisnarick	787	69	856
Lisnaskea	1,151	88	1,239
Maguiresbridge	1,197	79	1,276
Newtownbutler	1,018	99	1,117
Portora	1,535	150	1,685
Rosslea	826	95	921
Rossorry	1,125	66	1,191
Tempo	1,036	94	1,130
Fermanagh District Council	25,335	2,144	27,479

**Note:** From 1st October 2011, vacant domestic property rating liability changed from zero to full liability, with the exception of a number of prescribed exclusions. There is no requirement on, or incentive for, homeowners to inform LPS that their property is vacant or otherwise. The figures provided cover properties that LPS knows were vacant. There may be other properties, for which rates were collected, which were vacant that LPS was not aware of.

## European Investment Bank: Roads Infrastructure

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of his recent discussions with the European Investment Bank, whether the Bank has given any specific guidance regarding their attitude towards proposed major roads infrastructure funding applications.

**(AQW 32615/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The key role of the European Investment Bank is to provide finance for investment projects which contribute towards EU policy objectives. This may indeed include improvements to strategic, and in particular cross border, roads projects.

The Northern Ireland Executive cannot benefit directly from European Investment Bank lending because this would score as UK Government borrowing and HM Treasury would then reduce our capital budget accordingly. The only option, therefore, would be PFI procurement whereby the cost of the road is repaid through the resource budget. In a context where our resource budget is expected to be severely constrained until the end of this decade, this is currently not affordable.

## Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal

**Mr Brady** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the amount paid in (i) expenses; (ii) allowances; and (iii) subsistence payments to (a) the Secretary; and (b) the three panel members, of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for the hearing of the Law Society v Tara Walsh on 5 April 2013.  
**(AQW 32645/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Department is not responsible for any expenses, allowances or subsistence payments made to the Secretary or solicitor members of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT). Under Article 43(3) of the Solicitors (NI) Order 1976 as amended, the Department may pay the lay members of the SDT such remuneration as it may determine. The Department's records show that for a hearing on 5th April 2013, a total of £97.50 was paid to a lay member of the SDT. This included a fee for the case of £83.00 together with travelling and car-parking expenses.

## Occupational Health Services

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

**(AQW 32722/11-15)**

**Mr Hamilton:** The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

The NICS does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of OHS services can be found at [www.nicsohs.gov.uk](http://www.nicsohs.gov.uk).

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Family High Court Judgment: Parental Alienation

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how, and when, the Family High Court Judgment, made by Mrs Justice Parker in London on 23 December 2013 in relation to parental alienation and the consequential emotion abuse, will be conveyed to relevant officials in his Department and the Health and Social Care Trusts.

**(AQW 30474/11-15)**

**Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety):** In November 2010, the Department, jointly with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in the Republic of Ireland, put in place an on-line child protection information Hub, the North South Child Protection Hub (NSCPH). The aim of the NSCPH is to make information readily available to, inter alia, front-line child protection practitioners, their managers, policy makers and researchers. The Hub includes relevant Court Judgments and my officials have been advised that the judgment issued by Justice Parker will be uploaded on to the Hub when published.

This is one source of reference for such judgments, however there is an onus on professional social workers in the field of child care, like other professionals, to keep themselves as up-to-date as possible with practice developments in their field of expertise, which extends to the findings of the Family Courts.

It should be noted that English judgments may not always translate seamlessly to Northern Ireland given that our legislative frameworks may be different.



## Mental Health Posts

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many mental health posts have been lost in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust through efficiency savings in the last two years.

**(AQW 31412/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Belfast HSC Trust advise that 6.72 WTE posts were lost between March 2012 and March 2014. Revisions to still mix and realignment of Steps 3 and 4 CAMHS care, together with new investment into novel approaches/teams in CAMHS allowed the majority of these posts to be released for savings.

## Nursing Staff Positions: Bangor Minor Injury Unit

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nursing staff positions are required to run the Bangor Minor Injury Unit.

**(AQW 32139/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** At present 5.5 whole time equivalent staff are required to deliver a seven day week Band 7 Nurse Practitioner service at the Bangor Minor Injury Unit.

## Genitourinary Medicine Clinics

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the process in each Health and Social Care Trust for assessing enquiries requesting testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections and the allocation of appointments at the Genitourinary Medicine clinics.

**(AQW 32231/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Genitourinary Medicine clinics in each of the Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland all operate telephone booking lines for patients to arrange appointments; this includes a triaging service which can prioritise urgent appointments. Medical staff are available to take calls from patients with more complicated enquiries or who are symptomatic. The Northern and Western Trusts also provide a walk-in service.

## Genitourinary Medicine Clinics

**Mr Kinahan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what process is in place if a person requests an appointment for treatment at a Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) clinic and no clinics are available.

**(AQW 32232/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Where a patient requests an appointment for treatment at a Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) clinic and no clinics are available, their request will be triaged and if found to be urgent they will allocated an appointment at the next available clinic.

Belfast Trust will also overbook clinics or arrange ad hoc clinics; the Western and Northern Trusts also provide a walk in service.

## Movement from Childrens to Adult Services

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the movement of services for children with a diasability and special needs from childrens to adult services.

**(AQW 32256/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The current activity in relation to transition from HSC Children's services to Adult services is outlined in the table below:

**Disabled children known to the HSC who leave school during the period, and the transition plans that are in place – 2012/2013**

Age at Leaving School	Total Year Ending 31 March 2013		Number with Transitions in place Year Ending 31 March 2013	
	M	F	M	F
Disability				
Physical disability	23	6	23	6
Sensory Impairment	3	2	3	2
Learning disability	131	82	131	81
Chronic illness	0	0	0	0
Autism (ASD/ADHD/ Aspergers)	1	0	1	0
Other (Unidentified)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>89</b>

### Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the current Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools provision in North Antrim.  
(AQW 32355/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools (MASTS) service is provided in four teams across the Northern HSC Trust area. The team most closely aligned to the North Antrim Constituency is the Causeway team.

The MASTS Causeway team currently supports 41 schools within the area. There is a waiting list of schools who have expressed an interest in becoming part of the MASTS service.

As the MASTS service is subject to a review which has been undertaken by the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board, the Northern Trust has no plans to take on any additional schools until the outcome of this review is known.

The review has now been completed and a regional principles-based model has been developed in conjunction with a range of stakeholders including colleagues from the Department of Education. This is currently being progressed through internal processes for approval. When approved, the next stage will be to implement the regional model through collaboration with key stakeholders. It is hoped that this will begin in April 2014.

### Ovarian Cancer Awareness Campaign

**Mr Lyttle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Public Health Agency will run an Ovarian Cancer Awareness Campaign.  
(AQW 32365/11-15)

**Mr Poots:** The Public Health Agency (PHA) is planning to develop and launch a programme aimed at improving the awareness of cancer in our population. As part of this programme the PHA will include specific messages about ovarian cancer. The PHA is hosting a stakeholder workshop on 8th May 2014 to ensure that key individuals and organisations are fully engaged in planning and supporting the cancer awareness programme.

The timetable for the launch of the campaign is being scheduled by the PHA. I understand that in parallel to the stakeholder workshop PHA is taking forward work to establish a baseline of levels of knowledge and awareness of cancer among the population. This work is essential in order to develop

a campaign that is evidence-based and appropriate to the needs of the public in Northern Ireland. PHA advise that they expect to finalise this work by September or October with commencement of the campaign shortly thereafter.

In addition and to move things forward more swiftly to improve awareness of ovarian cancer, the PHA plans to initiate an awareness raising programme over the coming weeks. The plan will comprise of a targeted distribution of leaflets and posters, possibly supplemented by a platform piece to be included in local newspaper publications.

The Public Health Agency has also been working closely with the Health and Social Care Board to provide information for primary care practitioners, including information on the appropriate investigations to be undertaken with women whose signs and symptoms are suggestive of ovarian cancer. This information and referral pathway is consistent with the evidence issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

### **Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety following the recent announcement of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, when the vaccine Bexsero will be made available to patients.

**(AQW 32371/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** On 21 March 2014 the JCVI recommended that a Meningitis B vaccination programme for infants should be introduced, provided the vaccine can be purchased at a cost-effective price. I welcomed and accepted the JCVI recommendations.

Negotiations regarding procurement of the Men B vaccine will be taken forward by the Department of Health in England on behalf of all the UK Health Departments. The timing of the introduction of a Men B vaccination programme will now depend primarily on the outcome of the negotiations and on the availability of a sustainable supply of the vaccine required to allow a programme to begin.

### **Multi-Agency Support Team for Schools**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he expects to receive the Public Health Agency's review into Multi-Agency Support Team for Schools.

**(AQW 32386/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Public Health Agency and Health and Social Care Board have undertaken a review into Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools (and their equivalents in other Trust areas).

A regional principles-based model has now been developed in conjunction with a range of stakeholders, including colleagues from the Department of Education. This is currently being progressed through internal processes for approval.

When approved, the next stage will be to implement the regional model through collaboration with key stakeholders. It is hoped that this will begin in April 2014.

### **Cancer Drugs Fund**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he is aware that 38 cancer drugs routinely available through the Cancer Drugs Fund in England are now available in Scotland but not in Northern Ireland.

**(AQW 32431/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Health and Social Care Board which has responsibility for commissioning specialist drugs in Northern Ireland has advised that there are 40 drugs included on the NHS England National Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) List (March 2014 list).

Many of the drugs included in the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF) are licensed for a range of indications. A proportion of these drugs are recommended by NICE for one or more of their licensed indications and in such circumstances are routinely commissioned in Northern Ireland.

It is assumed that the question asked by the Member specifically refers to the detailed criteria applicable to the availability of each of the 40 drugs included in the CDF for specific indications.

Scotland made an announcement about changes in their drug approval system in October 2013. The Scottish Government has advised that the new approach by Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) will be in place this month (April) and the first decisions under this new approach are expected by Autumn 2014.

## Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the provision of Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools in North Down.

**(AQW 32492/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Each HSC Trust has its own name for their Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools. Within the South Eastern HSC Trust, they are called Additional Support for Children in Education (ASCET).

ASCET works in close partnership with South Eastern Education and Library Board schools to provide an accessible, preventative and early intervention service to mainstream primary schools by working alongside teachers and parents to support P1-P4 children.

In North Down all South Eastern Education and Library Board mainstream primary schools are enrolled in the service. This is a total of 18 schools.

Evaluations of group programmes and training provided to teachers are overwhelmingly positive.

The attached Annex provides a summary of the enrolment and pupils benefitting from the range of ASCET services in the North Down area.

## Annex

Name of School	Pupils enrolled	Number of P1-P4 classes	Number of referrals	Current number of children on specialist caseloads	Number of Pupils seen for Universal and Targeted interventions
Ballyholme PS	625	3x P1 3x P2 3x P3 3x P4	5	12	204 Pupils @ 14 Sessions
Ballymagee PS	403	2x P1 2x P2 2x P3 2x P4	4	3	214 Pupils @ 12 Sessions
Bangor Central IPS	606	3x P1 3x P2 3x P3 3x P4	5	15	35 Pupils @ 2 Sessions
Bloomfield PS	422	3x P1 2x P2 2x P3 2x P4	3	10	20 Pupils @ 5 Sessions

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Pupils enrolled</b>	<b>Number of P1-P4 classes</b>	<b>Number of referrals</b>	<b>Current number of children on specialist caseloads</b>	<b>Number of Pupils seen for Universal and Targeted interventions</b>
Clandeboyne PS	211	2x P1 2x P2 1x P3 1x P4	6 (2 declined)	4	0
Crawfordsburn PS	216	1x P1 1x P2 2x P3 1x P4	0	2	30 Pupils @ 11 Sessions
Cygnets House PS	62	1x P1 1x P2 1x P3 1x P4	0	0	0
Glencraig PS	221	1x P1 1x P2 1x P3 1x P4	0	1	148 Pupils @ 5 Sessions
Grange Park PS	402	2x P1 3x P2 2x P3 2x P4	3	3	108 Pupils @ 10 Sessions
Hollywood PS	52	3x P1 2x P2 2x P3 2x P4	1	1	17 Pupils @ 2 Sessions
Kilcooley PS	165	1x P1 1x P2 1x P3 1x P4	2	2	46 Pupils @ 14 Sessions
Kilmaine PS	668	3x P1 3x P2 3x P3 3x P4	8	13	6 Pupils @ 2 Sessions
Rathmore PS	595	3x P1 3x P2 3x P3 3x P4	2	2	353 Pupils @ 19 Sessions
St Comgalls PS	298	2x P1 2x P2 2x P3 2x P4	1	1	135 Pupils @ 9 Sessions
St Malachy's PS (Bangor)	369	2x P1 2x P2 2x P3 1x P4	0	2	179 Pupils @ 7 Sessions

Name of School	Pupils enrolled	Number of P1-P4 classes	Number of referrals	Current number of children on specialist caseloads	Number of Pupils seen for Universal and Targeted interventions
St Patricks PS (Holywood)	259	2x P1 2x P2 1x P3 1x P4	0	2	161 Pupils @ 7 Sessions
Sullivan Prep	182	1x P1 1x P2 1x P3 1x P4	0	0	201 Pupils @ 15 Sessions
Towerview PS	404	2x P1 2x P2 2x P3 2x P4	1	4	149 Pupils @ 17 Sessions

### Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the financial support his Department has provided through Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools in North Down.

**(AQW 32493/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Department does not hold the requested information on a Constituency basis.

The term Multi Agency Support Teams (MASTs) is unique to the Northern HSC Trust area. Each HSC Trust has its own term for their respective multi disciplinary team; in the South Eastern HSC Trust area, they are known as the Additional Support for Children in Education Team (ASCET).

Information on the financial support provided for schools in the South Eastern HSC Trust area since the establishment of multi disciplinary teams is set out in the table below.

	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Additional Support for Children in Education Team - ASCET	£803,029	£771,703	£641,331	£637,384	£867,377	£771,688

### Section 7 of the Coroners Act (NI)

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many breaches of Section 7 of the Coroners Act (NI) have taken place in each hospital in each of the last five years; and how many prosecutions under Section 10 have resulted.

**(AQW 32507/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Section 7 of the Coroner's Act (Northern Ireland) 1959 places a duty on medical practitioners and others to report a death to the Coroner where there is reason to believe that the person died, either directly or indirectly, as a result of violence or misadventure or by unfair means, or as a result of negligence or misconduct or malpractice on the part of others, or from any cause other than natural illness or disease for which the deceased had been seen and treated by a registered medical practitioner within 28 days prior to the death, or in such circumstances as may require investigation (including death as a result of the administration of an anaesthetic).

My Department does not record information relating to the number of deaths reported to the Coroner.

Section 10 of the Act provides that failure to report a death under Section 7 is a criminal offence. The Department of Justice have informed me that there have been no prosecutions for this offence in the last five years.

### **Doctor to Patient Ratio: Antrim Area Hospital**

**Mr Dickson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the doctor to patient ratio in medical and surgical wards at Antrim Area Hospital on (i) weekdays; and (ii) weekends.  
**(AQW 32527/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Health and Social Care Trust have provided the following response.

There is no formal ratio of patient to doctor calculation in medicine as there is in nursing. On any weekday there are doctors of all grades linked to consultant teams in medicine and surgery working within a rota or job plan either in wards, outpatients or theatre.

### **Four Seasons Nursing Home in Holywood**

**Ms Maeve McLaughlin** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what impact the reduction in staff will have on the level of care provided at Four Seasons Nursing Home in Holywood.  
**(AQW 32536/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The South Eastern Trust has advised that an anonymous complaint about staffing levels was received by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA). However, a subsequent unannounced inspection by RQIA found no evidence to substantiate the complaint as staffing levels were above those required.

### **National Screening Council**

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has received an update from the National Screening Council in regard to their consultation on Pulse Oximetry.  
**(AQW 32579/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** At their meeting of 12th March 2014 the National Screening Committee discussed their review of the evidence on adding pulse oximetry to the screening pathway to detect congenital heart disease in newborns. Along with the other UK Health Ministers, I am now awaiting their advice on this.

### **Staff Car Parking Charges at Antrim Area Hospital**

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his rationale for staff car parking charges at Antrim Area Hospital and the Causeway Hospital.

**(AQW 32590/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** DHSSPS policy on car parking provision and management in the Health and Social Care (HSC) sector for Northern Ireland, sets the direction for car park management (including charging), and makes clear that decisions relating to specific HSC site car parking, rest with each Health and Social Care Trust.

Introduction of a staff car parking charging scheme is not only a way of ensuring the cost of the provision and maintenance of car parking facilities are met through charges, but are part of a wider, environmentally-planned approach to travel management that facilitates access to HSC sites by patients, carers, visitors and staff.

I understand the Northern Health and Social Care Trust is currently considering the introduction of staff car parking charges at the Antrim Area Hospital and Causeway Hospital sites and has consulted with staff directly through a pre-consultation and public consultation exercise. The Trust has advised that the

current demand for staff car parking, on both the Antrim Area Hospital and Causeway Hospital sites, exceeds what can presently be accommodated.

The implementation of car parking arrangements continues to involve difficult choices and decisions. It is important that solutions adopted at each site must fit the particular needs and circumstances of each individual location.

### **Rehabilitation of Patients: Ballymena Borough Area**

**Mr Frew** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many vacant beds are available for the rehabilitation of patients in the Ballymena Borough Area; and to detail their location.  
**(AQW 32661/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information is not held centrally and was therefore requested from the Northern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust.

Following clarification that the question referred to step-down beds for hip break/fracture clients, the Northern HSC Trust stated that at present there are no vacant step-down beds for hip break/fracture clients within the Ballymena Borough Area. However, suitable alternatives would be sought for any patients in need of a step-down bed with consideration given to a spot purchase.

### **Stroke Rehabilitation Services**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his plans for the future of stroke rehabilitation services in the Upper Bann constituency, including the future of the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at Lurgan Hospital.  
**(AQW 32664/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Southern Trust, like all Health Service providers seeks to provide the best Health Care services to improve outcomes for patients.

I have been advised that the Trust intends to seek the agreement of the Health and Social Care Board to hold a public consultation on the future of Acute Inpatient Stroke Care and Stroke Rehabilitation Care in the Southern Trust.

Until such time as any consultation is held, concluded and its findings are analysed, no changes will be made to the current service model.

### **Beds in Nursing Homes in North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total number of beds in nursing homes in North Down.  
**(AQW 32678/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The information is not available centrally and was therefore requested from the South Eastern Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust. Their reply can be found below.

As of 7 April 2014, there are 605 nursing home beds in North Down.

### **Lipoedema and Lymphoedema**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many cases of (i) lipoedema; and (ii) lymphoedema have been diagnosed in the last three years.  
**(AQW 32693/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Information on the number of cases of lipoedema and lymphoedema diagnosed is not available.



However, it is possible to identify the number of individuals admitted to HSC hospitals in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years with a diagnosis of lipoedema or lymphoedema, and these are detailed in the table below.

Year	Lipoedema	Lymphoedema
2010/11	1,067	164
2011/12	1,380	180
2012/13	1,605	221

**Source:** Hospital Inpatient System

## Occupational Health Services

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department is taking to offer comprehensive occupational health services to its employees, including early access to services such as physiotherapy.

**(AQW 32724/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** The Northern Ireland Civil Service Occupational Health Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to all of the NICS Departments and this is available to all employees.

The NICS does not provide early access to physiotherapy services. Further details of OHS services can be found at [www.nicsohs.gov.uk](http://www.nicsohs.gov.uk)

## Cancer Drugs Fund

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions he has had with his English, Welsh and Scottish counterparts on the establishment of a Cancer Drugs Fund in Northern Ireland.

**(AQO 5939/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** I have not had discussions with my counterparts in England, Wales and Scotland on the establishment of a cancer drugs fund in Northern Ireland. Health is a devolved matter and it is for each administration to make decisions on the best use of its resources.

I am committed to exploring every available avenue to deliver increased access to specialist medicines and other interventions.

Whilst that the Individual Funding Request system for accessing specialist drugs is working effectively, I have previously indicated that I am willing to consider the re-introduction of prescription charges to protect vital frontline services and to expand access to specialist drugs including specialist cancer drugs. However, the reintroduction of a small prescription charge in Northern Ireland would require the support of the Executive.

## Health Trusts: Serious Adverse Incidents

**Mr Lynch** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the review of Serious Adverse Incidents across Health and Social Care Trusts.

**(AQO 5942/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** My Department wrote to the Health and Social Care Board in February 2014 to ask them to review all completed Emergency Department linked SAI investigations in the HSC to ascertain –

- whether delay may have been a contributory factor;
- the involvement of families and carers in the investigation process; and,
- the involvement of the Coroner's Service.

This exercise covers from 2009 to 2013.

The report is due to be submitted to my Department by the end of April/early May 2014.

I am committed to openness and transparency around this issue and want to see such information as is possible in the public domain. My officials have been working closely with the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency to establish what the figures are and what can be published. This involves individually reviewing information on every single Serious Adverse Incident.

## **Drug and Alcohol Addiction**

**Mr Maskey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the impact that caring for drug and alcohol addiction issues has on emergency services.

**(AQO 5943/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** Substance misuse has a clear and undeniable impact on this country and on the health service. Research has shown that alcohol misuse alone costs Northern Ireland up to £900 million every year, and if we factor in drug misuse, the costs would total more than £1 billion. £250 million of these costs are borne by the Health and Social Care sector; to put these figures into context, this would build the new Children's Hospital or pay for roughly 20,000 heart by-pass operations.

Each year there are approximately 12,000 admissions to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis. Figures for Emergency Departments show that 1-in-6 people attend with alcohol-related injuries or issues, and during evenings at the weekend the proportion can rise to 8-in-10. The cost for Emergency Department attendances due to alcohol misuse is estimated at up to £30 million per year, the associated ambulance journeys is estimated to cost up to £13 million per year, and the cost to the Fire Services is almost £0.5 million per year.

To prevent and address the harm related to substance misuse, and to reduce the burden on the Health and Social Care Family, I launched our cross-departmental strategy – known as the New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 – in 2012. This sets out actions to raise awareness of the issue, provide information and educations, reduce supply and availability, intervene at an early stage for those at risk, and provide treatment and support for those who need additional help.

## **Paramedics**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many paramedics are employed in the Health Service.

**(AQO 5945/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** As at 31st December 2013, there were 412 members of the NI Ambulance Service HSC Trust staff working as qualified paramedics. This includes 79 Rapid Response Vehicle Paramedics and there are a further 32 paramedics in training.

## **Accident and Emergency Doctors: Recruitment**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why no applications for middle-grade doctors were received following the recent recruitment campaign for Emergency Department staff.

**(AQO 5946/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** There is a general UK wide shortage of Emergency Medicine doctors. Trusts run recruitment campaigns throughout the year and some are successful in attracting applicants and some are not. It is not possible however to explain why some recruitment campaigns do not yield any applicants.

## Transforming Your Care

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department will conduct a review of the implementation of Transforming Your Care with specific regard to patient outcomes.

**(AQO 5947/11-15)**

**Mr Poots:** As I have indicated on several occasions, the implementation of TYC is a 3 to 5 year journey with the emphasis on getting it right, in a safe manner, rather than rushing blindly ahead. The safety of patients and service users remains at the heart of this transformation process, in line with our commitments under Quality 2020.

The pressures on our Health and Social Care system, as demonstrated by the recent issues in our Emergency Departments, highlight the imperative to reshape our model of care as set out in TYC, to provide alternative services, earlier intervention and better patient self management.

In my recent Oral Statement to this House on TYC, I outlined the progress that has been made and the solid foundations laid.

A review of TYC will be appropriate in due course. However, it is too early in the implementation process for such a review to produce meaningful results.

## Department of Justice

### Consultation on Domestic and Sexual Violence

**Ms Fearon** asked the Minister of Justice whether he will publish a child friendly version of the consultation on Domestic and Sexual Violence to enable young people to have their input.

**(AQW 32312/11-15)**

**Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice):** As part of the public consultation on the draft strategy 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse' my Department has jointly with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety developed and published a full strategy document and an easy access version of the document pitched at a reading age of eleven.

Justice and Health officials, with the assistance and support of members of the Regional Strategy Group, have engaged with ten groups in March who wish to respond to the document and have an interest or have been affected by Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse. With the help of the NSPCC and the Women's Aid Federation two of the groups officials met with had membership between the ages of fourteen to eighteen years old.

Following the public consultation, our engagement with children and young people, and the feedback we receive from them, we plan to revise our strategy and develop a version suitable to the needs and requirements identified by this young readership.

We remain committed to engaging with children and young people now and in the future on this very important matter that affects many young people across Northern Ireland.

### Prescription Drugs in Prisons

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31910/11-15, since prescription drugs issued in prisons are abused at a higher rate than banned substances, to detail the number of prisoners in all prisons in each of the last two years that have had in possession medication withdrawn for reasons of wrongdoing; and as a result, how many prisoners had disciplinary proceedings implemented against them.

**(AQW 32382/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I am unable to provide data relating to the withdrawal of medication. Your request should be directed to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Data is not held by the NIPS setting out the number of prisoners who have been subject to disciplinary procedures for potentially misusing medication. One of the nuances of the prison discipline system is that a specific charge for this offence does not exist and the matter is dealt with using a widely used charge covering all unauthorised articles.

### **Supervised Swallow Arrangements at Magilligan Prison**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 23268/11-15, following the success of supervised swallow arrangements at Magilligan Prison, for an update on the effectiveness of this process, including whether this method will be fully utilised at Maghaberry Prison.

**(AQW 32383/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Supervised Swallow procedures are now well established in Magilligan Prison and have been very effective to date.

The full implementation of this procedure at Maghaberry Prison is a matter for the South Eastern Trust.

### **Court of Appeal Judgments**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the average length of time to deliver a Court of Appeal judgment following conclusion of the hearing.

**(AQW 32384/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information requested is not routinely collated. However, in the current legal year the Court of Appeal has (to 31 March) heard 76 appeals. In the cases where judgment has been delivered, the average time taken is eight working days. The table below sets out the time taken to deliver these judgments and the cases where judgment is outstanding:

<b>Time Taken</b>	<b>Number</b>
Delivered on the day ("ex tempore")	35
Within 2 weeks	12
Within 4 months	18
To be delivered	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>

Three cases dating from 2013 are awaiting judgment.

The oldest of these was heard on 18 April 2013 and relates to another case in which the Court of Appeal will hear arguments and issue a judgment on both cases.

### **Court of Appeal Judgments**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the longest duration passed, following the oldest case heard before the Court of Appeal, that is still awaiting judgement.

**(AQW 32385/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The information requested is not routinely collated. However, in the current legal year the Court of Appeal has (to 31 March) heard 76 appeals. In the cases where judgment has been delivered, the average time taken is eight working days. The table below sets out the time taken to deliver these judgments and the cases where judgment is outstanding:

Time Taken	Number
Delivered on the day ("ex tempore")	35
Within 2 weeks	12
Within 4 months	18
To be delivered	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>

Three cases dating from 2013 are awaiting judgment.

The oldest of these was heard on 18 April 2013 and relates to another case in which the Court of Appeal will hear arguments and issue a judgment on both cases.

### Victims Affected by On-the-run Decisions

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31909/11-15, what steps are being taken to implement the requirements and spirit of EU Directive 2012/29/EU, Articles 6 and 11, in respect of victims affected by on-the-run decisions.

**(AQW 32406/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Articles 6 and 11 deal with a victim's right to receive information about their case and rights in the event of a decision not to prosecute. The forthcoming Victim Charter will set out what information a victim is entitled to receive in relation to their case and when. This will reflect these provisions of the EU Directive, which apply to any case in which a crime has been reported.

As my Department has not been involved in the on the runs scheme I am not aware of the procedures that were in place, including any arrangements to share information with victims. In terms of the Directive and the new Charter, victims will be entitled to receive information about the progress of their case where a crime is reported to the police.

### Filling Stations: Laundered Fuel

**Mr Humphrey** asked the Minister of Justice how many of the 500 filling stations selling laundered fuel are situated along the border with the Republic of Ireland.

**(AQW 32432/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I refer the member to the response provided on 19 March 2014 to AQW/31619/11-15, tabled by Mr P Givan.

### Motions Debated in the Assembly

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

**(AQW 32439/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In the last two years I have responded to 15 Motions.

A summary of any action that I have taken following these Motions is provided in the attached table (Annex A).

**Annex A**

<b>Date of Motion</b>	<b>Title of Motion</b>	<b>Motion – Passed / Failed</b>	<b>Follow Up Action (if applicable)</b>
27/03/2012	Private Members' Motion - Review of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005	Failed	No follow-up action required.
14/05/2012	Private Members' Motion: Agri-Crime	Passed	The Minister of Justice undertook to develop and publish guidance on the use of reasonable force. That guidance has been prepared in conjunction with PSNI and PPS and is under consideration by the Justice and Agriculture Committees.
11/06/2012	Private Members' Motion: Review of Sentencing for the Murder of PSNI Officers	Passed	A review of the legislation governing the determination of tariffs is ongoing.
25/06/2012	Committee Motion: Draft Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide (2007 Act) (Commencement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012	Passed	Commencement of legislation notice issued to relevant criminal justice and health bodies and interested parties.
03/07/2012	Committee Motion: Report on the Inquiry into the Criminal Justice Services available to Victims and Witnesses of Crime	Passed	The Justice Committee's report of its inquiry into services for victims and witnesses of crime substantially informed the development of the five-year strategy for victims and witnesses of crime, which was published in June 2013.
03/12/2012	Private Members' Motion: Report on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings	Passed	Publication of the multi-agency Human Trafficking Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2013-14 identified priorities for action, informed by recommendations made by Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and other key reports.  The Department is due to publish a report on progress against this action plan by summer 2014.
04/02/2013	Private Members' Motion: National Crime Agency	Failed	See Motion 15 October 2013.

<b>Date of Motion</b>	<b>Title of Motion</b>	<b>Motion – Passed / Failed</b>	<b>Follow Up Action (if applicable)</b>
05/02/2013	Private Members' Motion: Regulation of Social Networking Websites	Passed	Regulation of the internet is a reserved matter.  In July 2013 the Prime Minister announced measures to provide automatic blocking of online pornography by internet providers.
18/02/2013	Committee Motion: The draft Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (Designated Organisations) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013	Passed	The proposed legislation was finalised and became the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (Designated Organisations) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013.
04/06/2013	Private Member's Motion: Access to the Equal Pay Settlement for PSNI and NIO Staff	Passed	The Minister of Justice undertook to write to the Finance Minister about the issue. He wrote to the then Finance Minister on 6 June 2013. There has been ongoing correspondence between both Ministers and debate in the Assembly on the matter. The Minister of Justice remains of the view that only a centrally driven and centrally financed solution which would require Executive and political support could potentially resolve this issue. The issue currently rests with the Minister of Finance. It remains our understanding that the final approval mechanism on this issue rests with DFP.
10/09/2013	Private Members' Motion: Compensation Policy	Passed	The Minister of Justice referred to the Victims and Witnesses Strategy published in June 2013 in which he made a commitment to Review of the legislation underpinning the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme by 2016.

<b>Date of Motion</b>	<b>Title of Motion</b>	<b>Motion – Passed / Failed</b>	<b>Follow Up Action (if applicable)</b>
15/10/2013	Private Members' Motion: Prison Review Reports	Passed	<p>Extensive communication has continued with stakeholders, including those in other Departments and across the voluntary and community sector, throughout the reform programme and will continue as a high priority until the end of the programme and beyond.</p> <p>This communication and engagement is recognised by the Department and NIPS senior management team as vital to the long term success of the end to end, transformational reform programme.</p>
15/10/2013	Private Members' Motion: National Crime Agency	Passed	<p>The motion called for work to extend the NCA in NI.</p> <p>The Minister of Justice has continued to seek to secure a full remit for the NCA here.</p>
18/11/2013	Private Members' Motion: Police Ombudsman's Office	Passed	<p>The motion related to consultation on proposals for the reform of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. In January 2014, the Minister of Justice circulated a draft Executive paper detailing a package of reform measures, informed by the outcome of that consultation and consideration of our obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. A second draft paper is currently awaiting consideration by the Executive.</p>



Date of Motion	Title of Motion	Motion – Passed / Failed	Follow Up Action (if applicable)
20/01/2014	Private Members' Motion: Smithwick Tribunal Report	Passed	The Motion called for the Minister of Justice and Chief Constable to have urgent discussions with their counterparts in the ROI. The Minister of Justice had already met Alan Shatter and subsequently David Ford and the Chief Constable met Alan Shatter and the Garda Commissioner.

### Northern Ireland Prison Service: Secondment

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many employees of the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) have been on secondment in each of the last five years to date; and of these, how many had their expenses met (i) by NIPS; and (ii) by the agency to whom they were seconded.

**(AQW 32442/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Seven employees of the Northern Ireland Prison Service have been on secondment in the last five years. Three had their expenses met by NIPS and four had their expenses met by the agency to which they were seconded.

This answer is not being broken down by year due to the numbers involved as disclosure would be contrary to the Data Protection Act 1998.

### Court of Appeal: Outstanding Judgements

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the longest duration passed following a case heard before the Court of Appeal, that is still awaiting judgement, led by the Lord Chief Justice.

**(AQW 32444/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As at 31 March 2014, the oldest Court of Appeal case awaiting judgment to be delivered where the Lord Chief Justice presided over the court was heard on 4 June 2013.

### Prescription Medicines for Prisoners

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31910/11-15 and AQW 31923/11-15, in light of the acknowledged higher rate of abused prescription medications in prisons, whether he will expand the list of tested substances to include prescription drugs, in an effort to combat the problem and provide options for tracing the supply.

**(AQW 32445/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The list of substances tested for within prisons is kept under review and amended if required. The views of our health partners, the South Eastern Trust, are factored into those considerations.

In view of the legitimate but large scale prescription of medication within prisons, it would be unwise to extend testing arrangements to cover all medicines which could be traded, where a clinical argument for doing so has not been presented.

Such a move would prove labour intensive for Healthcare Departments and would pull clinicians away from front line work.

## New Council Areas: Staff Commute

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32457/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** At 1 January 2014 the number of staff in the Department of Justice, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area is provided in the table below.

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Uniformed Prison/ Industrial	Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	S0	EOI	EOII	A0	AA		
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1	0	9	14	24	19	7	34	5	0	113
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	1	0	3	12	8	7	7	19	2	0	59
Belfast	9	5	29	37	39	71	39	103	17	0	349
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	4	0	0	12
Derry and Strabane	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	9
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	4	1	11	19	13	10	12	28	7	0	105
Mid and East Antrim	0	1	6	16	18	19	10	29	2	0	101
Mid Ulster	0	1	3	3	0	4	1	8	0	0	20
Newry, Mourne and Down	1	1	3	7	16	8	7	21	4	0	68
North Down and Ards	6	0	21	25	38	35	26	66	15	0	232
Postcode missing or invalid	8	1	28	44	66	25	48	74	19	14	327
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1399</b>

## On-the-runs: Scheme

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to Hansard from the House of Commons on 25 March 2014<sup>10</sup> where the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland reported in regard to the on-the-run

scheme that “10 names were identified by the prison service”, what information he can provide in respect of this.

**(AQW 32468/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Secretary of State’s written statement of 25 March 2014 reaffirmed what Mr Justice Sweeney said in paragraph 65 of his Judgement on the Downey case, namely that a further 10 names of OTRs were raised by the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) in addition to those names provided by Sinn Féin and the Irish Government.

In line with the Executive’s Ministerial Code and long standing constitutional convention that Ministers should not be told by their officials, whether directly or by access to departmental papers, information relating to the work of a previous Administration I have seen neither the note of 3 September 2002 nor copies of any correspondence that took place between NIPS and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) on this subject prior to that date. I am therefore unable to provide any information in respect of this matter at this time.

I have, however, now written to the Secretary of State making the case that as Minister for Justice I have an interest in the role played by NIPS in the on the runs administrative scheme prior to devolution and to formally request any relevant papers and information the NIO holds in relation to the names the Prison Service put forward. I await her reply.

**Craigavon Crown Court: Case**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice for a detailed update of the status of case number 13/056715, latterly at Craigavon Crown Court, including a timeline since the first court appearance to date.

**(AQW 32483/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** This case was last listed on 28 March 2014 to hear submissions from legal representatives on case management issues, various legal arguments and to set a date for the trial. The court subsequently directed that the case was listed for hearing on 6 May.

There have been a number of applications in this case with previous appearances in both the magistrates’ court and the Crown Court. The main court events are detailed in the table below.

Date	Key Event
26 August 2011	1st appearance
7 June 2013	Preliminary Enquiry – committed to Crown Court
30 August 2013	Arraignment
25 November 2013	Trial Commenced
26 November 2013	Trial Aborted
13 January 2014	Trial Commenced
14 January 2014	Trial Aborted
11 March 2014	Trial Commenced
12 March 2014	Trial Aborted
18 March 2014	Trial Commenced
20 March 2014	Trial Aborted

## Prison Service Museum

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister of Justice what progress has been made on providing a location for the Prison Service Museum.

**(AQW 32489/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** NIPS continues to give consideration to the future arrangements for displaying, storing and managing those artefacts and records currently held at the Prison Service College and dialogue with a number of interested parties is ongoing.

No final decisions have been taken.

## Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland: Reporting Restrictions

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to correspondence from the Office of the Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland to legal representatives of people accused of sexual offence in which reporting restrictions have been granted against the defendants, that stated a review of all such orders in these circumstances is taking place and without direct representations the reporting restrictions will be amended accordingly, to detail (i) how many people this relates to per court division; (ii) how many people have had restrictions lifted; (iii) the reason for this review; and (iv) how far the review dates back.

**(AQW 32496/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In January 2014 the Office of the Lord Chief Justice (OLCJ) became aware through media reports that some courts were making orders under section 1(2) of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act") prohibiting the media from publishing the identity of defendants in sexual offences cases. On 6 February 2014 the OLCJ wrote to solicitors acting for defendants in cases which were currently before the court to clarify that the 1992 Act did not give courts the authority to make such an order and to announce that it was carrying out a review of orders that had been made. Solicitors for the relevant defendants were informed that the orders in respect of the defendants would be removed unless they indicated within 21 days that they intended to make submissions to the court that the defendant had some other legitimate ground for seeking anonymity.

The review covers all relevant active cases as at 6 February 2014. The oldest order dates from 10 January 2011. Cases which had been dealt with before 6 February 2014 will be reviewed by the OLCJ on foot of a request to publish the identity of a defendant.

The table below sets out the number of relevant defendants in each court division and the number of orders which have been removed or amended as of 31 March 2014. Orders were amended if the court was satisfied that there were other grounds for anonymity.

County Court Division	Number of Defendants	Number of Orders Removed or Amended
Antrim	13	0
Ards	19	10
Armagh & South Down	8	0
Belfast	10	2
Craigavon	4	2
Fermanagh & Tyrone	2	1
Londonderry	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>

## Taxi Drivers: Convictions

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail all convictions for assault, sexual assault or any other contact-related crime carried out by a taxi driver, within a taxi, including the date of conviction.  
**(AQW 32497/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Department does not currently record information on the occupation of defendants, or on the exact location at which an offence occurred, in relation to convictions in courts. Identification of this information would require a manual trawl of PSNI records, an exercise that would incur a disproportionate cost.

## Random Drug Tests in Prisons

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of random drug tests carried out on prisoners in possession of medication in all prisons in each of the last two years; and (ii) how often individual prisoners are reviewed in terms of suitability for the retention of prescribed drugs.  
**(AQW 32498/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:**

- (i) The selection of prisoners for this type of testing is done entirely randomly by computer. Random testing is not linked to any other aspect pertaining to the prisoner including his medication history; therefore as the test is not linked to medication it would not be possible to provide a number without a considerable trawl of records, however 5% of the population at Maghaberry and Magilligan Prisons are tested monthly and 10% at Hydebank College.
- (ii) Within the Northern Ireland Prison Service, prisoners are assessed on their suitability for storing and taking their own medication within one week of committal via risk assessments.

The process for reviewing a patient's In-Possession Risk Assessment is outlined in the South Eastern Trust's 'In-Possession' Medication Policy. The policy highlights that the risk assessment can only provide a snapshot of risk at a particular point in time and must be reviewed at appropriate times.

If a patient is assessed as suitable for In Possession then the risk assessment should be reviewed at least annually, or if a trigger factor occurs. Triggers include overdose incidents or if a patient is found abusing, hoarding and/or trading medication. As a result of these triggers, in practice, patients can switch on and off 'In Possession' status with relative frequency. The South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust do not keep a record of these changes in status as to do so would require a significant resource input, with minimal clinical/patient safety benefits.

Prisoners are required to sign a Medication Contract on committal which highlights their responsibilities when issued with their medication "In possession" and outlines the consequences if they break this contract.

## Section 10 of the Coroners Act (NI) 1959

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice when was the last prosecution pursuant to Section 10 of the Coroners Act (NI) 1959 for breach of Section 7 of the Act; and to detail the number of prosecutions in each of the last five years.  
**(AQW 32510/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Section 7 of the Coroners Act (NI) 1959 relates to a duty to give information to a coroner. The Department currently holds prosecutions and convictions data for the period 1993 to 2006 and convictions data from 2007 to 2012. Data are recorded on a primary offence basis. No cases in relation to the offence specified have been recorded as being the subject of a prosecution, or a conviction, during this time.

## Zero Tolerance Drugs Initiative

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice how many random drugs tests were carried out during the three month zero tolerance to drugs initiative and training and education programme in partnership with PSNI at Maghaberry Prison, as detailed in the October 2013 Prison Service Management Board minutes; and to detail the results of each random test within this timeframe.

**(AQW 32524/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The number of random drugs tests carried out at Maghaberry during the first three months of the joint operation was 128. On a total of 27 occasions the test was either refused by the prisoner or produced a positive sample, indicating a failure rate of 21.09%. In the wake of this initiative that positive rate has reduced and in February stood at 11.59%.

## Northern Ireland Prison Service: Drug Test Samples

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 31310/11-15, what is the (a) contracted; and (b) average turnaround time for the confirmation of drug test samples in the Prison Service in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 32542/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** Due to commercial confidentiality it would not be appropriate to discuss the exact terms of the drug testing contract. The turnaround for a confirmation test will depend on whether it was dispatched from the testing prison on the day of testing.

## On-Site Drug Test Kits

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the stated accuracy of the on-site drug test kits provided to the Prison Service.

**(AQW 32543/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The accuracy of the on-site disposable kits, used by the Prison Service to test for the indication of illicit substances is assessed to be accurate to between 95% - 100% depending on the substance concerned.

## Filling Stations: Illegal Fuel

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice to detail the filling stations found to be selling illegal fuel.

**(AQW 32610/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** I refer the member to the response provided on 19 March 2014 to AQW/31619/11-15, tabled by Mr P Givan.

## Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Law Commission

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the employer of the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Law Commission; (ii) whether the holder of the post is an employee of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS); (iii) whether the holder of the post is entitled to benefit from the NICS enhanced voluntary redundancy scheme; and (iv) whether the present holder of the post has been offered the benefits of the redundancy scheme.

**(AQW 32729/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Law Commission: (i) is employed by the Commission; (ii) is not, therefore, an employee of the Northern Ireland Civil Service; (iii) is however a member of the Northern Ireland Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme under her terms and conditions of employment, as permitted by Schedule 9 para (4) 2A of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002; (iv) has been offered and accepted voluntary redundancy under the standard compensation terms.

## On-the-runs: Legal Advice

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister of Justice why he did not involve his Department's Permanent Secretary in the legal advice sought for the on-the-runs administrative scheme.

**(AQO 5955/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** As I explained to the Justice Committee last Thursday, 3 April, the Permanent Secretary and I have different roles as administrative and political heads of the Department. On this issue, I considered it entirely appropriate that we seek independent legal advice from separate legal advisers, given the different nature of our roles.

## Prisons: Addiction Programme

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the new addiction programme for prisons that he announced in October 2013.

**(AQO 5949/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The business case which details plans to conduct a 12 week pilot of a therapeutic substance misuse unit in Maghaberry Prison has been approved.

A procurement process is currently underway and it is expected that an external provider will be appointed to deliver the pilot programme by June 2014.

Following the 12 week pilot period, evaluation will take place to assess the success of the programme in addressing the needs of those with substance misuse issues.

If the pilot is deemed to be a success, the Northern Ireland Prison Service would propose to initiate procurement for a 12 month programme.

An expected component of this programme would be the transfer of skills from the external provider to NIPS staff, so that NIPS staff would be skilled to deliver any further programmes.

## Research into Prostitution within Northern Ireland

**Mr Givan** asked the Minister of Justice who was chosen to carry out research into prostitution within Northern Ireland on behalf of his Department; and to detail the timeframe for its completion and publication.

**(AQW 32778/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The contract for research into prostitution in Northern Ireland has been awarded, through Department of Finance and Personnel tendering procedures, to Queen's University Belfast. The Lead Researcher is Dr Huschke, assisted by Professor Shirlow, Dr Schubotz and Dr Ward.

The research is due to be completed by 31 October 2014 and publication of the final report will follow.

## PSNI Procurement

**Ms Ruane** asked the Minister of Justice what action he intends to take in light of the findings of the Public Accounts Committee's report which concluded that significant elements of the PSNI procurement process did not represent value for money.

**(AQO 5958/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** In keeping with the accepted convention that Ministers do not comment until the Memorandum of Reply is provided to the Public Accounts Committee, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the detail of the PAC report on PSNI: Use of Agency Staff.

That said, I am aware that there have been improvements in governance due to processes in place since devolution and that the PSNI now has a robust, centrally monitored process for appointing temporary staff.



In line with due process, my Department will submit a Memorandum of Reply to the PAC report, to the Department of Finance and Personnel by 2 May 2014.

### **Police Museum: Department of Justice Funding**

**Mr Maskey** asked the Minister of Justice to outline the process which allowed the Department to provide £380,000 to the Police Museum.

**(AQO 5959/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** On the devolution of justice, HM Treasury made available £20m for the Police Part-Time Reserve Gratuity Scheme, £19.6m of which was allocated to over 6,000 applicants. The unallocated amount, £383,000, has been made available to the RUCGC Foundation to publicly mark the service and dedication of the PTR, in the new Police Museum.

### **Probation Board: Dangerousness Threshold**

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the threshold at which the Probation Board arrives at an assessment of dangerousness.

**(AQO 5961/11-15)**

**Mr Ford:** The determination of dangerousness in respect of offenders is a matter for the courts. I am happy to outline the relevant operational arrangements.

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland assists in this process by assessing the risk of serious harm presented by offenders, using its Risk of Serious Harm procedures. This information is provided to the courts through pre-sentence reports.

The assessment takes account of the pattern of offending, both current and any previous offending, the extent of serious harm already caused and frequency and escalation of harm over time. The assessment includes the offender's attitudes, including attitudes to the victim and the offender's acceptance of responsibility for their crime and their motivation to address their offending.

Prior to PBNI coming to a conclusion of risk of serious harm, a multi-agency meeting is convened by PBNI with regard to agreeing whether or not the threshold for significant risk of serious harm is met and a risk management plan is formulated.

PBNI defines a significant risk of serious harm as where there is a high likelihood that the offender will commit a further offence, causing serious harm. Serious harm is defined in legislation as "death or serious personal injury, whether physical or psychological".

## **Department for Regional Development**

### **Car Parking Charges: Christmas 2013**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the revenue generated at Roads Service car parks in Bangor during Christmas 2013 when reduced charges were in place; and (ii) the revenue generated when full tariffs were charged.

**(AQW 31432/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development):** Details of the revenue generated at my Department's car parks in Bangor during the Christmas 2013 period (2 Dec 2013 to 11 Jan 2014), are provided in the table below:

<b>Car Park Name</b>	<b>2 December 2013 to 11 January 2014 £</b>
Central Avenue	167.75



<b>Car Park Name</b>	<b>2 December 2013 to 11 January 2014 £</b>
Castle Street	5,821.05
Abbey Street East	8,922.10
Bingham Lane	7,870.50
Holborn Avenue	4,454.73
Mills Road	3,112.82
The Vennel	4,349.00
Clifton Road	1,878.23
Abbey Street West	1,233.05

All Bangor charged car parks had reduced charges in this period.

### Penalty Charge Notices

**Mr Dunne** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued in (i) Bangor; (ii) Holywood; and (iii) Donaghadee, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 32120/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Details of the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) issued in Bangor, Holywood and Donaghadee in each of the last three years are provided in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bangor</b>	<b>Holywood</b>	<b>Donaghadee</b>
2011	3,287	1,691	226
2012	3,708	1,191	159
2013	3,528	735	105

### Churchdale Meadows Development in Gortin, County Tyrone

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the Churchdale Meadows development in Gortin, County Tyrone, to detail (i) the level of bond deposited; and (ii) whether the bond is sufficient to fund the outstanding works.

**(AQW 32173/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** There are two bonds in place for this development, one for the road infrastructure and the other for the sewerage system. Details of the level of bond deposited with my Department's Roads Service cannot be disclosed due to it being commercially sensitive, but is sufficient to fund all of the outstanding work associated with the road infrastructure.

Northern Ireland Water (NIW) is aware of the unadopted status of the sewerage system and has attended several meetings with the Residents Group, Councillors and the local MLA's representative. The Developer previously entered into an Article 161 Agreement for the future adoption of sewers within the development and provided a sewer bond for approximately £30,000. The sewers have been inspected and a schedule of work identified which is necessary to bring the sewers at this development up to an adoptable standard. The estimated cost of completing the remedial works is approximately £75 to 80k. A shortfall therefore now exists between the cost of the projected work required and the available amount in the Developer's bond held by NIW.

The Company's policy was discussed at the recent meeting, when NIW advised that if the Bond is insufficient to cover the cost of the remedial works then NIW is unable to proceed. NIW would be prepared to implement enforcement procedures to carry out the works utilising the bond security, but

undertaking the full remedial works would depend upon the provision of the shortfall costs. NIW does not have a contingency budget to cover the cost of undertaking such works to unfinished sewers in unadopted developments.

I am, however, pleased to advise that since the last meeting with the Residents' Group on 10 March 2014, the Developer has made contact with NIW to discuss the situation regarding the adoption of the development sewers and confirmed he is keen to address the sewer defects. NIW plans to meet with the Developer at an early opportunity to discuss in detail the outstanding works to the sewers and his programme for bringing the sewers up to an adoptable standard

### Road Defects in North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the compensation paid to motorists as a result of vehicle damage due to road defects in North Down in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 32184/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Details of expenditure paid out in respect of vehicle damage claims in the North Down area, in each of the last five financial years, are provided in the table below:

#### North Down Section Office

Year	Compensation
2012/13	£976.00
2011/12	£4,194.00
2010/11	£8,865.00
2009/10	£6,204.00
2008/09	£3,050.00

The figures for Roads Service's North Down Section Office area largely mirror the District Council area.

### Dualling of the A26 Road Scheme

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total approximate cost of the dualling of the A26 road scheme.

**(AQW 32220/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The current projected cost of dualling the A26 between Glarryford and the A44 Drones Road is £65 million.

### Cycling Infrastructure in North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to provide additional cycling infrastructure in North Down.

**(AQW 32236/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have established a Cycling Unit within my Department in order to provide a focus to the Department's work on cycling. It will have an important role in ensuring cycling provision is a key element in both transport strategy and delivery. The Unit is working on a cycling strategy for Northern Ireland in order to provide a context within which consideration can be given to how a network of cycle routes can be developed. This will provide an appropriate framework within which to assess different routes, including those in North Down.

Budgets and details of work programmes for 2014/15 are still being finalised. When complete, details of proposed schemes will be included in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils).

It is not possible to provide details of future programmes as budgets for subsequent years have still to be agreed.

### **Darling Street, Enniskillen**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail any action, including enforcement, that his Department has taken to ensure the footpath on Darling Street, Enniskillen near Castle Street is kept free from objects that would impact upon footpath users, particularly people with mobility problems or who are visually impaired.

**(AQW 32249/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has been contacted on 3 occasions within the last two years about items placed on the footway outside the premises known as Everyday Needs in Darling Street in Enniskillen.

The presence of such objects may impede those with mobility problems or visually impaired who are passing the site and, on each occasion, when either highlighted or observed the owner has been contacted and requested to remove or contain the display. There was a further contact in 2009, bringing the number of contacts to 4 in 5 years.

My Department is mindful that frontage displays at some premises are regarded by some as an enhancement to the streetscape and its appearance to visitors. For that reason a certain amount of merchandise display on footpaths is usually tolerated, unless it is considered excessive as was the case in the above instances. No formal enforcement has been initiated to date.

It is my Department's intention, in conjunction with Fermanagh District Council, using the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2011), to have any satellite displays removed, not only in Darling Street, but also in other areas as a matter of routine.

### **Darling Street, Enniskillen**

**Mr Flanagan** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of times his Department has been contacted regarding the proliferation of objects outside a retail premises on Darling Street, Enniskillen; and (ii) the impact these objects have on the ability of people with mobility problems or visual impairments to use the footpath.

**(AQW 32250/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I would refer the Member to my answer to AQW 32249/11-15.

### **Cycle Counters**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans to increase the number of cycle counters.

**(AQW 32255/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** In taking forward work on developing a vision and cycling strategy for Northern Ireland it is important that the Cycling Unit undertakes research on attitudes to cycling, the benefits of cycling and cycling habits – among other things. Cycle counters can be an important means of obtaining information both on route usage and the habits of cyclists so that cycling provision can be improved in the best ways and at the most appropriate locations. In established cycling cultures counters are one of the measuring tools used in the assessment of cycling development.

My Department has recently met with Sustrans to discuss options for a more strategic approach to collating cycling information – including the use of cycle counters. This work is ongoing and no conclusions have yet been reached but the number and location of cycle counters will be considered as my Cycling Unit develops its strategy and progresses the implementation of cycling infrastructure in the future.

## Cycle Counters

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the (i) total number; and (ii) location of cycle counters, broken down by constituency.

**(AQW 32257/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department currently has 30 cycle counters in operation throughout Northern Ireland at the following locations:

Constituency	Location of cycle counter
East Antrim	Coast Road, Larne (LHS)
	Coast Road, Larne (RHS)
East Londonderry	Coleraine to Portstewart cycle path
	Rose Gardens, Coleraine (A2-Milburn Rd)
	C570 Blackburn Pass, Scroggy Road, Limavady
	Millennium Bridge, Coleraine (west bank)
	Portrush Promenade at West Strand
	A26 Newbridge Rd at Causeway Hospital
	A2 Castlerock - Between Sea Road and Ballywoolen Road
	Strand Road, Coleraine at Christie Park
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	Irvinestown Road, Enniskillen
	Beechvalley, Dungannon (at Tesco)
Mid Ulster	Sandholes Road, Cookstown (between roundabout and DVA)
	Shore Road, Ballyronan
Foyle	Foyle Valley Greenway (off Letterkenny Road)
	A2 Culmore Road, Londonderry
	Collon Lane, Templemore, Londonderry
	Foyle Embankment, Londonderry
	A5 Victoria Road, Londonderry
North Antrim	Railway Path, Bushmills
	Frosses Road, Ballymoney (at Kirk Road)
	Raceview Road, Broughshane
	Ecos Centre, Ballymena
	Galgorm Road, Gracehill
	Riverside Park, Ballymoney
South Antrim	Greystone Road, Antrim
	Randalstown Road, Antrim
	Loughshore Park, Antrim

Constituency	Location of cycle counter
West Tyrone	Gortin Road, Omagh (at The Grange)
	Derry Road, Strabane

Officials from my Department have already met with Sustrans representatives to investigate options for a more strategic approach to cycle counters.

## Portavoe Reservoir

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the plans and timescale for work on Portavoe Reservoir.

**(AQW 32261/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water manages the reservoirs under its control in line with standards set out in the Reservoirs Act 1975 (England and Wales).

The lowering of the water level in Portavoe Reservoir is required to facilitate essential health and safety work to refurbish valves and other maintenance work required to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir. It is expected the water in the reservoir will be lowered to the required level by the end of April 2014 and the maintenance work will be completed by the end of July 2014. These dates are however subject to favourable weather conditions as the low water level must be maintained to enable the maintenance work to progress.

## Portavoe Reservoir: Protection of Wildlife, Birds and Aquatic Life

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development what provision has been made to protect wildlife, birds and aquatic life in advance of work on Portavoe Reservoir.

**(AQW 32263/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has consulted with Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and DCAL to ensure that the agreed method of draining Portavoe Reservoir to complete essential safety work will minimise the impact on the environment. Actions include the following:

- A Habitat Regulatory Assessment has been carried out for the release of water from Portavoe, as required under the Habitats Directive to assess the impact on the Outer Ards Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site which covers the protection of wetlands;
- It has been agreed with NIEA's wildlife officer that mussels will be collected and held within tanks for re-seeding on completion of the works. This approach has been successfully completed at other reservoirs.
- To prepare for the works DCAL has not stocked fish into the Reservoir since August 2013. Consequently, the lowering of the water level should have minimal impact on those fish remaining in the reservoir.
- DCAL's Inland Fisheries staff will also be undertaking regular inspections of the Reservoir and where there are any signs of fish in distress they will remove the fish to other Public Angling Estate waters in the vicinity.
- DCAL has also publicised details of the ongoing work on the relevant section of the NI Direct Website for the advice of anglers.

The impact of the lowering of the water level on nesting birds is not deemed to be significant as the water level in the reservoir naturally fluctuates during periods of wet weather or drought.

## **Portavoe Reservoir: Protection of Wildlife, Birds and Aquatic Life**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development what organisations his Department has consulted with regarding the protection of wildlife, birds and aquatic life in advance of work on Portavoe Reservoir.

**(AQW 32265/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Northern Ireland Water has consulted with Northern Ireland Environment Agency regarding lowering the level of the reservoir and on the environmental approach to this work. Consultation has also taken place with DCAL who currently lease the reservoir for angling.

## **A37 Limavady to Coleraine Road**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are plans for road works and warning signage on the A37 Limavady to Coleraine Road at the Garvagh junction to the Drumalief Road, in order to improve the road surface and warn of hidden dips, following the recent fatality on the road and to alleviate accident causes until the delivery of Gortcorbies Climbing Lane.

**(AQW 32275/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I was saddened to hear of the fatal collision on the A37 Broad Road on Tuesday 18 March 2014. Every death on the roads is a tragedy and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Kyle Simmons.

The PSNI investigation is underway in relation to this tragic incident and my officials, if requested, will cooperate fully with them, and endeavour to provide assistance or information on any roads related issues.

## **Traffic Attendants**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 31584/11-15, given the reduction outlined between 2010 and 2013, what is the anticipated number of traffic attendants operating in the current calendar year.

**(AQW 32277/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** There are 107 Traffic Attendants operating in Northern Ireland in the current calendar year.

## **Disability Action Transport Scheme**

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 31911/11-15, when the Disability Action Transport Scheme will be available to (a) Carnlough; (b) Glenariff; (c) Cushendall; and (d) Cushendun.

**(AQW 32306/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Disability Action Transport Scheme (DATS) only provides services in those towns / cities with a population greater than 10,000. Other areas are deemed rural and are serviced by the Dial-a-Lift scheme operated by the Rural Community Transport Partnerships and grant funded by my Department under the auspices of the Rural Transport Fund. In the Carnlough area that Partnership is South Antrim Community Transport and in the Glenariff, Cushendall and Cushendun areas the Partnership is North Coast Community Transport.

## **Travel Saving Schemes**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans there are to ensure that travel saving schemes are equally available by bus and train commuters.

**(AQW 32326/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The Taxsmart scheme currently only applies to bus travel due to Her Majesty Revenue and Customs HMRC determination on the matter. This enables individuals to purchase an annual bus

travel card through an Employer salary sacrifice scheme subject to certain conditions as laid down by (HMRC). The Northern Ireland Civil Service has signed up to the scheme but it is open to any employer.

I believe strongly there is a case for helping rail users by introducing this incentive.

I have therefore written to the Minister for Finance and Personnel on 9 January 2014 to raise the issue of extending the scheme to include rail travel in Northern Ireland with HM Treasury. I understand he has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer who has responsibility for HMRC. There has been no reply at this point.

Translink operates its own fare discount schemes across bus and rail services. This takes account of relative costs of services, demand, commercial considerations and financial targets.

### **Commuter Fare Saving Schemes**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the commuter fare saving schemes that are only available for one method of transport.

**(AQW 32327/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The TaxSmart scheme currently only applies to bus travel due to Her Majesty Revenue and Customs HMRC determination on the matter. This enables individuals to purchase an annual bus travel card through an Employer salary sacrifice scheme subject to certain conditions as laid down by (HMRC). The Northern Ireland Civil Service has signed up to the scheme but it is open to any employer.

Employers can make interest free loans available to staff using rail travel to enable them to take advantage of discounts for annual tickets, etc., though the employee will not enjoy the same tax advantage that TaxSmart users can avail of.

Translink operates its own separate fare discount schemes across bus and rail services. These take account of the different relative costs of services, demand, commercial considerations and financial targets across the bus and rail networks.

It should also be noted that the salary sacrifice Cycle to Work Scheme developed by HMRC is also open to any employer.

### **Translink Smart Scheme Allowance**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development why the annual Translink smart scheme allowance is only available for bus travel.

**(AQW 32328/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The TaxSmart scheme currently only applies to bus travel due to Her Majesty Revenue and Customs HMRC determination on the matter. This enables individuals to purchase an annual bus travel card through an Employer salary sacrifice scheme subject to certain conditions as laid down by (HMRC). The Northern Ireland Civil Service has signed up to the scheme but it is open to any employer.

I have therefore written to the Minister for Finance and Personnel on 9 January 2014 to raise the issue of extending the scheme to include rail travel in Northern Ireland with HM Treasury. I understand he has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer who has responsibility for HMRC. There has been no reply at this point.

### **Cycle Lanes in the Lagan Valley Constituency**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to provide dedicated cycle lanes in the Lagan Valley constituency, in particular the Lisburn City Council area.

**(AQW 32338/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have established a Cycling Unit within my Department in order to provide a focus to the Department's work on cycling. It will have an important role in ensuring cycling provision is a key element in both transport strategy and delivery. The Unit is working on a cycling strategy for Northern



Ireland in order to provide a context within which consideration can be given to how a network of cycle routes can be developed. This will provide an appropriate framework within which to assess different routes, including those in the Lagan Valley constituency and Lisburn City Council area.

Budgets and details of work programmes for 2014/15 are still being finalised. When complete, details of proposed schemes will be included in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils).

It is not possible to provide details of future programmes as budgets for subsequent years have still to be agreed.

### **Portavoe Reservoir**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development why Portavoe Reservoir has been emptied.  
**(AQW 32366/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water manages the reservoirs under its control in line with standards set out in the Reservoirs Act 1975 (England and Wales).

The lowering of the water level in Portavoe Reservoir is required to refurbish valves and to carry out other maintenance work required to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir. It is expected the water in the reservoir will be lowered to the required level by the end of April 2014 and the maintenance work will be completed by the end of July 2014. These dates are however subject to favourable weather conditions as the low water level must be maintained to enable the maintenance work to progress.

### **Portavoe Reservoir: Local Angling Club**

**Mr Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development why the local angling club was not informed that Portavoe Reservoir would be emptied.  
**(AQW 32367/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** NI Water has consulted with the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) who currently lease Portavoe Reservoir for angling purposes, with regard to lowering the level of the reservoir for essential maintenance work.

DCAL has publicised details of the ongoing work on the relevant section of the NI Direct website which provides advice for anglers.

### **Strathroy Link Road, Omagh**

**Mr McAleer** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the construction of the Strathroy Link Road, Omagh.  
**(AQW 32373/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** As part of a cross-departmental agreement between my Department and the Department for Education, engineering consultants, Mouchel, have been commissioned to assist with the development and delivery of the Strathroy Link Road.

It is anticipated the necessary scheme assessments and statutory processes will be completed to permit the acquisition of the necessary lands during 2015/16. This will enable the construction phase to be completed prior to the new Lisanelly Shared Education Campus becoming operational.



## Inscription on the Glendun Viaduct

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department plans to restore the inscription on the Glendun Viaduct.

**(AQW 32395/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department will investigate options for restoring the inscription on Glendun Viaduct. However, as it is a listed structure, any work to the fabric of the viaduct will require the consent of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

## Windmill Street Car Park in Ballynahinch

**Mr Hazzard** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of vehicles that used the Windmill Street Car Park in Ballynahinch each Saturday in the last six months; and (ii) how his Department plans to maximise the potential of this site.

**(AQW 32396/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department does not hold the relevant data relating to usage of its car parks, including Windmill Street Pay and Display Car Park in Ballynahinch.

You may be aware the tariff in the Windmill Street and Lisburn Street Car Parks in Ballynahinch was reduced from 30 pence per hour to 30 pence for 3 hours in 2011 and general observations would indicate that usage of both car parks has increased in the intervening period.

As you will be aware, I have already given a commitment that car park tariffs will not be increased during this budget period up to April 2015. The Member will also be aware that all of my Department's off-street car parks are transferring to local councils under Local Government Reform in April 2015, and all matters regarding the operation and administration of car parks will be for relevant local councils to consider.

## New Council Areas: Staff Commute

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32401/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The information shown in the table below details the council areas associated with the home addresses of staff in DRD whose normal work location is within the Greater Belfast area. Details are broken down by grade.

Council Area	Analogous Grade										Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	SO	EOI	EOII	AO	AA	Ind	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1	0	3	10	13	16	5	13	3	2	66
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	1	0	3	10	7	6	10	2	1	0	40
Belfast	3	3	15	28	34	19	25	47	16	15	205
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	0	2	5	3	0	3	1	0	0	14
Derry and Strabane	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	5

Council Area	Analogous Grade										Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	SO	EOI	EOII	AO	AA	Ind	
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2	0	3	11	7	6	4	9	3	3	48
Mid and East Antrim	0	0	3	3	10	11	6	7	3	1	44
Mid Ulster	1	0	1	4	2	3	0	3	1	0	15
Newry, Mourne and Down	1	0	3	9	8	6	8	7	0	1	43
North Down and Ards	2	1	9	15	14	10	2	16	2	3	74

### Motions Debated in the Assembly

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

**(AQW 32420/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I have listed below the Motions debated in the Assembly that I have responded to in the last two years and the actions taken following the Motion being passed.

Date of Assembly Debate	Motion	Actions Taken
07/02/2012	Private Members Motion – Surety Bonds for new housing developments.	Letter issued to Dolores Kelly MLA on 21 February 2012 responding about open spaces, which she raised during the debate.  Work is ongoing by Departmental officials to progress the adoption of Private Streets developments as appropriate.
26/06/2012	Motion – Prayer of Annulment: S.R. 2012/203. That the Penalty Charges (Prescribed Amounts) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 be annulled.	The Motion that the Penalty Charges (Prescribed Amounts) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (S.R. 2012/203) be annulled was defeated. The Regulations came into operation on 4 July 2012.

<b>Date of Assembly Debate</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>
27/11/2012	Motion - EU Funding for 2014-2020	<p>The TEN-T and CEF regulations were finalized in December 2013. Important amendments have been secured which take account of Northern Ireland's unique position. These include exemptions from particular infrastructure requirements for our rail network and increased opportunities for funding for our roads and comprehensive network.</p> <p>The Department continues to work and collaborate with the British, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish Governments through various forums with a view to maximizing opportunities to secure EU funding for transport projects in the new EU Financial Period.</p>
04/12/2012	Motion – Committee Report on the Inquiry into Unadopted Roads.	<p>Written response issued to the Committee for Regional Development (CRD) in March 2013. Further updates have been provided to the Committee, the most recent was in December 2013.</p> <p>Various work streams, correspondence and meetings have been held to progress and implement the recommendations of the CRD Committee's report on the Inquiry into Unadopted Roads.</p> <p>Ongoing work is being carried out by Departmental officials to progress the adoption of Private Streets developments, as appropriate.</p>
18/06/2013	Private Members Motion – Funding for other road projects in place of the A5 Western Transport Corridor.	<p>Following the Motion funding was secured to construct the A26 Glarryford to Drones Road dual carriageway and the A31 Magherafelt Bypass. Procurement for these projects has commenced and both should be in a position to commence construction in late 2014 / early 2015.</p> <p>Funding has also been secured to take forward the A6 Randalstown to Castledawson scheme to a “shovel ready” position during 2014/15, allowing construction to start at short notice, should funding become available.</p>

<b>Date of Assembly Debate</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>
02/07/2013	Committee Business - Motion - Report on the Inquiry into the Better Use of Public and Community Sector Funds for the Delivery of Transport Option	<p>The recommendations from the Committee's Inquiry report are being taken forward as part of the Integrated Transport Pilot Project in Dungannon and Cookstown. The project continues to explore ways of integrating passenger transport services being delivered by Translink, the Southern Education and Library Board, the Southern Health Trust and community transport. The changes already introduced continue to be evaluated and further changes are being planned. Work has also commenced on the collection of information about costs, services, etc. from the various providers to enable the development of an economic appraisal of the options for the wider implementation of integrated planning and delivery. This is expected to be completed by late 2014.</p> <p>The Department is in the process of conducting an evaluation of the demand-responsive transport schemes that support the urban programme for people with a disability and the Rural Transport Fund. It also continues to liaise with the Department of the Environment (DOE) on the options for a new, more flexible, operator licensing scheme.</p> <p>A Feasibility Study on the options for a new ticketing system is currently being completed by Translink. This will enable an economic appraisal to be developed for the new system.</p>
04/11/2014	Motion – Report on Inquiry into Comprehensive Transport Delivery Structures.	<p>Contracts for the Transport Planning and Modelling Managed Service Framework were awarded on 14 March 2014. Secondary competitions are now being run to develop a Strategic Modelling System and to appoint transport planning experts to assist with the development of integrated passenger transport models for the wider implementation of the type of integrated services being piloted in Dungannon and Cookstown.</p> <p>The delivery plan for the New Approach to Transportation continues to be developed to support the process of allocating funding to priority projects.</p>
26/11/2013	Road Races (Amendment) Bill – Accelerated Passage Motion Debate.	Brought the Bill through the Assembly process, resulting in it achieving Royal Assent on 17 January 2014, becoming the Road Races (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

### **Junction of Drumragh Avenue and Market Street, Omagh**

Mr McAleer asked Minister for Regional Development whether he will instruct departmental officials to remove a large Union Flag from departmental property at the junction of Drumragh Avenue and Market Street, Omagh in an effort to promote good community relations and maintain the neutrality of this shared space.

**(AQW 32434/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** In accordance with the Joint Protocol in Relation to the Display of Flags in Public Places, this matter has been referred on to the PSNI in Omagh. Under this Policy the PSNI will take forward consultation and negotiation with local community representatives. When the consultation process has been completed, my Department will comply with the recommendation made by the PSNI.

**Millennium Way Road Scheme**

**Mr Moutray** asked the Minister for Regional Development, given that planning permission has been obtained for phase 2 of the Millennium Way Road Scheme, when construction will commence.

**(AQW 32449/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** Following the granting of planning permission for the proposed extension to Millennium Way, my Department is continuing to progress technical aspects of the design. As part of this process, preliminary meetings with affected landowners are taking place to describe and explain the level of impact of the proposal.

Substantial areas of land, currently in private ownership, will need to be acquired to complete the works and it is possible a Public Inquiry into the Vesting Order may be required to determine if the level of land take identified is appropriate.

It should be noted that subsequent progression onto my Department's Construction Programme remains subject to the proposal continuing to have a satisfactory economic appraisal, clearing the statutory procedures and funding being made available in future budget settlements.

**Cycling Masterplan for Ballymena**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will develop a cycling masterplan for Ballymena, given his recent statement that cyclists spend more in shops.

**(AQW 32469/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department is currently working on a cycling strategy for Northern Ireland. I expect a draft strategy to be prepared by June of this year.

In parallel with this, consideration will be given to the drafting of cycling masterplans for areas within Northern Ireland starting with Belfast. While my ambition is to improve cycling infrastructure throughout Northern Ireland, I think that it is important to adopt a step-by-step approach so that the benefits of investment are more effective.

**Cycling Masterplan for Belfast**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development when the departmental cycling unit will publish a cycling masterplan for Belfast.

**(AQW 32470/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department is currently working on a cycling strategy for Northern Ireland. I expect a draft strategy to be prepared by June of this year.

In parallel with this, consideration will be given to the drafting of cycling masterplans for areas within Northern Ireland starting with Belfast.

**Cycle Lanes in North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to provide dedicated cycle lanes or routes in North Down.

**(AQW 32490/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department is currently working on a cycling strategy for Northern Ireland in order to provide a context within which consideration can be given to how a network of cycle routes can be developed. This will provide an appropriate framework which will allow the assessment of different routes, including those in North Down.

Budgets and details of work programmes for 2014/15 are still being finalised. When complete, details of proposed schemes will be included in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

[http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom\\_of\\_information/customer\\_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils](http://www.drdni.gov.uk/index/freedom_of_information/customer_information/cinformationtype-results.htm?signpost=Customer+information&informationType=Roads+Service+reports+to+councils)

I can advise that the detailed budget for subsequent years has not yet been finalised and it is therefore not possible to provide details of future works programmes at this time.

## Vacancies and Agency Staff

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in his Department, broken down by grade.

**(AQW 32514/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The details for my Department are set out in the tables below.

### Vacancies

Grade	Total
Principal	2
Deputy Principal	1
Deputy Statistician	1
Staff Officer	4
Executive Officer I	1
Executive Officer II	3
Administrative Officer	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Personal Secretary	1
Purser	1
Support Manager 3	1
ICT Level 4	2
ICT Level 5	3
SPTO Civil Engineer	2
PTO Civil Eng Assistant	1
PTO M and E Eng Assistant	2
Technical Grade I	2
College-based Sandwich Student	1
Industrial grades	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

**Agency Staff**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Total</b>
Administrative Officer	4
Administrative Assistant	14
Purser	1
Information Officer	1
SO Accountant	1
PTO	1
Technical Grade 1	7
Industrial grades	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

**A2 Buncrana Road Widening Scheme**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the A2 Buncrana Road widening scheme.

**(AQW 32545/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I am pleased to confirm that considerable progress has been made on the design of the A2 Buncrana Road widening scheme. This will provide sufficient information to ensure the land required to facilitate the improvement of the Buncrana Road is afforded planning protection.

There is no provision within the current 2011-2015 NI budget for construction of the scheme and delivery of schemes, such as the Buncrana Road improvement, beyond the current budget period will be dependent upon the level of funding made available through future budget settlements and the relative priorities afforded to schemes competing for the available funds.

**Car Parking: Enforcement Consistency**

**Mr Anderson** asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps he is taking to ensure consistency in car parking enforcement in all town centres.

**(AQO 5975/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department has developed the Parking Enforcement Protocol to ensure consistency in car parking enforcement operations. The Parking Enforcement Protocol Document sets out the rules and procedures for Traffic Attendants to issue Penalty Charge Notices fairly and consistently. It also provides general information on parking enforcement, including the approach to be taken by Traffic Attendants and the processes in place to allow drivers to challenge any tickets which they believe may have been issued incorrectly.

Detailed information on the content of the protocol document is available on the NI Direct website at the following web address: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/parking-and-parking-enforcement.htm>.

**Roads: Fermanagh/South Tyrone**

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the roads infrastructure in Fermanagh/South Tyrone.

**(AQO 5969/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The condition of the roads infrastructure in Fermanagh & South Tyrone is comparable to the condition of the rest of the network in Northern Ireland, as it is maintained in accordance with established roads maintenance standards.

On the basis of traffic volumes, roads are inspected on four, eight or sixteen weekly cycles and all necessary repairs are carried out within preset target response times.

The main trunk roads within Fermanagh and Dungannon Council areas are the A4, A5, A29, A32 and A509 and constitute 192 kilometres of carriageway. Since I became the Minister for Regional Development in 2011, approx 61 lane kilometres of the trunk road network have been resurfaced. Over the same period, a total of 360 lane kilometres of non-trunk resurfacing has been carried out together with 685 kilometres of surface dressing. These resurfacing outputs are much higher than those achieved by my predecessor, over a similar period, when only 52 lane kilometres of the trunk road network were resurfaced and 193 lane kilometres of non-trunk road resurfacing was completed.

I consider this is a very creditable outturn on a network totalling 3600 kilometres of roads of which 2100 kilometres are unclassified.

### **Ballynahinch Bypass**

**Mr Wells** asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the most recent projected costs of providing a bypass for Ballynahinch.

**(AQO 5968/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** It is estimated the A24 Ballynahinch Bypass will cost in the range of £40–£50million as confirmed with the announcement in January 2012 of the Preferred Option for the scheme.

The estimate includes elements for: construction of the scheme; land acquisition and compensation; preparation and supervision; and construction risk (which will reduce as the scheme design progresses).

The Traffic and Economic Assessments, which are undertaken at each stage of the scheme assessment process, form a key aspect of the development of Major Works schemes.

For Ballynahinch Bypass, these assessments indicate the proposed scheme would be expected to provide value for money with transport benefits, including safety benefits, exceeding the costs involved in providing this improvement. A full economic appraisal will be undertaken once the scheme has been finally defined following public inquiry.

The estimate will continue to be refined as the detailed design for the scheme is developed, and is currently under review as part of the preparation of the detailed design in the run up to the publication of the draft Statutory Orders.

### **HGV Noise: Hillsborough**

**Mr Craig** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline what actions his Department can take to reduce the adverse noise and vibration impact that heavy goods vehicles are having on properties in Hillsborough village.

**(AQO 5971/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** My Department, along with other competent authorities, including major Airports, Railways and Industry, is currently working towards a Noise Action Plan for Northern Ireland, in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (NI) 2006.

In line with criteria for investigating areas for potential action in relation to noise from road traffic, the noise level used in the assessment is based on the 1% of the population affected by the highest noise levels. This equates to a road traffic noise of at least 75 decibels (dB).

As part of the Road Noise Action Plan, my Department has assessed the A1 dual carriageway at Hillsborough and the roads through Hillsborough village. As a result, the Hillsborough area has not



been identified as a Candidate Noise Management Area (CNMA). The assessment results show noise levels in the Hillsborough area to be below 75dB and do not indicate noise mitigation measures are required at this time.

There are a significant number of properties and people within the Belfast area who are currently exposed to noise levels over 75dB, and therefore priority has been given to these areas, included as CNMA's in the proposed Action Plan.

There has been a lot of research work carried out on the issue of traffic induced vibrations over the years and I understand the general conclusion has been that, they have insufficient energy to cause damage to an otherwise sound structure.

Imperfections in the road surface are the main cause of vibration and the monitoring of surface condition is an important part in preventing traffic induced vibration. My Department inspects the footways and carriageway in this area on a cyclical basis and anything considered hazardous to the public, is identified and programmed for repair.

### **Roads: Weather Damage**

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Regional Development how many roads have required repair due to weather damage over the last 12 months.

**(AQO 5972/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** There is no doubt the weather can have a significant impact on the condition of our road network. The storms and associated tidal surges earlier in the year caused significant damage to coastal roads and their associated defences. To date my Department anticipates the cost of carrying out repairs will be some £3.5 million. Whilst work is complete at some locations, works at other locations are either ongoing or scheduled for completion later this financial year. Due to the length of the coastal roads and associated defences, the inspection process is still ongoing and the total cost of repairs could potentially exceed £3.5 million.

In addition, repeated freezing and thawing cycles are particularly damaging to roads whereas excessive heat and rainfall can also cause significant damage.

Given the extent of the network (some 25,000 kilometers), the wide range of weather events over the last 12 months and difficulty diagnosing the exact cause of damage to roads, it is not possible quantify how many roads have required repair due to weather related damage over the last 12 months. However, in general well maintained roads in good condition suffer relatively little weather related damage.

In seeking to maintain the network and offset weather related damage, my Department anticipates it will have spent some £130 million on Structural Maintenance during 2013/14. This will be a record level of expenditure, showing an increase of some £20 million on the previous year, and some £10 million higher than the previous record of £120 million set in 2011/12.

### **Roads: Maintenance Costs**

**Mr McElduff** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the extent and costs of roads maintenance and improvements in the most recent financial year.

**(AQO 5973/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** I can confirm the total Structural Maintenance budget for 2013/14 currently stands at some £130 million.

This will be a record level of expenditure, showing an increase of some £20 million on the previous year, and some £10 million higher than the previous record of £120 million set in 2011/12.

Structural Maintenance is the collective term for activities which maintain the integrity of the road and footway structure. The main activities include resurfacing and reconstruction, surface dressing, patching and structural drainage. Structural maintenance comprises planned maintenance activities such as resurfacing and surface dressing as well as reactive patching.

My Department's projected outturn for Minor Highway Capital improvements is £21 million in 2013/14. This figure includes measures to improve walking and cycling, road safety measures, minor road improvement schemes and bridge strengthening.

### **Pumping Station: Ballymartin**

**Mr Rogers** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the proposed NI Water pumping station at Ballymartin.

**(AQO 5974/11-15)**

**Mr Kennedy:** The main contractor commenced work on the ground in December 2013. This included trial pits and carrying out surveys which were necessary for the completion of detailed design for the pumping station, pumping main and associated way-leaves. This phase of the work has been completed and installation of the waste water network infrastructure will progress during April 2014. The pumping station is scheduled to be completed and operational by the end of October 2014.

## **Department for Social Development**

### **FOI Request DSD/2011-0148**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 30890/11-15, to outline the reasons for the delay in responding to FOI Request DSD/2011-0148.

**(AQW 31580/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development):** The administrative procedures and processes of the Private Office are confidential. The answer to FOI request DSD/2011-0148 was provided on 6 February 2014.

### **EU Nationals: Benefits**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development whether departmental records show the number of EU nationals from outside the UK that are in receipt of benefits locally; and, if so, what are the respective totals in regard to each benefit.

**(AQW 31803/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** As the Social security benefit systems do not record a claimant's nationality, the information requested is not available. On 1 January 2014, however, changes were introduced both here in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain to restrict access to income based Jobseekers Allowance for European Economic Area nationals. These changes included a new three-month residency condition for European Economic Area nationals before being entitled to receive income based Jobseekers Allowance.

In support of these changes, the Social Security Agency is currently collecting information on the number of applications for income-based Jobseekers Allowance from foreign nationals. Figures collected indicate that 344 EU nationals were awarded income-based Jobseekers Allowance during January and February 2014. There are no figures collected on the number of applications for other social security benefits.

(The Department for Social Development's Analytical Services Unit is unable to provide the statistics that have been requested. The details provided have been taken from clerical data collected by Decision Makers during the dates stated. The management information provided is limited to standard reports with no facility to interrogate the system.)

## **Residents of the Doury Road, Ballymena**

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development how residents of the Doury Road in Ballymena had input into the decisions concerning the possible demolition of properties in the area by the Housing Executive.

**(AQW 31956/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has previously demolished some 327 dwellings as part of a rolling programme to remove blight and dereliction with the Doury Road area. With regard to the current demolition proposals, the Housing Executive has assured me that as well as attending the Housing Community Network, they also attend meetings with the Doury Road Development Group at the Ballymena Resident and Inter Agency Meeting, the most recent meeting was 25th March 2014. A representative (DRDG) also attended a meeting on 12th March 2014 held in the Supporting Communities NI headquarters in Ballymena at which Doury Road was discussed.

The Regional Manager also met with DRDG on 6th March 2014 at the Doury Road Development Group Inter Agency Meeting.

The Housing Executive further explains that door to door consultation takes place with homeowners and tenants directly impacted by all NIHE projects and that elected representatives have also been advised of future plans through the annual District Housing Plan, and when they have been raised as individual queries on behalf of residents.

Residents of the Doury Road will be represented on the Forum to implement the Building Successful Community Programme in Doury Road. Members of this Forum, which will hold its first meeting on the 1st May, will input to the timing and co-ordination of all demolition and regeneration works in Doury Road.

Furthermore, the NIHE has assured me that they will take a phased and managed approach to this work and consideration will be given to those residents who prefer to remain onsite during the refurbishment work.

## **UK Nationals: Jobseekers Allowance**

**Mrs Overend** asked the Minister for Social Development how many returning UK Nationals have been disallowed claims for Jobseekers Allowance due to the introduction of new rules from 1 January 2014 for European Economic Area and returning UK Nationals.

**(AQW 32039/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information currently available for January and February 2014 shows that 146\* returning UK Nationals have been disallowed Income Based Jobseekers Allowance under the new rules.

\* The Department for Social Development's Analytical Services Unit is unable to provide the statistics that have been requested. The details provided have been taken from clerical data collected by Decision Makers during the dates stated. The management information provided is limited to standard reports with no facility to interrogate the system.

## **Fermanagh Housing Executive: Kitchen Refurbishments**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development when the funding will be available for Fermanagh Housing Executive to carry out kitchen refurbishments.

**(AQW 32239/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that there is a kitchen scheme planned for 2014/15 in Fermanagh for 92 dwellings in Kilmacormick/Knockninny and funding is available. The consultant will be briefed on the scheme at the end of April 2014 with a view to starting the work in the autumn.

## Heat Retention and Sustainability of Home Insulation Materials

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development what progress his Department has made on the review of the heat retention and sustainability of home insulation materials used in Housing Executive homes.

**(AQW 32241/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that they are participating in a collaboration research project called S-IMPLER funded by the Technology Strategy Board. The aim is to help the refurbishment sector achieve an effective and economical retrofit insulation solution in solid walled homes (No Fines stock). The project will carry out external insulation to seven properties in Springfarm, Antrim with the following objectives:-

- 60% reduction in monitored annual energy costs in terms of heating and electricity;
- The use of a package of energy measures with a total average payback period of five years;
- The delivery on site to be 25% quicker with an improvement in both quality and Health and Safety performance.

The Housing Executive has further advised that an NIHE Working Group is already in place to progress their strategic approach to the thermal performance of the entire Housing Executive No Fines stock. This group will consider the technical solutions adopted in Springfarm and once options and costs are available it will evaluate the strategic direction of the Housing Executive regarding upgrading the thermal performance of this stock type including potential stock transfer issues.

The Housing Executive is also involved in a retrofit pilot project to five dwellings in Newry to establish the most economically viable way of retrofitting their stock while at the same time seeking to address fuel poverty and help improve the comfort levels of occupants. This will be achieved by adopting five different retrofit approaches with the ultimate aim to turn these energy inefficient dwellings into more efficient homes by the use of external insulation, upgrading windows and doors, combined with particular attention to air tightness to avoid draughts and potential heat loss paths. These dwellings will be monitored post completion for approximately one year to determine the running costs, payback periods and comfort levels of the occupants. The report findings and the post evaluation outcomes will be shared with my Department, Housing Associations and the private sector market.

The Housing Executive is also nearing the completion of a cavity wall insulation research study following some evidence which suggested that insulation work undertaken in the past may need to be revisited and upgraded. The research will investigate a number of insulation-related issues, including an assessment of the scale of the problem and its degree in relation to its impact on energy efficiency. The project should provide an evidence base to underpin a programme of remedial works if required.

These projects will provide data and insight on how to improve heat retention of Housing Executive stock, and creating sustainable solutions whilst meeting the Government's targets for reduction in CO2 emissions.

## ATOS Healthcare

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 31970/11-15, for the annual breakdown of complaints submitted since June 2011; and the number of complaints upheld.

**(AQW 32313/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Further to my previous answer to AQW 31970/11-15, the annual breakdown of complaints is detailed below:

Period	Complaints
June 2011 to March 2012	98
April 2012 to March 2013	221

Period	Complaints
April 2013 to February 2014	69
<b>Total Complaints</b>	<b>388</b>

Whilst my Department does not record the number of complaints which have been upheld, every complaint is thoroughly investigated and a comprehensive response is provided to the complaint which will include an acknowledgement and apology where individual shortcomings are identified.

Where appropriate, any specific weaknesses identified by my Department are fed back to our Medical Support Service provider to ensure that their medical processes are subject to continuous review and improvement.

### **Northern Ireland Housing Executive Staff**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 31897/11-15 and given the long running problem the Northern Ireland Housing

Executive has had in recruiting people from the Protestant community, whether he will undertake an investigation as to how, in each of the most recent two year periods, despite there being more Protestant applicants for posts, there were fewer recruited in each year.

#### **(AQW 32358/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** I asked the Housing Executive to investigate this matter and have been advised that the Housing Executive is an Equal Opportunities employer and as such welcomes applications from all suitably qualified members of the community irrespective of any equality dimension. In addition, welcoming statements inviting members of the under-represented community are used on a regular basis within their recruitment advertisements.

With regard to the calendar year 2012, 69 appointments were made in total: 22 from the Protestant community, 34 from the Roman Catholic community and of the remaining 13, no religious background was assigned.

The Housing Executive's detailed analysis has shown that 46 of those appointments, whilst made in 2012, were processed from vacancies which had been advertised in 2011 mainly for a temporary Clerical Officer vacancy within the Omagh area and for a Technical Officer position province wide. The Omagh temporary Clerical job in particular has materially altered the balance which had been achieved in the overall applicant figures for the previous year. There were 72% and 56% Roman Catholic applicants respectively for each of the aforementioned vacancies.

With regard to the calendar year 2013, 52 appointments were made in total: 16 from the Protestant community, 26 from the Roman Catholic community and of the remaining 10, no religious background was assigned.

Similarly, when these figures are examined, a further 12 of those appointments, whilst made in 2013, were processed from vacancies which had been advertised in 2011 (temporary Clerical vacancy, Omagh) and from vacancies advertised in 2012.

A further review of the numbers provided in AQW 31897/11-15 indicate that whilst applicants apply for a position in a particular calendar year, it does not necessarily follow that they will be appointed if successful within the same 12 month period, due to the nature of time required to process recruitment exercises and the operation of reserve lists for particular vacancies.

The figures provided must also be weighted within the overall context of the Standard Occupational Classifications groupings of vacancies, the age profile of applicants and the geographical location of the vacancies advertised, contrasted against the religious profile of the catchment area; all of which have a bearing on the community profile of applicants and new starts.

The Housing Executive advises that an Equal Opportunities Policy has been in place since the implementation of equality legislation, together with a Joint Declaration of Protection which is displayed throughout their premises, promoting a neutral working environment.

All interview panels are balanced in terms of religion and gender and panellists have been trained in Recruitment and Selection practice which includes an equality element.

Finally, the Housing Executive has had an Affirmative Action Plan in place since the early 2000's which was developed and agreed with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. This Plan outlines measures developed by the Housing Executive to encourage applications from the Protestant community.

### **Derelict Housing Executive and Housing Association Properties**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of derelict (i) Housing Executive; and (ii) Housing Association properties on 1 January (a) 2014; and (b) 2010.

**(AQW 32360/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below details the number of derelict (i) Housing Executive and (ii) Housing Association properties on 1 January 2014 and 1 January 2010.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Housing Executive derelict properties*</b>	<b>Housing Association derelict properties</b>
1 January 2014	488	66
1 January 2010	662	71

\* The Housing Executive advises that these figures relate to "empty not for relet properties".

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### **Social Housing Units Completed in North Down**

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of (i) single; (ii) two; and (iii) three storey social housing units completed in North Down, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 32389/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The information is not available in the format requested because the Housing Executive does not routinely collate information on social housing completions by building height. However, they do maintain a database which details the "House types" for individual social housing schemes. The table below provides details of all social housing completions in the North Down Parliamentary constituency from 1 April 2009 to 24 March 2014 broken down by flats, houses and bungalows.

**Table 1: Social Housing Completions in North Down: -**

<b>Completion Year</b>	<b>Flats</b>	<b>Houses</b>	<b>Bungalows</b>
2009/10	41	5	0
2010/11	142	28	0
2011/12	0	0	0
2012/13	0	0	0
2013/14	0	10	13



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### Social Housing Accommodation Completed in North Down

**Mr Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of (i) one; (ii) two; and (iii) three or more bedroom social housing accommodation completed in North Down, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 32390/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The table below provides details of the social housing completions in North Down in the last five years by the number of bedrooms.

Completion Year	Total 2-bed units	Total 3-bed units
2009/10	41	5
2010/11	166	5
2011/12	0	0
2012/13	0	0
2013/14	7	16
	<b>214</b>	<b>26</b>

\* No one-bed units were completed in North Down between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

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### Motions Debated in the Assembly

**Mr McNarry** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of Motions debated in the Assembly that he has responded to in the last two years; and (ii) the action that he has taken following any Motion that was passed.

**(AQW 32421/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

- (i) 11
- (ii) Any actions taken or not taken, following motions responded to be me, have been dependant on my Departments ability to deliver the outcomes sought in each individual motion.

### Atos Healthcare: Complaints Policy and Procedures

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to provide a copy of Atos Healthcare's complaints policy and procedures as held by his Department; (ii) whether all people examined by Atos Healthcare are made aware of their complaints policy and procedures; and (iii) if his Department make people aware of the option to submit a complaint against Atos Healthcare through his Department.

**(AQW 32443/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:**

- (i) A copy of Atos Healthcare 'Caring about Customer Service' leaflet which explains the process for making a complaint is attached. A copy will also be placed in the Assembly Library.
- (ii) Atos Healthcare's complaints process is openly displayed in each of the 10 medical examination centres located throughout Northern Ireland. The complaints process is also included in relevant correspondence issued to claimants by Atos Healthcare on the Department's behalf.

- (iii) A complaint on any matter can be made through my Department and the complaint's policy and procedure is accessible from my Department's Internet site: [http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/ssa/customer-information/ssa-customer-service/ssa\\_customer\\_complaints\\_guidance.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/ssa/customer-information/ssa-customer-service/ssa_customer_complaints_guidance.htm)

### New Council Areas: Staff Commute

**Mr McGlone** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of staff in his Department, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Greater Belfast area.

**(AQW 32456/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The number of Department for Social Development staff, broken down by grade, travelling daily to their place of work from each of the eleven new council areas to the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) is set out in the table at Annex A.

### Annex A

New Council Areas	Analogous Grade									Total
	G5+	G6	G7	DP	SO	EOI	EOII	A0	AA	
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2	3	13	27	50	48	122	217	28	510
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	0	1	10	29	35	47	103	154	16	395
Belfast	6	5	26	71	128	137	450	717	148	1688
Causeway Coast and Glens	1	0	2	4	9	6	7	52	14	95
LondonDerry and Strabane	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	11	3	21
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	2	1	4	2	5	8	1	23
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3	1	8	17	34	41	87	136	17	344
Mid and East Antrim	1	2	5	15	33	29	91	165	35	376
Mid Ulster	0	2	2	13	20	17	31	74	8	167
Newry, Mourne and Down	0	0	10	14	37	41	84	151	14	351
North Down and Ards	1	3	8	20	38	47	171	272	52	612
<b>Total *</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>2223</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>5069</b>

### Notes:

- \* Total includes 487 (9.6%) staff whose home postcode was either missing or invalid and could not be allocated to a new council area.

Data is taken at 01 January 2014 from HRConnect database.

Number of staff does not include those seconded outside of the NICS or staff on a career break.



As there is no definition for Greater Belfast, the above analysis calculates travel for NICS staff from the new council areas to The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA). The BMUA is defined in the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements (February 2005) and is available from NISRA at: [www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/urban\\_rural/ur\\_gaz.pdf](http://www.nisra.gov.uk/archive/demography/publications/urban_rural/ur_gaz.pdf)

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## Vacancies and Agency Staff

**Mr Dallat** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the (i) vacancies; and (ii) agency staff in his Department, broken down by grade.

**(AQW 32513/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** At 2 April 2014, the Department for Social Development had a total of 67 permanent and 42 temporary vacancies and employed 208 agency staff. Vacancies and agency staff by grade are as follows:

Grade	Vacancies	Agency staff
Grade 7	2	
Deputy Principal	7	
Staff Officer	26	
Executive Officer I	21	
Executive Officer II	7	
Administrative Officer	3	
Administrative Assistant	1	
Audio Typist		3
Accountant (Deputy Principal)		1
Accountant (Staff Officer)		5
Information Officer (Staff Officer)		1
Temporary Administrative Officer	1	106
Temporary Administrative Assistant		44
Temporary Support Grade Band II	41	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>208</b>

## Victims of Domestic Violence

**Mr P Ramsey** asked the Minister for Social Development whether any local homes are part of a 'sanctuary scheme' similar to that operating for victims of domestic violence in England; and if so, for a breakdown in each Housing Executive District Office area.

**(AQW 32528/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive operates the Sanctuary Scheme throughout Northern Ireland. To date 27 properties have had work carried out under the scheme and the table below shows the number of properties which have availed of the scheme by local Housing Executive office.

Antrim	5
--------	---

Ballymena	1
Coleraine	1
Limavady	2
Magherafelt	2
Newtownabbey 1	1
Newtownabbey 2	1
Waterloo place	3
Craigavon (Portadown)	1
Craigavon (Lurgan)	2
Downpatrick	1
Dungannon	1
Fermanagh	3
Lisburn (Dairyfarm)	1
Omagh	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

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## Warm Homes Scheme

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the impact of the end of the Warm Homes Scheme, including the implications for the staff employed by the existing scheme managers.

**(AQW 32576/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The current Warm Homes Scheme contract was awarded in 2009 for a period of 3 years with provision to extend it for 2 periods of 1 year each. Those extensions were granted and the contract will end on 18 June 2014. The scheme has been very popular and very successful and has improved the energy efficiency of over 120,000 low income households.

According to the 2011 House Condition Survey the Fuel Poverty rate in Northern Ireland is 42%. This is based on households needing to spend 10% or more of their income on household fuel costs. Research undertaken by Professor Christine Liddell (University of Ulster) in 2011 highlighted that 33,000 households need to spend 25% or more of their income on household fuel.

My Department asked Professor Liddell to identify these households, and in 2012 my Department working jointly with 19 local councils and the Housing Executive undertook a pilot to survey 2,145 households deemed to be in extreme/severe fuel poverty. Analysis of this research suggests that 34% of the households surveyed qualified for energy efficiency measures from the Warm Homes Scheme. In the areas surveyed fuel poverty prevalence was 78% and many of these households had not availed of the Warm Homes Scheme. This supported the need for an area based approach to target fuel poor households.

In September 2013 my Department undertook a further pilot in conjunction with the mid Ulster council cluster (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt), Newtownabbey Council and the Housing Executive. This pilot involved 1,200 households to test the effectiveness of a targeted area based approach and using local installers to deliver the measures.

Householders are able to select an installer of their choice to fit the approved measures or choose one from a list held by the Housing Executive. Whilst the delivery of measures is still ongoing, I am encouraged by feedback from the Councils involved and the Housing Executive. This approach is similar to that used successfully in the Boiler Replacement Scheme where over 1800 local installers have been involved in installing new boilers. A number of local installers are also benefiting from working on the Affordable Warmth Scheme pilot.

My Department launched a Public Consultation exercise on 17 February 2014 on proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme which will end on 9 May 2014. Responses to the Public Consultation will be considered when the consultation period ends and will inform the way forward for a new scheme.

My officials continue to work closely with all councils across Northern Ireland and with the Housing Executive regarding proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme. My Department is currently developing a Business Case for the Affordable Warmth Scheme. The Business Case will be subject to rigorous consideration by my Department's Economist and by the Department of Finance & Personnel before any approval is given to proceed with a new scheme.

The Housing Executive has advised that with the ending of the Warm Homes contract Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) does not apply to the staff employed by the Scheme Managers.

### **Fuel Poverty Scheme: Achieving Affordable Warmth**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the total number of households which will be taken out of Fuel Poverty should the proposals in the Affordable Warmth consultation be implemented.

**(AQW 32598/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Fuel poverty is impacted by three factors, household income, cost of energy and energy efficiency of the home. According to the 2011 House Condition Survey the Fuel Poverty rate in Northern Ireland is 42%, a slight decrease from 44% in 2009. This is based on households needing to spend 10% or more of their income on household energy costs.

The 2013 Home Energy Conservation Progress Report noted that fuel poverty remains a major issue in Northern Ireland at 42% in 2011. The report noted that the problem remains primarily one of high fuel prices and low household income. However, energy efficiency works are playing their part in reducing its impact.

The Fuel Poverty Strategy "Warmer Healthier Homes" resolved to work in partnership to improve the energy efficiency of low income households using a more targeted area based approach. Research undertaken by Professor Christine Liddell (University of Ulster) in 2011 highlighted that 33,000 households need to spend 25% or more of their income on household energy.

My Department launched a Public Consultation exercise on 17 February 2014 on proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme which will end on 9 May 2014. The proposed new Affordable Warmth Scheme will target this group of vulnerable householders who are in severe and extreme fuel poverty to make their homes more energy efficient and reduce their energy bills.

### **Affordable Warmth Consultation: Budget**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to detail the total budget for the Affordable Warmth Consultation in 2014/15; (ii) how much of this budget is expected to be spent on actual measures; and (iii) how much on administration costs to the University of Ulster, local councils and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

**(AQW 32599/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Warm Homes Scheme/Affordable Warmth budget allocation for 2014/15 year will be £16.5million.

The Warm Homes Scheme will end in June 2014 and my Department is currently conducting a public consultation on proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme. The Economic Appraisal and Business case for a new scheme will be completed when the consultation has ended and account has been taken of responses. There is a rigorous process in place which involves a thorough examination by the Department's Economist and the Department of Finance and Personnel before the Economic Appraisal and Business Case for any new scheme is approved.

### **Affordable Warmth Consultation: Fuel Poverty**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Social Development, with regard to the Reform of Local Government and the proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, how households in fuel poverty will be served by the new delivery model as outlined in the Affordable Warmth Consultation. **(AQW 32600/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** According to the 2011 House Condition Survey the Fuel Poverty rate in Northern Ireland is 42%. This is based on households needing to spend 10% or more of their income on household fuel costs. Research undertaken by Professor Christine Liddell (University of Ulster) in 2011 highlighted that 33,000 households need to spend 25% or more of their income on household fuel.

My Department asked Professor Liddell to identify these households, and in 2012 my Department working jointly with 19 local councils and the Housing Executive undertook a pilot to survey 2,145 households deemed to be in extreme/severe fuel poverty. Analysis of this research suggests that 34% of the households surveyed qualified for energy efficiency measures from the Warm Homes Scheme. In the areas surveyed fuel poverty prevalence was 78% and many of these households had not availed of the Warm Homes Scheme. This supported the need for an area based approach to target fuel poor households.

In September 2013 my Department undertook a further pilot in conjunction with the mid Ulster council cluster (Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt), Newtownabbey Council and the Housing Executive. This pilot involved 1,200 households to test the effectiveness of a targeted area based approach and using local installers to deliver the measures.

Householders are able to select an installer of their choice to fit the approved measures or choose one from a list held by the Housing Executive. Whilst the delivery of measures is still ongoing, I am encouraged by feedback from the Councils involved and the Housing Executive. A number of local installers are also benefiting from gaining this work.

My Department launched a Public Consultation exercise on 17 February 2014 on proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme which will end on 9 May 2014. Responses to the Public Consultation will be considered when the consultation period ends and will inform the way forward for a new scheme.

My officials continue to work closely with all councils across Northern Ireland and with the Housing Executive regarding proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme. My Department is currently developing a Business Case for the Affordable Warmth Scheme. The Business Case will be subject to rigorous consideration by my Department's Economist and by the Department of Finance & Personnel before any approval is given to proceed with a new scheme.

### **Double Glazing in Housing Executive Properties**

**Mr Campbell** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Northern Ireland Housing Executive homes in (i) Coleraine; (ii) Limavady; and (iii) Claudy and Banagher will have had double glazing work completed by 31 March 2015. **(AQW 32616/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that the double glazing schemes included in the table below will be completed in the 2014/15 financial year and will complete the double glazing programme in line with the commitment in the Programme for Government to have double glazing installed in all Housing Executive dwellings by March 2015.

	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of properties</b>	<b>Expected start date</b>
Coleraine	Coleraine	303	Autumn 2014
Limavady	Greysteel	110	Summer 2014
Limavady	Kennaught/Roemill	159	Autumn 2014
Claudy & Banagher	Foyle Crescent/ Enagh crescent	25	Summer 2014

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### **Super-Injunctions**

**Mr Allister** asked the Minister for Social Development whether at any time his Department has funded or contributed to the costs of legal proceedings brought in the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland, or elsewhere, involving the prohibition of publicity on the granting of injunctive relief, commonly referred to as super-injunctions.

**(AQW 32627/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department has no record of any proceedings involving the Department, where the granting of injunctive relief has been sought or awarded.

### **Fuel Poverty Scheme: Achieving Affordable Warmth**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development whether a process will be undertaken to procure the administration services for a new fuel poverty scheme under the proposals for Achieving Affordable Warmth.

**(AQW 32640/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department launched a Public Consultation on proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme on 17 February 2014 which will end on 9 May 2014. Responses to the Public Consultation will be considered when the consultation period ends and will inform the way forward for a new scheme.

The proposed Affordable Warmth model involves collaboration with the University of Ulster, all local councils and the Housing Executive to target identified low income households and does not require my Department to undertake a procurement exercise for the provision of services.

### **Achieving Affordable Warmth**

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development what discussions his Department has had with councils on their role under the proposals for Achieving Affordable Warmth.

**(AQW 32641/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** My Department undertook a pilot in 2012 to test an area based approach to tackling fuel poverty, working with 19 local Councils. These Councils targeted low income households that were identified by a targeting tool developed by the University of Ulster.

In September 2013 my Department undertook a further pilot in conjunction with 4 Councils which were made up of the Mid-Ulster Cluster (Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt) and also Newtownabbey Council. This pilot tested delivery measures using local installers to carry out the energy efficiency measures.

My Department continues to work closely with all Councils across Northern Ireland regarding proposals for a new Affordable Warmth Scheme. Whilst these pilots were ongoing a Project Group has been meeting on a monthly basis, discussing any issues that arise from the pilot.

## Warm Homes Scheme

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) whether a process will be in place by 1 July 2014 to deliver fuel poverty initiatives; and what interim measures will be put in place during the consultation period on Achieving Affordable Wealth and following the end of the Warm Homes Scheme. (AQW 32642/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The current Warm Home Scheme contract ends on 18 June 2014. My Department launched a Public Consultation regarding proposals for a new Affordable Warmth scheme on 17 February 2014 which will continue until 9 May 2014. When the consultation ends my Department will consider all of the responses to inform the new Affordable Warmth Scheme.

As the Warm Homes Scheme will continue to be available during the consultation period there is no requirement for interim measures to be introduced.

My Department aims to introduce the Affordable Warmth Scheme to coincide with the ending of the Warm Homes Scheme. My officials are working very closely with Housing Executive and local council officials regarding this.

## Social Housing Units Built by Clanmill Housing

**Mr McMullan** asked the Minister for Social Development how many of the 1600 social housing units to be built by Clanmill Housing over the next four years will be in the Cushendall, Cushendun and Glenariffe district electoral areas. (AQW 32646/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Clanmil is committed to delivering more social and affordable homes for those in housing need where they can do so. They are currently actively pursuing opportunities in this area to determine their suitability to enable them to deliver homes to meet an identified need.

## Finance Package Granted to Clanmil Housing

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development whether priority will be given to areas most in need of social housing following the finance package granted to Clanmil Housing. (AQW 32651/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Yes, all new build social housing as identified as part of the Social Housing Development Programme and part funded through the Housing Association Grant is subject to housing needs criteria.

## Clanmil Housing: Land Acquisition

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development whether Clanmil Housing is actively pursuing land acquisition for social housing in Derry after failing to secure sites at Buncrana Road and Springtown Road for 250 homes. (AQW 32652/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Clanmil Housing Association has advised that negotiations with the vendor of the site at Buncrana Road/Springtown Road are continuing. They are also actively pursuing and investigating opportunities across Londonderry to determine their suitability to enable them to deliver homes to meet the high need in this area.

## Disability Living Allowance

**Ms Boyle** asked the Minister for Social Development how many people in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area are claiming Disability Living Allowance, broken down by eligibility criteria. (AQW 32655/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:****DLA Claimants for the Western Health and Social Care Trust , November 2013**

<b>Component</b>	
Higher rate care only	540
Middle rate care only	2,020
Lower rate care only	2,360
Higher rate mobility only	1,140
Lower rate mobility only	600
Higher rate care and higher rate mobility	6,620
Higher rate care and lower rate mobility	3,840
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	7,560
Middle rate care and lower rate mobility	9,100
Lower rate care and higher rate mobility	2,800
Lower rate care and lower rate mobility	980
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,560</b>

Data sourced from ASU Disability Living Allowance scans, November 2013.

Figures are rounded to nearest 10.

Claimants are allocated to a Health and Social Care Trust area by postcode. In some cases this is not possible, for example, a postcode may be missing, incomplete or incorrectly recorded.

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

**Social Housing Projects in Derry**

**Mr Eastwood** asked the Minister for Social Development what plans Clanmil Housing has for social housing projects in Derry; and at what stage are these projects.

**(AQW 32656/11-15)**

**Mr McCausland:** Clanmil is committed to delivering more social and affordable homes for those in housing need where it can do so and are currently actively pursuing and investigating opportunities across Londonderry to determine their suitability to enable them to deliver homes to meet the high need in this area.

Clanmil has four schemes planned in the City Council of Londonderry area to start on site during 2014/15;

- 14 units 26 Beechwood Avenue, completion 2015/16;
- 9 units 8a & 10 Clooney Terrace, Londonderry, completion 2016/17;
- 40 units 8-10 Victoria Road Londonderry, completion 2016/17; and
- 15 units Grangemore Ardgrange completion 2016/17.

There are currently no further schemes programmed for Clanmil in the City Council of Londonderry area for the 2015/16 or 2016/17 programme years of the SHDP



## Direct Contact Number for Elected Representatives

**Mrs Dobson** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has plans to set up a direct contact number for elected representatives for (i) Housing Executive queries; and (ii) the Social Security Agency. (AQW 32670/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive has advised that they have a centrally based public affairs team within its communication department – telephone number 028 9031 8702. They further advised that this number has been distributed to MLAs who wish to discuss any housing related matters. Housing Executive practice has been to encourage elected representatives to contact local Housing Executive offices if they wish to discuss constituency matters.

The Housing Executive will also distribute contact details to all councillors following the local elections in May.

The Social Security Agency currently provides a number of direct telephone contact numbers for elected representatives across the various benefit areas. The Agency has future plans to rationalise and reduce the overall number of contact numbers going forward.

## Minister: Meetings Officials from the Housing Executive

**Mr McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of meetings he has held with officials from the Housing Executive in relation to the North Belfast constituency since 17 September 2013; and which other elected representatives attended these meetings. (AQW 32708/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** In my role as Minister for Social Development I had four meetings with Housing Executive officials in relation to the North Belfast constituency since 17 September 2013. Two of these meetings were to discuss housing need and both were facilitated at the request of Nigel Dodds MP; the third meeting was requested by me to discuss regeneration of Queen Victoria Gardens and was with Housing Executive officials only; the fourth meeting was with Connswater Housing, to discuss a new social housing scheme at Ballysillan Avenue.

## Residents of the Doury Road, Ballymena

**Mr Swann** asked the Minister for Social Development when residents of the Doury Road, Ballymena will receive formal notification that the immediate intent to demolish their homes has been suspended. (AQW 32765/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** The Housing Executive wrote to the residents of Doury Road, Ballymena on 7 April 2014 to advise those affected by the proposed demolition plans of their decision to pause the planned demolition.

Plans for demolition and regeneration of the Doury Road will be taken forward through the Building Successful Communities Programme. The Housing Executive will work with the Doury Road Forum to ensure their plans complement any proposal going forward in the area.

## Atos Healthcare

**Mr Agnew** asked the Minister for Social Development whether he has any intention, or power, to review the contract with Atos Healthcare to provide work capability assessments, following the UK Government's assessment that standards at Atos Healthcare had declined unacceptably; and what assessment has been made of Capita business services' resources to process personal independence payments on time following the deployment of civil servants in Britain to cope with a backlog. (AQW 32788/11-15)

**Mr McCausland:** Atos currently provide medical assessment services in Northern Ireland under a contract with the Department for Social Development. The terms of this contract provide for a performance management regime which includes monthly and quarterly review mechanisms. There are



a number of contractual remedies available if performance is not satisfactory. Officials meet regularly with Atos representatives, in accordance with the terms of the contract, to discuss performance and I receive reports both on performance and any issues which need brought to my attention. The types of issues raised in Great Britain are not occurring in Northern Ireland and my Department has specific arrangements for the monitoring of professional practice in place to ensure quality standards are being achieved.

The Northern Ireland Medical Support Service Agreement is separate and distinct from the contract Atos have with the Department for Work and Pensions. Atos have assured the Department for Social Development that they remain committed to the Northern Ireland Medical Support Services Agreement.

My officials are also working closely with Capita Business Services Limited to ensure that they have the appropriate resources in place to deliver the Personal Independence Payment Assessment Service when it goes live in Northern Ireland. Officials in my Department are continuing to monitor developments in Great Britain on how Personal Independence Payment is being implemented and will take appropriate action were required for Northern Ireland. They are also liaising closely with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions.

## Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

### Assembly Website: Written Questions and Answers

**Lord Morrow** asked the Assembly Commission to outline the nature of the technical difficulties leading to the Assembly website not updating submitted written questions and answers on a daily basis and when will be rectified.

**(AQW 32118/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Assembly outsources the hosting of its various websites and web services to an external provider and the recent technical difficulties were as a result of a serious hardware failure in the supplier's infrastructure.

At 9am on Tuesday 4th March 2014, the Assembly's external web hosting provider reported a critical failure on the storage area network (SAN) controller for their private cloud infrastructure. The provider was unable to effect repairs to the equipment and subsequently initiated their disaster recovery arrangements, again without success. This resulted in the Assembly's websites and online services including the AIMS Assembly Questions service being disrupted for a prolonged period.

Using temporary alternative hosting arrangements, Assembly Information Systems (I.S.) Office were able to restore a partial information service from 8am on the 5th March 2014; however this did not include the automatic updating of Assembly procedural information including AIMS Assembly Questions.

While the main Assembly website was fully restored during week commencing 10th March, the supplier was unable to recover all AIMS data services and this required IS Office to completely reconfigure the automatic updating of these services. This took a considerable time and effort to achieve and during this time manual updates were applied to ensure that Assembly questions and answers were updated as often as possible.

IS Office continued to work to restore all AIMS data services over the weekend of 14th-17th March 2014 and all Assembly web and online services were made fully operational as of the 18th March 2014.

The NI Assembly Commission intends to tender for a new website hosting contract later in 2014.

### Telephone Numbers from Parliament Buildings

**Mr Wells** asked the Assembly Commission to detail any steps being taken to allow telephone numbers from Parliament Buildings to appear on caller ID.

**(AQW 32530/11-15)**

**Mr P Ramsey (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):** The Assembly Commission currently utilises the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) telephone system. Telephone calls made from Parliament Buildings' landlines to external telephone numbers appear as a 'blocked number' on the Caller ID as it is NICS policy to restrict all outgoing call information. If the 'blocked number' message did not appear on the Caller ID, the billing telephone number would appear in its place (this is a different number to the extension telephone number of the person making the telephone call).

The NICS are currently in the process of upgrading their telephone system from a Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX) system to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system. The Assembly will no longer utilise services from the NICS and will remain on the existing PABX system and continue to utilise the existing telephone handsets for at least one further year.

During this period we will scope the requirements for a proposed new 'stand-alone' telephone system for the Assembly. As part of this work, we will consider the requirement to display the originating number instead of 'blocked number' on the Caller ID for all telephone calls.



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## Revised Written Answers

Friday 11 April 2014

**(AQW 32421/11-15)**

- (i) 11
- (ii) Any actions taken or not taken, following motions responded to by me, have been dependant on my Departments ability to deliver the outcomes sought in each individual motion.









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