

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 9 December 2011

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

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Weir, Peter (North Down)
Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 9 December 2011

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Consultation on the Social Investment Fund

Mr McGlone asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what formal notice was given to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister about the launch of the consultation on the Social Investment Fund on 27 September 2011.

(AQO 491/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): After agreeing the Social Investment Fund (SIF) consultation document, we wrote to the Chair of the OFMDFM Committee on 27 September providing a copy of the document and inviting comments as part of the consultation process.

We organised the sectoral consultation launch in order to publicise the start of the consultation period as we have also been dealing with a significant number of enquiries from the voluntary and community sector.

Our officials have since briefed the OFMDFM Committee in more detail on the SIF prior to the undertaking of consultation events. The Committee received a full schedule of the public consultation events and were advised of their commencement on 26 October 2011. Officials have also undertaken to update the Committee during the consultation process.

Invites to the sectoral consultation launch event were issued, on OFMDFM's behalf, by NICVA and were to be members of the Ministerial led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum. Information about the launch had, however, been circulated wider than the Forum.

Historical Institutional Abuse

Mr Doherty asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse.

(AQO 498/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Following consultations with victims and survivors over the summer and considering the recommendations of an interdepartmental taskforce, we called a special Executive meeting to agree on establishing an inquiry and investigation into institutional abuse, over the period 1945 to 1995.

We are currently considering potential legislative options which will provide the necessary statutory powers to the Inquiry, to enable the Chairperson to call for and compel any person or document, as required to be made available to the Inquiry.

Victims and survivors will have the opportunity to recount their individual experiences to the Inquiry within the confidential environment of an independent acknowledgement forum. This should be established early in the New Year.

The Inquiry and investigation will conclude within a 2½ year period from the commencement date and the chairperson will be required to provide a report to the Executive within 6 months of its conclusion.

We have also committed to establishing an Advocates Service that will provide support to victims and survivors before, during and after the Inquiry.

Work is well underway to progress all of the aspects of this work and we continue to liaise with victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse in relation to their needs and the steps that we are taking.

Whilst we work towards full implementation of the Inquiry and Advocacy Service we are conscious to ensure the needs of victims and survivors are catered for in the short term. We have instructed officials to explore ways in which an interim support service can be provided and we expect to be in a position to confirm these arrangements shortly.

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

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of whether the first term of reference of the St Andrews Review into North-South Implementation Bodies and Areas of Co-operation, embraces the option of reducing the number of bodies; and whether this option is being considered as part of the Review.

(AQW 3228/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: As the First Minister advised you in response to your question on this matter in the Assembly on 10 October, the first Term of Reference of the St Andrews Review will make recommendations to the North South Ministerial Council concerning the North/South implementation bodies. No decisions have yet been taken on this part of the Review.

Former Army Barracks at Ballykelly

Mr Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) what plans there are to decontaminate the site of the former army barracks at Ballykelly; and (ii) whether financial resources are available to complete the process within a given timescale.

(AQW 3405/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The need for and extent of decontamination in the future depends on the nature of any contamination present and the use that is made of the site. Work is currently underway to examine the options for this site.

Mutually Beneficial Savings: Republic of Ireland

Ms Ritchie asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) the discussions that have taken place with An Taoiseach in relation to identifying any potential for mutually beneficial savings by reducing duplication or overlapping expenditure; (ii) what progress has been made in relation to this matter; and (iii) what areas have been considered for joint collaboration.

(AQW 3894/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: At the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary meeting in November 2011, we had a discussion with the Taoiseach about a range of common challenges including constraints on budgets in both jurisdictions. In that context, the advantages of practical co-operation and the need to identify potential cost savings through working together were recognised. It was noted that discussions on this between Finance Ministers would continue.

Shackleton Army Barracks at Ballykelly

Mr Copeland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) whether they are aware that it cost approximately £5 million to decontaminate the Fort George site; (ii) for an update on their

proprietorship of the Shackleton army barracks at Ballykelly; and (iii) to detail the total estimated cost of decontaminating the site of the Shackleton army barracks at Ballykelly.

(AQW 3965/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Fort George site is the responsibility of the Minister for Social Development. Our officials are in regular liaison with their counterparts in the Department for Social Development through our joint ownership of the Ilex Urban Regeneration Company, which has specific responsibility to manage and re-develop the two former military bases of Ebrington and Fort George. Decontamination works for Fort George are about to go out to tender which will determine the actual costs that will be incurred.

Expert advice is being obtained on the options for the Shackleton site and we will consider the way forward on the basis of this in due course. In the meantime, our officials are working to ensure that the site is responsibly managed and that holding costs are kept to a minimum.

The extent of decontamination needed to ensure planning approval for any redevelopment at Shackleton will ultimately depend on the end uses to which the site is put, including the disposal of parts or all of the site.

Funded Groups

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why only one of the groups from the victims sector and none of the ex-prisoner groups funded by their Department has been audited in the last three years.

(AQW 4174/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Over the past three years, a total of seven groups from the victims sector have been audited.

A specific programme of audit of victims organisations was commissioned by the Community Relations Council in response to concerns about governance issues in the sector. Further audit work has subsequently been carried out across a range of organisations funded by OFMDFM and its arm's length bodies. All organisations funded by OFMDFM are subject to monitoring and verification requirements on an ongoing basis.

Community Relations Council

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) how many times the First Minister's Private Secretary has contacted the Community Relations Council to express concerns about the use of funding provided by their Department; and (ii) the groups and concerns raised in each case.

(AQW 4175/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The First Minister's Private Secretary has never contacted the Community Relations Council to express concerns about the use of funding provided by their Department.

Community Relations Council

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether it was within the First Minister's Principal Private Secretary's official duties to make contact with the Community Relations Council on 18 February 2010 regarding the content of a victims' group website.

(AQW 4233/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Yes.

Social Investment Fund

Mrs Dobson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the funding that will be allocated to the Social Investment Fund in each year between 2011 and 2015.

(AQO 733/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: £72 million of SIF is profiled in years 2, 3 and 4 of this CSR period and therefore cannot be spent in this financial year.

We are committed that the SIF will remain an £80 million fund. Therefore the Executive has agreed to re-profile at least £7 million of the spend available in year 1, into years 2, 3 and 4 to ensure more effective spend against area based plans.

Sexual Orientation Strategy

Ms Boyle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the progress and development work that has been carried to ensure publication of the Sexual Orientation Strategy in early 2012.

(AQO 734/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Our officials are to meet with stakeholders, with organisations from the sector and with other departments. Draft proposals to develop the Strategy will then be made available to the OFMDFM Committee.

We are aiming for the public consultation process to take place in early 2012 with a view to publishing a Sexual Orientation Strategy later next year.

Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse

Mr P Maskey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse.

(AQO 735/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Following consultations with victims and survivors over the summer and considering the recommendations of an interdepartmental taskforce, we called a special Executive meeting to agree on establishing an inquiry and investigation into institutional abuse, over the period 1945 to 1995.

We are currently considering potential legislative options which will provide the necessary statutory powers to the Inquiry, to enable the Chairperson to call for and compel any person or document, as required to be made available to the Inquiry.

Victims and survivors will have the opportunity to recount their individual experiences to the Inquiry within the confidential environment of an independent acknowledgement forum. This should be established early in the New Year.

The Inquiry and investigation will conclude within a 2½ year period from the commencement date and the chairperson will be required to provide a report to the Executive within 6 months of its conclusion.

We have also committed to establishing an Advocates Service that will provide support to victims and survivors before, during and after the Inquiry.

Work is well underway to progress all of the aspects of this work and we continue to liaise with victims and survivors of historical institutional abuse in relation to their needs and the steps that we are taking.

Whilst we work towards full implementation of the Inquiry and Advocacy Service we are conscious to ensure the needs of victims and survivors are catered for in the short term. We have instructed officials to explore ways in which an interim support service can be provided and we expect to be in a position to confirm these arrangements shortly.

Children and Young People's Strategy 2006-2016

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how their Department intends to engage with, and involve, children and young people and the children's sector to develop the action plan for the implementation of the Children and Young People's Strategy 2006-2016.

(AQW 4765/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Junior Ministers and officials have been liaising with key stakeholders in the sector and shall continue to do so.

The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister established Participation Network to actively seek and record the opinions of our children and young people and will continue to use this as a means to engage with children and young people throughout the development of the action plan.

Printing of Departmental Documents

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the date and time of when the (i) Draft Programme for Government; (ii) Investment Strategy; and (iii) Economic Strategy was (a) sent to the printer; (b) printed; and (c) received from the printer.

(AQW 4773/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Following agreement of the documents at the Executive meeting that commenced at 7.00pm on Wednesday evening 16 November, the Draft Programme for Government and Economic Strategy were sent to the printer at 2am on Thursday 17 November; the printing proofs were signed off at 3am when print was initiated and the finished job collected at 9am. The documents were delivered to Parliament Buildings at 9.50am on Thursday 17 November. The Investment Strategy was handed to the printer at 1.55am on Thursday 17 November, the printing proofs were signed off at 3am when print was initiated, the finished job collected at 8.30am and delivered to Parliament Buildings at 9.10am on Thursday 17 November.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what plans are being made to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

(AQW 4775/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) is the lead Department in relation to UK-wide events to mark the occasion. The celebrations will centre around an extended weekend in 2012 on 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th June. Details of these plans can be found at http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/honours/diamondjubilee.aspx.

In line with DCMS advice, it will be for individual organisations and administrations to determine how they wish to mark the occasion, with a caveat that they should reflect the current economic climate, should be funded from their own budgets or sponsorship and not be extravagant.

Poverty Outcome Model

Mr Elliott asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the Poverty Outcome Model will be published.

(AQW 4782/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: During the third meeting of the re-established Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum, which took place on 27 October 2011, members considered a draft version of an Outcomes Model to drive progress of the Plan towards eradicating child poverty here.

Some further development work will now be undertaken by the Junior Ministers, departmental officials and stakeholders in advance of a draft Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan being issued for public consultation.

Development and Promotion of Sports

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

(AQW 4810/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: While OFMDFM has not provided funding directly for the development or promotion of any of the sports listed, the Department has provided funding for the promotion of good relations to two initiatives involving football (soccer), as detailed below.

Funding Provided 2008	Funding Provided 2009	Funding Provided 2010	Comments
£131,285 (This equates to 25% OFMDFM funding towards overall project total of £525,140.00 under Peace III Programme)	Nil	Nil	<p>“Football for all” started in 2000 and aims to improve good relations at I.F.A. and work at local and international level with clubs and fans to eradicate sectarianism and remove barriers to involvement in football, increasing participation from minority groups and working at Irish League level to eradicate sectarianism and promote good relations.</p> <p>The project was to oversee and organise training and support for clubs in their own communities. Building on the foundations of all cultures playing, supporting, training and coaching football together.</p> <p>The project promoter aimed to create an inclusive culture within the sport of football, where everyone can feel safe and secure enjoying the sport.</p>
Nil	Nil	£4,038	<p>The “Engaging through sport” programme is a north Belfast wide initiative managed by Upper Ardoyne Community Partnership as part of the North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme which is funded by OFMDFM. The programme involves the provision of shared training for volunteers from football clubs throughout North Belfast which is delivered on cross-community basis. The relationships developed during this training lead to the delivery of two cross-community football competitions involving children from across North Belfast.</p>

Child Poverty Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the outcomes model, currently being developed for the Child Poverty Strategy, will contribute to the delivery of the six high level outcomes of the Children and Young People’s Strategy.

(AQW 4813/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Whilst the outcomes model has been developed with a focus on delivering the Child Poverty Strategy, it is clear that the eradication of child poverty will make a

substantial contribution to delivering the six high level outcomes in the Children and Young People's Strategy.

In focusing on measurable outcomes the model will assist departments and other public agencies in targeting resources at those actions which have most impact on reducing poverty and creating the circumstances in which the outcomes sought across the six high level areas can be delivered.

Both the Child Poverty Strategy and the Children and Young People's Strategy are mutually supportive.

Some further development work is currently being carried out on both the outcomes model and the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan in advance of the Plan being issued for public consultation.

Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan will relate to the Children and Young People's Strategy Action Plan.

(AQW 4815/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We recognise that poverty can act as a barrier for children and young people to achieve everything they aspire to and if we are to deliver the aims of the overarching 10 year Strategy for Children and Young People, then child poverty is a fundamental issue which the Executive remains committed to addressing.

To contribute to fulfilling the objectives of our Children and Young People's Strategy and particularly the economic and environmental well-being outcome, the Child Poverty Strategy and its associated Action Plan will improve the lives of children and young people and their families through the eradication of child poverty here.

Actions contained within the Child Poverty Strategy Action Plan, which is currently being developed, will link to both the objectives and targets of our 10 year Strategy for Children and Young People and the objectives and goals of our overarching Anti-Poverty Strategy "Lifetime Opportunities".

Consultation Process on the draft Programme for Government

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they plan to organise public meetings as part of the consultation process on the draft Programme for Government.

(AQW 5020/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: As part of the consultation process, a series of public meetings will be held across Northern Ireland to introduce the Programme for Government and canvass views from attendees. The consultation process will continue until 22 February 2012.

Childcare Strategy

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQO 721/11-15, (i) whether the £12m, allocated to the development of a Childcare Strategy and for projects that will improve childcare infrastructure, will be spent by the end of this budgetary period; (ii) whether any funds not allocated by the end of 2011/12 will be re-profiled over years 2, 3 and 4; (iii) to detail the bids that have been submitted by Departments for this funding; and (iv) to detail the projects that have been successful, including the costings attached to the projects.

(AQW 5080/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The Executive has recognised the importance of accessible, affordable, good quality childcare for children, families and the economy and, for that reason, has allocated an additional £12 million to developing a childcare strategy to deliver universal, sustainable and affordable childcare.

Junior Ministers are leading the development of the childcare strategy, and officials and advisers are engaged in discussions with the key departments involved. It will be important to secure clarity and

agreement on how best to improve childcare provision, as well as policy lead responsibilities, and partnership working arrangements. We plan to put proposals on the development of the Childcare Strategy to the Executive early in the New Year.

The childcare fund will operate as an executive fund requiring departments to bid to OFMDFM to be allocated funding. We are currently working with departments in relation to bids.

We are fully considering all options, including asking the Executive to ring-fence, in light of the discussions with key departments.

It is important to underline that the £12m is additional funding for the development of the childcare strategy, which will not replace existing baseline provision for the delivery of childcare services.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Unspent Funds by Local Action Groups

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an estimate of the amount of funding that will go unspent this year by each of the Local Action Groups; and to detail any unspent funds by the Local Action Groups in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3471/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): The table below details the targets for spend as set by the Local Action Groups in their annual implementation plans, their actual spend and the variance between the two figures. There was no spend before 09/10.

		GROW	NER	LRP	DRAP	SOAR	ARC	SWARD
2009/ 10	Target	518,202	437,750	152,908	155,000	135,000	420,000	1,780,000
	Actual	222,319	378,590	22,800	34,434	144,820	124,025	777,649
	Variance	295,883	59,160	130,018	120,566	-9,820	295,975	1,002,351
2010/ 11	Target	1,347,210	2,049,365	786,840	1,796,571	2,200,000	3,199,999	2,570,975
	Actual	589,597	1,303,281	483,773	850,317	873,028	1,066,205	1,132,587
	Variance	757,613	746,084	303,067	946,254	1,326,972	2,133,794	1,438,388
2011/ 12	Target	856,575	1,050,500	502,842	861,933	1,440,525	1,428,462	1,741,228
	Actual	301,318	303,648	130,936	502,329	373,065	862,788	1,032,103
	Variance	555,257	746,852	371,906	359,604	1,067,460	565,674	709,125

Spend and targets for 2011/12 are from 1 April to 30 November 2011.

Rural Development Programme

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total budget committed to date for the Rural Development Programme in the (i) North East Cluster; (ii) Assisting Rural Communities North West Cluster; (iii) South West Action Rural Development Cluster; (iv) Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Cluster; (v) Down Rural Area Partnership Cluster; (vi) Grow South Antrim Cluster; and (vii) Lagan Rural Partnership.

(AQW 4566/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I have interpreted committed to mean Letters of Offer (LOO) issued and accepted plus applications approved by JCC/LAG following a LAG assessment panel that are currently waiting for the LOO to be drafted.

To date the amount committed for Axis 3 of the NIRDP is as follows:-

(i) North East Region	£3,796,373
(ii) Assisting Rural Communities North West	£9,679,106
(iii) South West Action Rural Development	£9,820,042
(iv) Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas	£7,059,210
(v) Down Rural Area Partnership	£3,944,376
(vi) Grow South Antrim	£3,141,373
(vii) Lagan Rural Partnership	£2,466,419

Rural Development Programme

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total budget yet to be committed for the Rural Development Programme in the (i) North East Cluster; (ii) Assisting Rural Communities North West Cluster; (iii) South West Action Rural Development Cluster; (iv) Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Cluster; (v) Down Rural Area Partnership Cluster; (vi) Grow South Antrim Cluster; and (vii) Lagan Rural Partnership, for 2007-2013.

(AQW 4567/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The total budget allocated that has yet to be committed for each cluster in respect of Axis 3 of the NIRDP 2007-2013 is as follows:-

(i) North East Region	£9,384,927
(ii) Assisting Rural Communities North West	£8,805,006
(iii) South West Action Rural Development	£10,702,185
(iv) Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas	£9,672,629
(v) Down Rural Area Partnership	£9,553,690
(vi) Grow South Antrim	£5,749,526
(vii) Lagan Rural Partnership	£6,225,137

Additionally there are some 608 applications worth a potential £37 million going through the assessment process.

Public Appointments

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to list the public appointments both she and her predecessor have made since May 2007.

(AQW 4747/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: A list of public appointments, including re-appointments, which I and my predecessor have made since May 2007 is attached.

Relocation of Departmental Headquarters

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the relocation of her Department's headquarters.

(AQW 4904/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In line with the Draft Programme for Government, I remain fully committed to the relocation of the DARD headquarters to somewhere outside of Greater Belfast.

This project is subject to the Executives appraisal and business case processes. My Department has now received approval from DFP in respect of the Strategic Outline Case and my officials are now developing an Outline Business Case – another necessary component in a project of this size.

To date, no decision has been taken as yet on where the proposed new HARD HQ will be located. These and other matters will be for the business cases to consider and address at the appropriate time.

Ceiling of de Minimis

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what representations she has made to the EU for an uplift in the current ceiling of de minimis aid, of 7,500 euros over three years, which can be offered to agricultural businesses, compared with the ceiling applicable to other sectors of 200,000 euros over three years.

(AQW 4906/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The current €7,500 ceiling for de minimis aid to businesses active in the primary production of agricultural products is set by Commission Regulation (EC) 1535/2007. This Regulation will continue to apply to 31 December 2013. The European Commission has not yet published its proposals for, or sought Member State views on, the new regulation which will come into force from 1 January 2014. My officials are in liaison with Defra to ensure the Department has the opportunity to consider and respond to all proposals brought forward by the Commission once these are known.

Field Mapping Exercise

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the cost to date; and (ii) the projected final cost of the field mapping exercise.

(AQW 4907/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Funds to support the field mapping exercise were secured from the Invest to Save initiative.

To date, £ 7.627 million has been expended on the mapping exercise. .

At this stage it is projected that the exercise will be completed in 2012/13 and will cost £18.945m in total.

Northern Ireland Beef

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the differences between the quality assurance and traceability of Northern Ireland beef and beef from the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 4946/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: In the north, quality assurance of beef is provided for via the NI Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIFQAS). The scheme is owned by the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) and is funded by way of a voluntary industry levy. In the south, it is the Beef Quality Assurance Scheme (BQAS) which is also an industry funded scheme, provided through Bord Bia.

In relation to differences between these quality assurance schemes, the NIFQAS requires cattle to have adhered to a 90 consecutive day residency period on quality assured farm/farms prior to slaughter, while BQAS requires cattle to have adhered to a 70 day residency period.

There is also some variation between the schemes' certification requirements and also between standards with regards to environmental care aspects and animal traceability, identification and records.

While there are some differences between both schemes, it should be noted that the principles behind both quality assurance schemes are the same, with both setting out requirements for best practice in beef and lamb production. Both schemes are also accredited to EN45011, which is the standard for the European accreditation of bodies who are involved in certification of the various scheme requirements.

In relation to cattle traceability, systems in place both north and south are based on Regulation (EC) 1760/2000. The main elements of the systems are therefore similar and include identification of animals by the application of approved ear-tags; notifications of births, deaths and movements; up-to-date on-farm herd registers; and a computerised database operated by the competent authority.

The main differences between the two systems are as follows: herd-owners must apply two identically numbered yellow plastic ear-tags to calves within twenty days of birth. Herd-owners in the south order ear-tags directly from the single tag supplier approved by the DAFM, whereas herd-owners in the north may order tags from a list of tag suppliers approved by DARD.

In the south, when a herd-owner registers a calf birth, the Calf Birth Registration Agency issues the herd-owner with a passport for the animal. This passport must accompany the animal each time it is moved, and all movements of the animal throughout its life must be recorded on the passport. In the south, a herd-owner must obtain a Certificate of Compliance before moving an animal to another farm. This Certificate is validated by data held on DAFM's databases and verifies the status, origin and identification of the animal prior to the movement taking place. In the north, cattle passports are only issued if the animal is being moved out of the north. Animals moving within the north are instead accompanied during movement by a movement document completed by each herd-owner.

Northern Ireland Beef

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the steps her Department is taking to promote the marketability and competitiveness of Northern Ireland beef in the domestic and international markets.

(AQW 4949/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: From the outset I should make it clear that EU State Aid Rules preclude Government from promoting local produce based on origin.

Locally, the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) is responsible for the promotion of red meat and manages the Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme, as well as school cookery demonstrations and retail sampling. Invest NI is responsible for the international marketing of local produce and, together with local companies, attend international events such as the red meat trade fair in SIAL, France and Anuga, Germany, where an agreement was signed to promote red meat from the north in the French and Belgian markets.

It is important to help farmers develop strong and profitable relationships with their supply chain partners and my Department proactively facilitates such communication through various supply chain initiatives. Further support is available to the sector through the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) to help develop innovative products, while scientific research support is available through AFBI.

The Red Meat Strategic Forum, which is chaired by the LMC and includes industry stakeholders, meets to look at strategic issues of importance to the red meat sector. These include exploring export certification issues with the relevant authorities in important third country markets such as South Africa and progress being made on accessing other priority markets such as China and Russia.

You will be aware that the Executive recently included a commitment for the agri-food sector in the draft Programme for Government (PfG). This is a positive development and recognises the importance of the sector to the economy. In pursuit of this PfG commitment, I am working with the DETI Minister to establish a Food Strategy Board, which will largely be comprised of industry representatives and whose role will be to develop a longer-term strategy for the sector. It will be important for the beef sector to be involved in this process as it accounts for a significant proportion of the farming industry in the north.

Rivers Agency

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the cost to her Department of sending a representative from the Rivers Agency to attend an evening council meeting.

(AQW 4965/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The cost is relatively modest and would vary widely however in my view cost is not the issue. Currently my officials have to balance the ongoing operational response to recent flooding with requests from the public and their representatives for meetings and site visits. My Rivers Agency officials have been of course making every effort to work with and facilitate the needs of Councils in so far they can. The current demands of repair and recovery works in response to the recent flood events are still very high and I am acutely aware of the considerable efforts of my Rivers Agency officials in responding to the many demands placed on them at this time.

Assisted Rural Travel Scheme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether she intends to extend the Assisted Rural Travel Scheme beyond the end of this financial year.

(AQW 4967/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD in conjunction with the Department of Regional Development (DRD), the department with responsibility for administering the Rural Transport Fund here, introduced the pilot Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS) on the 01 December 2009 with funding now in place until the end of this financial year.

A joint departmental evaluation of the pilot scheme has commenced and once completed will enable an informed decision to be reached by DRD and DARD on the way forward.

I recognise the positive impact that this Assisted Rural Travel Scheme has made on the lives of rural dwellers and how it has helped to address issues of rural social exclusion and isolation. As you will be aware the draft Programme for Government contains a commitment to tackle rural poverty and isolation through a £13 million package of funding and I believe that initiatives that address transport and access, such as ARTS, are key to this.

Staff Mileage Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the cost to her Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 4970/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The cost of staff mileage claims for my department in 2010/11 was £2,342,028 and in 2009/10 was £2,540,990.

DARD's mileage costs arise from our operational needs in meeting legislative requirements and providing a service to the rural community and the wider public. By the very nature of the work of the Department this involves staff travelling widely in rural areas during the course of their duties, for example the Department's inspectors visit meat processing plants, and thousands of farms each year.

It should be noted that Departmental mileage is paid at rates which are set NICS wide. My view is that mileage figures across the NICS are still too high, particularly in the light of the current economic climate, therefore I am in discussions with my officials to see where additional mileage savings could be made.

Single Farm Payment Element of the Common Agricultural Policy

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what progress has been made in the negotiations on the reform of the Single Farm Payment element of the Common Agricultural Policy.

(AQW 4989/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The formal negotiations on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post 2013 are now underway with the publication of legislative proposals on 12 October 2011. Currently, I am consulting with stakeholders with a view to informing my position for the negotiations ahead.

The negotiations are expected to continue until at least the end of 2012, but I have already taken steps to exert an influence. This included attending the October and the November EU Agriculture

Council meetings, which marked the beginning of the formal consideration of the proposals. I, along with Agriculture Ministers from Defra, Scotland and Wales have also met Commissioner Dacian Ciolos and was able to raise concerns with him about 'greening' and implementing the 'active' farmer test. Other important issues were discussed including the need for an equitable share of Pillar II funding, simplification and transitional arrangements in moving to a flat rate. These discussions were useful, but we are at an early stage of the CAP reform process and more needs to be done in order to obtain the necessary improvements to the reform proposals. It is fair to say that the initial reactions to the CAP reform proposals have been negative across the EU. However, the Commission are in stock taking mode and are unlikely to make any significant changes to their proposals until much later in the negotiations.

I am building a good relationship with my counterpart in the south of Ireland, Simon Coveney TD. The CAP reform proposals will continue to be discussed at the North South Ministerial Council and there is every possibility that the final reform negotiations in Europe will take place during Ireland's Presidency of the EU.

I have also held a number of meetings with Defra, Scottish and Welsh Ministers to discuss the reform proposals. The EU Parliament will have a co-decision role in the CAP reform process and so I will also be working with our MEP's from both the north and the south as I seek to use every avenue open to me in getting the best deal possible from the CAP negotiations.

All of the above interactions are replicated at official level, with detailed views being fed through Defra to the EU Council Working Groups as we push our case on all fronts.

European Common Fisheries Policy

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what progress has been made in the negotiations on the reform of the regionalisation of fisheries in the Common Fisheries Policy.
(AQW 4990/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Following the announcement of the Commission's CFP proposals the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in July afforded Member States the first opportunity to give their initial reaction. There was a further discussion about the external dimension of the CFP at Council on 14th November. There has been a detailed examination of the draft Regulations by officials at the "Expert Working Group" and written submissions made. There remains a lack of clarity from the Commission as to how the proposals for regionalisation, which includes the development of the multi-annual plans, will work in practice and the Commission is being pressed to provide further explanation. There have been no political negotiations yet on the Commission's proposals but these are expected to happen in the New Year.

Flooding from the Altamuskin and Cloughfin Rivers

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department will offer any assistance to people whose land and property was damaged by flooding from the Altamuskin and Cloughfin Rivers in October 2011.
(AQW 5001/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Rivers Agency has investigated the property flooding from the Altamuskin and Cloughfin Rivers during October 2011. Works have already been undertaken to remove blockages on the Cloughfin River which is maintained for drainage purposes at public expense. Further maintenance is planned for the Cloughfin River in the coming year. In addition a flood alleviation scheme for Beragh has been brought forward with construction to start in 2013/14.

Where any residents or landowners are concerned about a risk of flooding, I would advise them to contact the Rivers Agency office based at Omagh and also avail of the useful guidance published on NI Direct. Where residents are concerned there is an imminent risk of flooding they should contact the Flooding Incident Line on 0300 2000 100.

Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the targeted spend under each of the six measures in Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme in the (i) North East Cluster; (ii) Assisting Rural Communities North West Cluster; (iii) South West Action Rural Development Cluster; (iv) Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas Cluster; (v) Down Rural Area Partnership Cluster; (vi) Grow South Antrim Cluster; and (vii) Lagan Rural Partnership during (a) 2010-11; and (b) 2011-12.
(AQW 5011/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Please see the two tables below that detail the information you requested.

(A) 2010/11 TARGETED SPEND FROM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATED JUNE 2010

	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6
NER	453,125	660,000	325,000	389,238	130,000	92,002
ARC	1,200,000	799,999	500,000	350,000	50,000	300,000
SWARD	827,880	845,705	260,000	587,390	40,000	10,000
SOAR	300,000	1,000,000	400,000	200,000	250,000	50,000
DRAP	352,227	314,281	690,330	98,734	0	341,000
GROW	343,410	245,700	255,300	240,800	262,000	0
LRP	308,937	283,000	140,350	24,553	20,000	10,000
Total	3,785,579	4,148,685	2,570,980	1,890,715	752,000	803,002

(B) 2011/12 TARGETED SPEND FROM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATED JUNE 2011

	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6
NER	460,385	451,755	490,750	380,000	323,776	105,000
ARC	641,559	502,319	320,792	1,339,379	0	262,845
SWARD	575,676	738,710	565,570	528,127	102,067	294,668
SOAR	363,750	309,015	713,972	641,514	159,915	15,372
DRAP	370,290	191,950	847,829	263,736	112,500	21,767
GROW	326,009	326,314	295,213	373,514	197,300	94,322
LRP	305,240	332,280	326,550	335,718	3,300	129,864
Total	3,042,909	2,852,343	3,560,676	3,861,988	898,858	923,838

Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total amount allocated in her departmental budget for the each of the six measures in Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme in (i) 2010-11; and (ii) 2011-12.

(AQW 5014/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My department does not hold the Axis 3 budget at measure level but at an overall Axis 3 level. The detail of the project budgets for the years requested is shown below.

2010-11: The total project budget at the start of the year was £20.6m. Due to underspend and subsequent easements declared in Monitoring Rounds, the final project budget for 2010-11 was £11m.

2011-12: The total project budget at the start of the year was £21.8m. Due to underspend and subsequent easements declared in the October Monitoring Round, the project budget for 2011-12 currently stands at £15.5m.

Engagement with the Joint Research Centre

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department, in addition to engaging with the Joint Research Centre, has had any discussions with other EU Member States to learn about best practice with regards to the areas identified as being in need of improvement throughout the European Commission's audit and disallowance process.

(AQW 5030/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: DARD is represented at most Joint Research Centre (JRC) Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) related events, where contact is made with a wide range of other Member States. Over and above these LPIS events, DARD actively engages with other EU Member State Paying Agencies through a number of different fora. The most prominent of these are:

- Learning network meetings involving representatives from a number of Member States including Spain, Netherlands, France, Denmark, Belgium, Germany and Poland. At these meetings, which exist to provide a platform for exchanging experiences and best practices, issues of mutual concern/interest are discussed and advice is subsequently presented to the Commission
- The bi-annual Director's of Paying Agency Conference and the bi-annual Panta Rhei Conference. These conferences are attended by representatives from all Member State Paying Agencies, the Commission and the European Court of Auditors and provide opportunities for networking and sharing of good practice, in the case of Panta Rhei with a particular focus on systems and information technology.
- A working group which consists of colleagues from the Netherlands, Flanders, Scotland, Denmark and Sweden. This working group focuses mainly on the requirement for each Member State to carry out an annual self assessment of the LPIS but also covers other technical LPIS related issues.
- As part of the project to introduce use of satellite imagery to contribute to inspection processes, DARD has engaged with other Member States including the south of Ireland, Denmark, France, Italy and Romania in regard to the methodology used.
- DARD has ongoing contact with colleagues in the south and also meets regularly with England, Scotland and Wales on SFP and LPIS related issues.

European Commission's Audit and Disallowance Process

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the extent and nature of the staff training which was provided, in the areas identified as being in need of improvement throughout the European Commission's audit and disallowance process, prior to the audit; and the staff training that has been provided subsequently.

(AQW 5035/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: Training for staff carrying out mapping and field inspection duties has been enhanced.

Mapping

The work identified by the audit to address the inconsistency within the mapping is being carried out in conjunction with Land & Property Services (LPS), which is the National Mapping Agency for NI. The staff involved comprise LPS Mapping and Charting staff and Professional & Technical staff who are on loan to LPS from Planning Service. The senior LPS staff involved in this work are members of the Chartered Institute of Civil Engineering Surveyors, (CICES).

All staff have undergone four days formal training, covering the protocols and specifications for data collection and the software systems used within the capture process. Each team has been provided with additional training specific to their role. This is supervised by experienced Mapping and Charting

staff with additional support provided by DARD Field Inspectors as required. Following initial training, staff undertake a minimum progress period of four weeks to ensure their work meets the quality and consistency standards required.

DARD staff checking the returned maps from LPS have received 5 days training in the use of specific software, the protocols and interpretation of the ortho photography. This was reinforced with further 2 days field visits to assist in the interpretation of the image with the actual land cover. Initially, to help standardise work, the same area was checked by each member of staff and differences were highlighted.

The majority of the quality assurance team have previously been involved in field inspections and hence have experience of the various ineligible features within fields. The assistance provided to LPS is ongoing.

The supervisors of this team carry out a further check of the quality assurance results. As common errors are identified, these are detailed at regular team meetings and shared with LPS.

Staff within DARD who carry out mapping updates are provided with a 4 day training course in map amendments. During 2011, these staff were provided with a 1 day refresher course in map amendment.

Field inspection

Inspectors are trained in the full range of skills and competences required to carry out and process inspections. This training is delivered in both formal sessions and 'on the job' development, with ongoing support from managers. In general terms, inspectors are trained in assessment of land eligibility for the relevant schemes, use of IT and other equipment to accurately capture and process inspection findings and health and safety.

In preparation for the 2011 inspection period, training for inspectors was considerably enhanced. Prior to this time, inspectors were provided with 1.5 days formal training and some 2-3 days informal training with regional managers, combined with ongoing support.

During 2011, each inspector received 5 days training on land eligibility. This training combined both background information sessions and 'hands on' field exercises. The training was bench marked against the standard information provided in the 'Guide to Land Eligibility' booklet, and inspectors were assessed on exercises carried out in the field. Information was also provided in line with guidance from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission. This training was carried out with inspectors in a single group in order to ensure consistency of practice across the region. Further training and mentoring was provided by managers in smaller groups in local areas. This activity provided further assurance of the knowledge and skills of inspectors and extended to an average of a further 2 days training per inspector.

All inspectors must undertake a 4 day training course in the use of geospatial measuring equipment. This equipment, incorporating a state of the art Global Positioning System (GPS) linked to ruggedized computers, provides a fair and accurate measure of eligible features at inspection. This training was benchmarked through the use of an external delivery company, and is enhanced by regular updates according to the ongoing development of enhanced features. IT support is provided on an ongoing basis by IT specialists and managers in the field.

As part of an ongoing programme of Health and Safety training, each inspector received a 1 day refresher training course in order to comply with statutory requirements and provide a safe working environment for both the inspector and the farmer.

The success of this extensive training programme is gauged through a process of re-performance assessments of inspections by managers. This year, this re-performance assessment is part of an audit of all aspects of the SFP processes in a European Commission exercise called an audit of Legality and Regularity. The NI Audit Office are undertaking this audit on behalf of the National Audit Office and the results of this exercise, which is ongoing, must be provided to the EC by September 2012.

European Commission's Audit and Disallowance Process

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development against what standard the training provided to employees, in the areas identified as being in need of improvement throughout the European Commission's audit and disallowance process, was bench-marked.

(AQW 5036/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I refer the member to AQW 5035/11-15.

European Commission's Audit and Disallowance Process

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measurable outcomes her Department uses to ascertain the success of training initiatives which were delivered to employees in the areas identified as being in need of improvement throughout the European Commission's audit and disallowance process.

(AQW 5040/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: I refer the member to AQW 5035/11-15.

Fishing Quota

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the sustainability of the current fishing quota; and on what research this assessment is based.

(AQW 5108/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My assessment of the sustainability of the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) available to our fishing fleet is based mainly on the stock assessments published by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES). This may be supplemented by additional research on certain stocks that is undertaken by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute. The state of the stocks fished by our fleet varies but examples for the main stocks are as follows. Nephrops, which is our main stock, is fished sustainably with fishing mortality lower than the Maximum Sustainable Yield mortality level in the Irish Sea. For Irish Sea herring, ICES has not been able to carry out a full analytical stock assessment but acknowledges substantial acoustic survey estimates carried out for a number of years by AFBI that show upward trends in spawning stock biomass and falling fishing mortality rates. ICES recommends that catches should not increase and this suggests that the current TAC is sustainable. The Irish Sea cod stock remains below precautionary limits. Fishing mortality is uncertain and total mortality remains high. A Cod Recovery Plan is in operation which provides for annual decreases in fishing effort and TAC until the stock recovers.

Woodland Creation and Forestry Protection

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why woodland creation or forestry protection is not mentioned in the draft Programme for Government.

(AQW 5205/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The draft Programme for Government is an Executive document containing high level commitments from all Departments. Although forestry measures are not named in the draft Programme, they will appear in Forest Service business plans that support the Executive's Programme. In that context, Priority 1: Growing a Sustainable Economy and Investing in the Future, contains building blocks which include the Rural Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Strategy. Both the Plan and the Strategy make provision for woodland creation and forest protection measures.

Reviewing Forestry Expansion Targets

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department's commitment to reviewing forestry expansion targets in the forestry business plan still stands.

(AQW 5206/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The commitment given in the Forest Service Business Plan 2011/12 to develop proposals for new mechanisms to support woodland creation still stands. These proposals will be included within the wider ranging review of support arrangements for private planting which I announced in Assembly Question Oral AQO 782/11-15. This review will report in time to feed into the Department's consideration of the proposed Rural Development Programme.

Woodland Creation Review Group

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the organisations that will be included in the woodland creation review group.

(AQW 5208/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My Department's Forest Service will involve the following organisations in the review, as members of the Woodland Creation Stakeholder Group. These are: ConFor (Confederation of Forest Industries); DARD's Countryside Management Branch; Council for Nature Conservation & the Countryside; Farm Woodlands Ltd; NI Environment Agency; Premier Woodlands Ltd; Rural Generation Ltd; Scottish Woodlands Ltd; Ulster Farmers Union; and the Woodland Trust.

Forest Service's Review of Support Arrangements for Private Planting

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the scope and scale of the Forest Service's review of support arrangements for private planting; and the timescale of the review.

(AQW 5248/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The primary focus of the review is to explore mechanisms which will lead to an increase in private planting and to provide the social benefits of these new forests. It also needs to highlight the level of demand for planting by farmers and other landowners, and how to influence this demand.

I met representatives recently from the private forestry sector and they gave me a number of ideas to increase planting, including greater equality of payment rates between lowland and Less Favoured Areas, improving the financial encouragement for farmers and landowners to take part in planting programmes, and increasing the scope of planting to alleviate flooding risks. I will develop these ideas, and taking account of barriers and opportunities available within the new Rural Development regulation, develop formal terms of reference in consultation with the Woodland Creation Stakeholders group and the ARD Committee early in the New Year. The review will report in time to feed into the Department's consideration of the proposed Rural Development Programme.

Rural Crime

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given the public perception that rural crime is increasing, whether her Department has any plans to enter into discussions with the PSNI to ensure that such crime is recorded and classified in the clearest possible manner.

(AQW 5254/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: My officials wrote to the PSNI who stated that they do not hold specific statistics in relation to rural crime. They indicated that currently crime is recorded in line with National Recording Standards irrespective of where it occurs and therefore they cannot extract data on crimes which occur in rural areas.

I will be meeting with the Chief Constable shortly and will raise this issue with him at that meeting.

Bovine Tuberculosis Cases

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the percentage decrease in the number of Bovine Tuberculosis cases in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5359/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The number of animals that have been removed as TB reactors in each of the years from 2006 and 2010 and the percentage change on the previous year is shown below

Year	Number of reactors removed	Percentage change on previous year
2006	9383	10.4%
2007	7299	22.2 %
2008	8390	+ 14.9 %
2009	8198	2.3 %
2010	6404	21.8 %

Overall the percentage change from 2005 to 2010 inclusive was a decrease of 38.8%.

Departmental Headquarters

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration has been given to relocating her Department's headquarters to the Omagh area.

(AQW 5361/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: To date, no decision has been taken on where the proposed new DARD HQ will be located. The entire project is subject to the Executives appraisal and business case processes. My Department has now received approval from DFP in respect of the Strategic Outline Case and my officials are now developing an Outline Business Case – another necessary component in a project of this size.

In line with the Draft Programme for Government, I remain fully committed to the relocation of the DARD headquarters to somewhere outside of Greater Belfast.

Local Action Groups and Joint Council Committees

Mr Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what is the purpose of the meeting on 6 December with Local Action Groups and Joint Council Committees; who has been invited to the meeting; and to provide details of the agenda and whether the Department will make any announcement following the meeting.

(AQW 5398/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill: The purpose of the meeting is to agree ways to direct funds to rural businesses and the rural community more quickly and in a more strategic way. Also to target rural Broadband provision more effectively both through the Rural Development Programme and by using DARD funds from her Tackling Poverty initiative and delivery of this will be assessed over the next number of months.

The chairperson or nominated representative from each Joint Council Committee and Local Action Group plus the Chief Executive of each lead Administrative Council has been invited to attend the meeting.

A press statement will issue immediately after the meeting.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Illegal Nets

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the length of illegal nets found; (ii) the species found in illegal nets; and (iii) the number of each species found in illegal nets, in Lough Neagh in each month in the last three years.

(AQW 5140/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín (The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure):**2009**

Month	Length of Net yds	Number and species of fish
Jan 2009	400	300 Roach
Mar 2009	1300	Old net fish decomposed
April 2009	1700	2300 mixed coarse fish
May 2009	500	20 mixed coarse fish
Aug 2009	500	Old net fish decomposed
Oct 2009	4900	600 Pollen / 24 Trout / 3400 Roach

2010

Jan 2010	500	350 Pollen / 150 Roach
Feb 2010	1000	400 Pollen / 1200 Roach
Mar 2010	4900	6801 Pollen / 2743 Roach / 330 Perch / 20 Bream
May 2010	1950	1316 Pollen / 39 Trout / 531 Roach / 143 Perch
Jun 2010	1100	Old net fish decomposed
Jul 2010	1112	21 Pollen / 1 Trout / 350 Roach / decomposed fish
Aug 2010	450	50 Bream
Oct 2010	2300	600 Pollen / 15 Trout / 1100 Roach / 700 Perch
Nov 2010	700	80 Bream
Dec 2010	700	2 Pollen / 40 Trout / 1099 Roach / 9 Perch / 35 Bream

2011

Jan 2011	8639	6500 Roach / 700 Pollen / 40 Trout
Feb 2011	2883	1000 Bream
Mar 2011	6109	1700 Pollen / 235 Trout / 1200 Roach / 80 Perch / 140 Bream
Apr 2011	1200	150 Pollen / 25 Trout / 1000 Roach / 150 Perch
May 2011	800	450 Roach / 50 Perch
Jun 2011	6200	4300 Pollen / 99 Trout / 200 Roach / 22 Perch

The numbers of trout recovered from nets are accurately counted and the numbers of coarse fish are estimated.

River Maine, Randalstown

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the annual results from the fish pass counter at Randalstown on the River Maine, for each of the last five years.

(AQW 5182/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The table below details the adult salmon counts from the monitored fish pass counter at Randalstown on the River Maine for each of the last five years.

River	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Maine ¹	179	479	548	333	296

1. The River Main counter represents a partial count.

These figures are one of a number of data sets used to establish the percentage compliance with the Conservation Limit for the river.

River Maine

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to AQW 1304/11-15, to list the monitoring sites on the River Maine.

(AQW 5183/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The list includes tributaries of the River Maine

Site_No_	River	4 Digit Grid_ref
1	Kells	2926 9948
2	Kells	2874 9955
3	Kells	2813 9974
4	Kells	2744 9966
5	Kells	2724 9944
6	Kells	2676 9902
7	Kells	2659 9876
8	Kells	2612 9849
9	Kells	2570 9818
10	Kells	2519 9816
11	Kells	2481 9838
12	Kells	2393 9845
13	Kells	2356 9866
14	Kells	2284 9882
15	Kells	2223 9901
16	Kells	2194 9906
17	Kells	2160 9892
18	Kells	2115 9882
19	Kells	2072 9892
20	Kells	2001 9887
21	Kells	1963 9916
22	Kells	1916 9925
23	Kells	1885 9921

Site_No_	River	4 Digit Grid_ref
24	Kells	1874 9888
25	Kells	1829 9879
26	Kells	1758 9862
27	Kells	1741 9854
28	Kells	1668 9848
29	Kells	1628 9819
30	Kells	1592 9819
31	Kells	1583 9771
32	Kells	1533 9757
33	Kells	1477 9756
34	Kells	1430 9732
35	Kells	1404 9738
36	Kells	1368 9706
37	Kells	1333 9705
38	Kells	1303 9781
39	Kells	1249 9809
40	Kells	1252 9808
41	Kells	1226 9764
42	Kells	1188 9734
43	Kells	1135 9700
44	Kells	1111 9733
45	Kells	1061 9713
46	Kells	1028 9710
47	Kells	0967 9730
1	Clough	1669 1695
2	Clough	1633 1666
3	Clough	1590 1623
4	Clough	1539 1581
5	Clough	1511 1542
6	Clough	1473 1539
7	Clough	1452 1514
8	Clough	1421 1506
9	Clough	1407 1463
10	Clough	1387 1433

Site_No_	River	4 Digit Grid_ref
11	Clough	1375 1429
12	Clough	1327 1410
13	Clough	1246 1377
14	Clough	1238 1353
15	Clough	1197 1334
16	Clough	1156 1305
17	Clough	1152 1238
18	Clough	1143 1185
19	Clough	1105 1132
20	Clough	1050 1132
21	Clough	1041 1084
22	Clough	0995 1104
23	Clough	0969 1093
24	Clough	0907 1065
25	Clough	0893 1081
26	Clough	0864 1126
27	Clough	0831 1194
28	Clough	0773 1269
29	Clough	0676 1288
30	Clough	0653 1296
31	Clough	0584 1286
1	Braid	2399 1100
2	Braid	2341 1078
3	Braid	2285 1032
4	Braid	2244 1012
5	Braid	2228 0988
6	Braid	2197 0944
7	Braid	2167 0892
8	Braid	2122 0838
9	Braid	2103 0829
10	Braid	2045 0834
11	Braid	1983 0821
12	Braid	1938 0798
13	Braid	1851 0765

Site_No_	River	4 Digit Grid_ref
14	Braid	1780 0725
15	Braid	1713 0717
16	Braid	1658 0685
17	Braid	1605 0669
18	Braid	1536 0671
19	Braid	1461 0670
20	Braid	1412 0612
21	Braid	1411 0586
22	Braid	1350 0566
23	Braid	1306 0536
24	Braid	1237 0469
25	Braid	1194 0410
26	Braid	1170 0359
27	Braid	1185 0306
28	Braid	1123 0269
29	Braid	1081 0294
30	Braid	1039 0245
31	Braid	1011 0202
32	Braid	0976 0146
33	Braid	0923 0177
34	Braid	0883 0157
35	Braid	0850 0143
1	Main	Not Conducted
2	Main	Not Conducted
3	Main	Not Conducted
4	Main	Not Conducted
5	Main	Not Conducted
6	Main	Not Conducted
7	Main	Not Conducted
8	Main	Not Conducted
9	Main	Not Conducted
10	Main	Not Conducted
11	Main	0564 1288
12	Main	0558 1234

Site_No_	River	4 Digit Grid_ref
13	Main	0565 1194
14	Main	0546 1148
15	Main	0505 1094
16	Main	0507 1069
17	Main	0501 1024
18	Main	0505 0953
19	Main	0490 0906
20	Main	0512 0873
21	Main	0515 0744
22	Main	0509 0701
23	Main	0532 0638
24	Main	0536 0606
25	Main	0550 0576
26	Main	0564 0530
27	Main	0577 0461
28	Main	0611 0441
29	Main	0624 0396
30	Main	0683 0351
31	Main	0701 0311
32	Main	0736 0277
33	Main	0775 0194
34	Main	0796 0171
35	Main	0830 0136
36	Main	0812 0045
37	Main	0939 9912
38	Main	0935 9733
39	Main	0904 9690
40	Main	0917 9617
41	Main	0798 9409
42	Main	0804 9304
43	Main	0795 9259
44	Main	0841 9174
45	Main	0826 9102
46	Main	0838 9023

Site_No_	River	4 Digit Grid_ref
1	Cloghmills	1016 1885
2	Cloghmills	0976 1878
3	Cloghmills	0936 1908
4	Cloghmills	0899 1923
5	Cloghmills	0852 1931
6	Cloghmills	0824 1925
7	Cloghmills	0775 1885
8	Cloghmills	0769 1859
9	Cloghmills	0743 1817
10	Cloghmills	0754 1795
11	Cloghmills	0755 1743
12	Cloghmills	0696 1774
13	Cloghmills	0665 1769
14	Cloghmills	0614 1764
15	Cloghmills	0586 1809
16	Cloghmills	0553 1798
17	Cloghmills	0524 1766
1	Killagan Water	0718 2065
2	Killagan Water	0684 2069
3	Killagan Water	0649 2070
4	Killagan Water	0608 2106
5	Killagan Water	0589 2119
6	Killagan Water	0541 2148
7	Killagan Water	0491 2196
8	Killagan Water	0470 2184
9	Killagan Water	0454 2129
10	Killagan Water	0434 2096
11	Killagan Water	0437 2060
12	Killagan Water	0429 2015
13	Killagan Water	0413 1997

Cultural Impact of Programmes and Events

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the cultural impact that programmes and events such as 'On Eagles Wing' have had in recent years; and what plans she has to support similar ventures in the future.

(AQW 5200/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Events such as on 'Eagles Wing' received funding from various sources within my Department including the Ulster-Scots Agency and Arts Council lottery funds. Such events have strived to promote the Ulster-Scots heritage and cultural issues.

The Ulster-Scots Agency continues to work alongside the Lyric Theatre and playwright Dan Gordon on the Pat and Plain series of school dramas. The Pat and Plain series were awarded a cultural diversity award from the 'Theatrical Management Association' in October 2011.

The Ulster-Scots Agency is currently considering projects to support other forthcoming events including the 2013 Derry Capital of Culture celebrations.

The Arts Council has identified events like the centenary of the Titanic in 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad programme which will bring considerable focus and attention next year. Spend in West Belfast

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

(AQW 5224/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Table 1, which is attached, details spend in the West Belfast constituency between 2008/09 and 2011/12.

Budgets for 2012/13 to 2014/15 are indicative and it is not possible at this time to provide information on future funding at the level of detail asked for.

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA

AQW 5224/11-15 TABLE 1

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
National Trust - Divis Mountain		24,971		
Ulster Wildlife Trust - Bog Meadow Wetland Restoration			20,000	
Féile an Phobail	20,000	20,000	20,000	
Aisling Ghéar	85,000	80,000	558,000	
An Nasc		30,000		
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich		91,763	193,526	106,765
Forbairt Feirste	116,069		169,683	66,565
Pobal	180,030		262,512	99,430
Raidió Fáilte	93,068		149,373	55,913
Ionad Uíbh Eachach			124,665	
Glór na Móna			152,500	
An tÁisaonad	367,637	367,637	344,078	343,043
Altram	201,850	199,826	199,676	199,310
Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta	75,000	113,400		
Ionad Uíbh Eachach	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Campa Chormaic, Co. Aontroma			3,500	3,500
Ionad Uibh Eachach		3,500	3,500	3,500
Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta	2,570		940	
Cairde Gaelscoil na Móna		3,461	3,500	
Coláiste Feirste		3,500		5,667
Glór na Móna		3,500	3,500	3,500
Cairde Cheathrú na Gaeltachta		3,500	7,000	
Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta		18,371		
Coláiste Ollscoile Naomh Muire		2,850	2,450	
Naí-ionad an tSléibhe Dhuibh				3,500
Naíscoil na Móna			3,500	
Cairde Gaelscoil na Móna			3,361	
Coláiste Feirste			3,500	
Andersonstown Trampoline Club			19,194	
Antrim GAA County Board (Casement Park)			12,444	
Shankill Leisure Centre upgrade		95,540		
Belfast Urban Sports		6,000		
Blythefield Sports Complex		9,068		
Cairde Naomh Pól				8,100
Cairn Lodge Amateur Boxing Club		2,374		
City of Belfast Archers Archery Club		7,750		
Colin Glen Trust				244,852
Colin Glen Trust			24,000	
Donegal Celtic FC			28,750	
Donegal Celtic FC			20,204	
Donegal Celtic FC	186,369			
Donegal Celtic FC	637,764			
Greater Shankill Partnership	35,874			
Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)				3,881
Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)	32,082			
Holy Trinity Youth Club			24,322	
Immaculata Amateur Boxing Club			29,395	
Lamh Dhearg GAC				245,000

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Lenadoon Community Forum		80,000		
Lenadoon Community Forum			382,195	
Linfield FC			9,675	
Linfield FC			43,907	
Newhill Youth Club			23,309	
Newington YC				2,312
Patrick Sarsfield GAC		9,491		
Rising Stars				2,818
Roden Street Community Development Group			23,730	
Sport and Leisure FC		87,050		
Sport and Leisure FC				1,791
Sportopps.com Ltd		6,129		
St Agnes GAC			14,612	
St Galls GAC		4,434		
St John Bosco Amateur Boxing Club				3,800
St John's GAC (Belfast)			28,970	
St John's GAC (Belfast)			28,028	
St John's Youth Club			21,546	
St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club		8,785		
St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club		755		
St Paul's Amateur Boxing Club			29,574	
St Teresa's Youth Centre			30,000	
Stadium Youth & Community Centre				245,000
Stadium Youth & Community Centre			25,832	
Upper Springfield Development Trust	48,834			
Woodvale Cricket Club		186,800		
Falls Library Capital spend			554,771	211,347
Shankill Library Capital spend			580,911	261,674
Whiterock Library Capital spend			477,772	
Belfast Orangefest	4,300			
Suffolk after-schools club	2,640			
West Belfast Orange Hall	250			
Black mountain primary school		2,000		

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Young Curators Programme 2009		12,000		
Kids in Control		4,700		
Northern Ireland Theatre Association (NITA)		40,000		
Aisling Ghear Theatre Company		67,320		
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School		50,000		
Array Studios		6,400		
Bruiser Theatre Company		45,000		
Catalyst Arts Ltd		20,000		
Craft and Design Collective/ County Down Crafts		10,000		
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich		161,290		
Digital Arts Studios		36,000		
Headliners		19,400		
Kids in Control		30,000		
Lagan Press Ltd		49,600		
Queen Street Studios		31,032		
Spanner in the Works		14,460		
Youth Action Northern Ireland		25,000		
Feile an Phobail		123,000		
Replay Theatre Company		115,635		
The Beat Initiative		120,000		
Conway Mill Preservation Trust Ltd		79,843		
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich		308,508		
Queen Street Studios		11,250		
Craft & Design Collective		75,000		
Crucible Pictures Ltd.		10,000		
David Baxter Audio Services		7,100		
Digital Arts Studios		7,811		
Elevation Design		18,412		
Garvan Traynor		3,625		
Red Earth Designs		10,000		
Simply Rouge		9,642		
"Creative Economy NI" & "Cultural Leadership International"		50,000		

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
West Belfast Development Trust Limited t/a Work West		48,994		
West Belfast Partnership Board		10,000		
Catalyst Arts Ltd		10,045		
The Beat Initiative		125,000		
Bruiser Theatre Company		37,230		
Bruiser Theatre Company		32,825		
Catalyst Arts Ltd		13,160		
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership		21,350		
Craft & Design Collective		40,100		
Digital Arts Studios		7,080		
Feile an Phobail		23,410		
Headliners		20,900		
Northern Ireland Theatre Association (NITA)		14,650		
Replay Theatre Company		30,638		
Replay Theatre Company		19,883		
Spanner in the Works		17,014		
The Beat Initiative		46,450		
Upper Springfield Development Trust		20,000		
Youth Action Northern Ireland		36,830		
Upper Falls Protestant Boys		4,658		
Suffolk Community Forum		40,195		
Lower Shankill Community Association		26,650		
Ann Zell		1,545		
Clare McComish		300		
Deborah Malcomson		1,000		
Frank Lyons		650		
James Rainey		500		
Janet Preston		2,460		
Kinga Pers		2,384		
Mary Fields		800		
Ms Emma Connolly		3,000		
Peter Richards		2,185		

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Belfast Orangefest		6,294		
Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership		925		
Families with Ups and Down's		8,000		
Indian Community Centre		6,000		
Theatreofpluck		8,960		
Upper Falls Protestant Boys		2,500		
An Munia Tober			9,920	
Upper Springfield Development Company Ltd			19,410	
Northern Ireland Theatre Association (NITA)			40,000	
POBAL			10,000	
Queen Street Studios			3,000	
Aisling Ghear Theatre Company			67,320	
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School			50,000	
Array Studios			7,800	
Bruiser Theatre Company			45,000	
Catalyst Arts Ltd			20,000	
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich			161,290	
Digital Arts Studios			40,000	
Feile an Phobail			123,000	
Kids in Control			37,140	
Lagan Press Ltd			49,600	
POBAL			25,000	
Queen Street Studios			31,032	
Replay Theatre Company			115,635	
Spanner in the Works			22,000	
The Beat Initiative			110,000	
Youth Action Northern Ireland			25,000	
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich			503,000	
Headliners (UK)			10,176	
Kids in Control			14,926	
An Munia Tober			21,670	
Bruiser Theatre Company			33,635	

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Bruiser Theatre Company			34,138	
Catalyst Arts Ltd			10,768	
Craft and Design Collective/ County Down Crafts			39,000	
Digital Arts Studios			13,385	
Digital Arts Studios			10,000	
Feile an Phobail			23,000	
Headliners (UK)			40,298	
Kids in Control			15,500	
Replay Theatre Company			20,000	
Replay Theatre Company			17,680	
The Beat Initiative			40,000	
Upper Springfield Development Company Ltd			20,000	
Youth Action Northern Ireland			36,830	
An Nasc			25,000	
Shankill Women's Centre			14,700	
Brian Connolly			3,495	
Clare McComish			1,115	
Derek Keilty			1,400	
Gary Shaw			1,040	
Gary Shaw			690	
Gerard mo chara kelly			1,750	
Grainne Holland			2,000	
James Rainey			2,000	
Mr Des Kennedy			3,750	
Mr Eanna Monaghan			1,500	
Richard John O'Rawe			1,600	
Aisling Ghear Theatre Company			10,000	
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School			8,200	
Belfast Orangefest			6,680	
Brassneck Theatre Company			8,000	
Families with Ups and Down's			6,200	
Glor Na Mona			2,100	

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Spanner in the Works			8,080	
Spanner in the Works			10,000	
Brassneck Theatre Company				7,000
Aisling Ghear Theatre Company				67,320
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School				50,000
Array Studios				7,800
Bruiser Theatre Company				45,000
Catalyst Arts Ltd				20,000
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich				161,290
Digital Arts Studios				40,000
Feile an Phobail				123,000
Kids in Control				37,140
Lagan Press Ltd				49,600
POBAL				25,000
Queen Street Studios				31,032
Replay Theatre Company				115,635
Spanner in the Works				22,000
The Beat Initiative				110,000
Youth Action Northern Ireland				25,000
Crucible Pictures Ltd.				10,000
Stephen Downey				9,800
Natasha Cuddington				5,000
Aisling Ghear Theatre Company				14,595
Bruiser Theatre Company				62,232
Catalyst Arts Ltd				25,830
Craft and Design Collective/ County Down Crafts				46,279
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich				15,580
Digital Arts Studios				14,946
Feile an Phobail				25,000
Giant Events Company C.I.C				80,000
Headliners (UK)				39,771
Northern Ireland Theatre Association (NITA)				43,000

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Replay Theatre Company				37,836
Spanner in the Works				11,730
Youth Action Northern Ireland				36,900
Belfast Martyrs Republican Flute Band (B.M.R.F.B)				4,500
Brian Connolly				500
Garvan Traynor				2,100
James Rainey				500
Janet Preston				2,197
Joby Fox				500
Kinga Pers				312
Miss Jane Butler				1,200
Natasha Cuddington				1,470
Paul Kennedy				1,500
Peter Richards				1,426
Stephen Dunne				5,000
Tim Brannigan				950
Catalyst Arts Ltd				3,365
POBAL				1,810
The Beat Initiative				2,000
FASA (Forum for Action on Substance Abuse)				5,000
Northern Ireland Theatre Association (NITA)	45,000			
POBAL	25,000			
Aisling Ghear Theatre Company	67,320			
Andersonstown Traditional & Contemporary Music School	50,000			
Bruiser Theatre Company	45,000			
Catalyst Arts Ltd	20,000			
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich	161,290			
Headliners	5,000			
Kids in Control	30,000			
Lagan Press Ltd	49,600			
Queen Street Studios	31,032			
Spanner in the Works	14,460			

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Youth Action Northern Ireland	25,000			
Feile an Phobail	123,000			
Replay Theatre Company	115,635			
The Beat Initiative	100,000			
Bruiser Theatre Company	23,500			
Bruiser Theatre Company	29,890			
Catalyst Arts Ltd	18,695			
Digital Arts Studios	57,387			
Feile an Phobail	17,875			
Headliners	36,918			
Kids in Control	24,898			
Replay Theatre Company	39,500			
Spanner in the Works	19,000			
The Beat Initiative	17,000			
Youth Action Northern Ireland	32,500			
An Munia Tober	21,460			
Upper Springfield Development Company Ltd	30,000			
Upper Springfield Development Company Ltd	22,000			
Clare McComish	3,000			
Danny Dodds	250			
Derek Keilty	3,693			
Gary Shaw	2,500			
Janet Preston	2,600			
Mr Des Kennedy	4,045			
Mr Eanna Monaghan	5,000			
Mr Francis O'Hare	800			
Natasha Cuddington	2,970			
Patrick McKeown	1,900			
Peter Richards	1,350			
Richard John O'Rawe	3,710			
Robert Walsh	2,000			
Robin Doherty	3,399			
Sean O'Kane	1,500			

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Sharon Morgan	1,100			
Stephen Dunne	2,500			
Corpus Christi Youth Centre	2,905			
Féile an Phobail	5,000			
Glór na Móna	4,601			
St Oliver Plunckett Luncheon Club	1,351			
Upper Andersonstown Festival Committee	3,316			
Belfast Computer Clubhouse		1,385		
Féile an Phobail		3,000		
Féile an Phobail		2,500		
Glór na Móna		2,000		
Lenadoon Community Forum		1,250		
2010 Now & Then			1,250	
Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich			2,500	
Forthspring Inter Community Group			2,055	
Glór na Móna			1,936	
Upper Andersonstown Festival Committee			2,500	
Upper Springfield Resource Centre			2,500	
Creative Minds Seminar - Seminar organised by West Belfast partnership Board		5,049		
Lottery Film Fund	89,500			
Lottery Film Fund		52,825		
Lottery Film Fund			12,250	
Skills Bursary Fund		338		
Skills Bursary Fund			5,937	
Skills Bursary Fund	2,125			
TOBAR	25,000	169,677	206,498	44,807
Bóthar Ard			45,000	41,160
Belfast Media Group			90,477	
SONAS		78,000	134,343	
Screen Fund	89,500			
Cinemagic After School Film Clubs		1,290	2,580	3,870
Studio-On Creative Learning Centre Programmes		65,600	60,400	34,000

Project	Amount £			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Digital Film Archive Outreach Presentation Programme			294	
Total	3,656,411	4,125,462	7,271,378	3,698,251

Illegal Netting of Salmon: Lough Neagh

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her assessment of the extent of the illegal netting of salmon in Lough Neagh; and how her Department polices the Lough.

(AQW 5247/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: Illegal netting is an illegal fishing activity and DCAL is concerned with any illegal fishing activity taking place throughout its operational area, including Lough Neagh.

It is not possible to make a definitive determination on the extent of illegal netting for salmon on Lough Neagh as illegal nets are indiscriminate and not species specific. The placement of certain illegal nets at river mouths and the timing of these placements would suggest that there is some level of targeting of salmonids (salmon and trout).

In 2010 some 14712 yards of illegal nets were seized on Lough Neagh but no salmon were identified in these.

There are a small number of fishermen on Lough Neagh licensed by DCAL to capture salmon and freshwater fish. Catches of salmon are monitored through a carcass tagging scheme and these are very small with only 9 salmon recorded as being caught in Lough Neagh in 2010.

A team of 3 DCAL Fisheries Protection Officers, under the management of a Senior Fisheries Officer, operate from their base at Derrycrow on the southern shore of the Lough. They carry out regular boat and shore patrols of the Lough and its tributaries to detect, disrupt and deter those involved in illegal fishing activities.

When necessary Fishery Protection Officers based in other areas can be tasked to assist with operations with the Lough Neagh team.

DCAL Fisheries Protection staff also work closely with local angling clubs, many of which have Private Water Bailiffs who play an important role in supporting the Department in combating illegal fishing activities.

In addition Fisheries Protection Officers undertake inspections of fish dealers' premises and businesses selling fish such as hotels, restaurants and commercial outlets, to ensure that those engaged comply fully with the 1966 Fisheries Act and Fisheries Regulations.

Development of the Ulster-Scots Culture in Schools

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

(AQW 5282/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I have not as yet met with the Minister of Education to discuss the development of the Ulster-Scots culture in schools; however I will ensure that it will be on the agenda at a future meeting.

Scientific Papers: Salmon

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for her Department's assessment of the scientific papers presented to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea at the Salmon Summit on the 11 to 13 October 2011.

(AQW 5439/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: The DCAL Chief Fisheries Officer attended the Salmon Summit at La Rochelle, France in October 2011.

At the event scientists confirmed that wild Atlantic salmon are dying at sea in alarming numbers, to the extent that southern stocks, including some in North America and Europe, are threatened with extinction.

International research is on-going to better understand the factors influencing the mortality rate in the oceanic phase of the salmon life cycle.

A clear message coming from the event is to ensure that the maximum number of healthy wild salmon go to sea from rivers. In order to keep salmon populations abundant factors such as degraded freshwater habitat, barriers to migration, over exploitation and salmon farming must continue to be addressed.

Fishing Licences

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to list the holders of licences, which have been issued by her Department, to fish for salmon or trout by net in coastal waters.

(AQW 5524/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am unable to list the holders of licences issued by the Department in order to comply with Data Protection legislation.

Fishing Licences

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to list the holders of licences, which have been issued by her Department, to fish for salmon or trout in rivers or in Lough Neagh.

(AQW 5525/11-15)

Ms Ní Chuilín: I am unable to list the holders of licences issued by the Department in order to comply with Data Protection legislation.

Department of Education

Tendering Process for Home-To-School Transport

Mr Lynch asked the Minister of Education (i) whether the tendering process for Home-To-School Transport provision awards contracts on a financial quality basis; and (ii) to publish the tendering process for Co. Fermanagh.

(AQW 4620/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The Education and Library Boards employ a two-stage competitive tendering process for home to school transport. The first stage – selection - requires tenderers to demonstrate that they can comply with a series of selection criteria, including roadworthiness of vehicles, appropriate taxing, insuring and licensing, and appropriately licensed drivers. The second stage – award - involves only those tenderers that have successfully met the stage one criteria. A contract is awarded to the operator who has the capacity to carry out the contract in the most economic and effective fashion vis-à-vis the competitors.

There is no tendering process solely for Fermanagh so this may not be published. The Western Education and Library Board operates a tender process on a whole-Board basis. Routes that are put out to tender are dependent on the needs of the service and can vary from year to year and from tender period to tender period. The current tender was advertised in the EU Journal and the selection and award criteria were included in the tender documentation forwarded to any prospective tenderer. I have arranged for a copy of the tender to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Road Safety for Children Cycling to School

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education what action his Department is taking to encourage road safety for children cycling to school.

(AQW 4743/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: While the Department for the Environment has statutory responsibility for the delivery of road safety education in our schools, the revised curriculum, now being taught to all pupils of compulsory school age in grant-aided schools, provides opportunities for schools to address road safety which could include cycling to school.

These opportunities are provided through the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding and also the World Around Areas of Learning at primary level and through the Personal Development strand of Learning for Life and Work at post-primary level.

Whilst these opportunities exist, the revised curriculum is more flexible and it is a matter for schools to decide on specific areas they wish to cover under the Areas of Learning which are detailed in the 2007 Curriculum Minimum Content Order 2007.

The Department did, however, write to all schools in March 2010 to remind them about the importance of ensuring the effective delivery of road safety messages through the revised curriculum and to inform them about the existing opportunities within the curriculum to highlight road safety.

The Department is supportive of children walking and cycling to school because of the obvious health benefits. In previous years the Department was able to make available funding for work in a number of schools, such as the provision of cycle shelters and cycle paths within the school grounds. Due to the current financial constraints the Department has to concentrate available funding on meeting key statutory requirements, such as Health & Safety and Fire Protection.

Public Appointments

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

(AQW 4821/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The table below details the public appointments I have made since my appointment as Minister:

Name of Body	Name of Appointee
Belfast Education & Library Board	Mr Ciaran O'Grady Mr Alastair Mackay
North Eastern Education & Library Board	Alderman John Robert (Roy) Beggs Alderman James Kerr Fulton Currie Cllr Charles (James) Brown Cllr Trevor Clarke Cllr Albert (Samuel) Cole Cllr John Francis (Sean) Kerr Cllr Mrs Lynn Frazer Cllr Mrs Evelyne Lavine Robinson
Southern Education & Library Board	Cllr James Ignatius Cavanagh Cllr John (Sean) Gerard Clarke Cllr Junior McCrum Cllr Sylvia Flora Agnes McRoberts

Name of Body	Name of Appointee
Western Education & Library Board	Cllr Shaun Patrick Gallagher Cllr Robert James Irvine Cllr Declan McAleer Cllr Mrs Ann Patricia Brolly

All public appointments are detailed in OFMDFM, Central Appointment Unit's Public Appointments Annual Report for 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and their Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report 2009/2010.

The Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report for 2010/2011 will be published in due course in the normal manner.

The reports are available on the OFMDFM website and can be accessed from the following link: <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/making-government-work/public-appointments.htm>

Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education for an update on what action the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools is taking in relation to post-primary education.
(AQW 4833/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The NI Commission for Catholic Education, on which the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) is represented, established a Post-primary Review Team (PPRT) in 2006 to consider educational provision in Catholic secondary and grammar schools. The Commission did so in response to a range of developments in education at the time, including the intention to end academic selection, downward demographic trends and changes to the statutory curriculum, particularly the introduction of the Entitlement Framework. To date the report has not been published.

In my statement to the Assembly on 26 September 2011, I indicated that I have commissioned the five Education and Library Boards, working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and other sectors, to co-ordinate a strategic area planning process based on each Board area. This process will result in an effectively planned, sustainable and affordable pattern of schools and will ensure that we have the right type and size of schools, in the right places, to meet the needs of pupils.

The work undertaken by the PPRT will inform the development of area plans which I have asked to be completed by March 2012.

Pre-School Education

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education how he intends to ensure that one year of pre-school education is available for all children who require it.
(AQW 4835/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Draft Programme for Government included a commitment to provide one year of funded pre-school education for every child whose parent wants to avail of it. This is consistent with the aim of the Department's Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP), which launched in 1998.

In the 2011/2012 school year there are over 23,000 children in funded pre-school education provision. Funded pre-school education places are available in statutory nursery schools, nursery units in Primary Schools and in voluntary and private sector settings. Both sectors are equally valued and must adhere to the same pre-school curricular guidance and are inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

DE is currently working with Education and Library Boards to ensure an adequate number of funded pre-school places are available. If necessary, additional capacity in the pre-school education sector may be achieved through several options such as the creation of new/additional statutory nursery units or

by the allocation of additional funded places in voluntary and private pre-school settings participating in the PSEEP.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education, in light of the announcement to introduce the Education and Skills Authority by 2013, when he intends to reconstitute the South Eastern Education and Library Board. **(AQW 4941/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: My focus is on delivering the commitment in the draft Programme for Government to establish ESA in 2013 and on ensuring, in the interim, stability and good governance in the Education and Library Boards and other education bodies. I have asked my officials to explore the feasibility of reconstituting the South Eastern Education and Library Board pending the establishment of ESA, bearing in mind the need to ensure continued stability and good governance.

Educational Psychologists

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Education to detail the role of educational psychologists in assessing children being considered for educational statementing. **(AQW 4952/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The role of the educational psychologist in assessing children being considered for statementing is to provide, when requested, educational psychology advice to the Education and Library board, under the guidance of the Code of Practice.

The advice must set out the psychological features of the case relevant to the child's educational needs including any future needs. It must also set out how those features could affect the child's educational needs and the provision which is appropriate for the child, whether by way of special educational provision or non-educational provision.

When preparing the advice, a wide range of factors which might affect the child's functioning should be addressed. Educational psychologists may need to liaise with occupational therapists and physiotherapists for advice. They should also consider any advice which parents may submit independently from a fully qualified educational psychologist.

The advice should be returned to the Board within the statutory time frame of six weeks and once all advice is returned, consideration is given as to whether a Statement is made. Where a Statement is made, this will be issued to the parents by the Board in draft form for their consideration.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Education how the Irish-medium and integrated sector will be included in the Education and Skills Authority. **(AQW 4979/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The functions of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) will apply to all grant-aided schools, including Irish-medium and integrated schools. Persons representing the interests of the Irish-medium and integrated sectors may apply to be appointed as members of the ESA. My Department will continue to support Comhairle na Gaelscoiachta and the Council for Integrated Education to represent their respective sectors.

Advisory Group to Advance Shared Education

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education, in light of the commitment in the draft Programme for Government, (i) when he will establish an advisory group to advance shared education; (ii) whether he or the Executive will approve the terms of reference of the group; and (iii) what is the anticipated timeframe for these deliberations.

(AQW 5049/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Programme for Government commitment is that the group will report with recommendations before the end of 2012/13. I will approve the terms of reference and establish the group by 1 April 2012.

Unit of Resource for Primary and Post-Primary Pupils

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Education to outline the main constituent elements of the unit of resource for (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary pupils; and to explain the reasons for the differential between the unit of resource for primary and post-primary pupils.

(AQW 5054/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The main constituent elements of the unit of resource for schools is the Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding factor. The associated values for (i) primary; and (ii) post primary pupils are detailed in the table below;

	AWPU Weight	AWPU Cash Value	AWPU Funding per pupil 2011-12
Primary School	1.06	£2,041	£2,163
Post Primary Yr 8-12	1.68	£2,041	£3,429
Post Primary Yr 13-15	2.18	£2,041	£4,449

The reasons for the differential between the main unit of resource for primary and post primary pupils arises largely from the different approaches taken to the delivery of the curriculum, and hence the cost demands of each. In the primary sector, the arrangements provide for a pupil centred approach with pupils normally taught in one class for all their subjects. The provision of a wider range of subjects by post-primary schools results in additional teaching costs, materials and equipment, specialist facilities and examination fees. Practical classes must be conducted within specified maximum class sizes and in addition, post-16 classes tend to be generally smaller.

Different weightings are therefore applied for funding purposes to primary and post-primary pupils and this is the main factor which creates the differential in the average per-pupil funding for each.

There are a number of other factors used to distribute funding across schools, and the Age Weighted Pupil Unit does not alone represent the overall levels of funding, on average, for pupils at each phase. For example, in the current 2011-12 year, when all funding factors are included and pupils in all year groups are taken into account, the average level of funding per pupil in primary schools was £3,007, compared to £4,191 at post-primary level.

Staff Mileage Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost to his Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 5067/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The cost to the Department of Education of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years is shown in the following table:

Financial year	£'000
2009-10	359
2010-11	338

Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Mainstream Schools

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education what additional training, specifically relevant to the provision of education and training opportunities for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in mainstream schools, has been given to decision makers in schools, including School Management and members of Boards of Governor, (i) prior to; and (ii) since the introduction of the Autism Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. **(AQW 5076/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The education and library boards are responsible for providing autism-specific training in mainstream schools.

Prior to the introduction of the Autism Act 2011 all boards delivered a range of autism-specific training for school staff including special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs), heads of department, heads of year, principals, vice-principals, teachers and classroom assistants. This training was available to members of boards of governors.

Since the introduction of the Autism Act this training programme has continued.

In addition, for the past three years, the Middletown Centre for Autism has provided a comprehensive range of training opportunities for those supporting children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) across all schools. Each year schools receive a detailed prospectus of training courses available from the Centre.

The training provided by the Centre is tailored to the needs of educational professionals, school staff and parents. A range of sessions are specifically designed to the needs of staff in mainstream schools. In partnership with the inter-board ASD teams, the Centre also provides tailored whole school training for schools upon request.

Pupils with Asperger's Syndrome

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education what specific training has been given to the Boards of Governors of mainstream schools on the provision of education and training for pupils with Asperger's Syndrome. **(AQW 5077/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: Specific training for Boards of Governors of mainstream schools on the provision of education and training for pupils with Asperger's Syndrome is not routinely provided through the ELBs School Governors Training Programme. However, where such training is needed and is requested by governors, the Autistic Service of the relevant ELB may put in place the necessary arrangements. The Department does not hold a record of such training.

Complaints Lodged with the Boards of Governors of Mainstream Schools

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Education (i) how many complaints lodged with the Boards of Governors of mainstream schools have been upheld, in the first instance, in each of the last ten years; and (ii) how many of these complaints related to pupils with (a) Autistic Spectrum Disorders; and (b) Asperger's Syndrome. **(AQW 5078/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold records of (i) the complaints lodged with school Boards of Governors or (ii) the number of those complaints that relate to pupils with (a) Autistic Spectrum Disorders and (b) Asperger's Syndrome. This information is therefore not available in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Department's Press Office

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many staff currently work in his Department's press office; and to detail the running costs of the press office in the last financial year. **(AQW 5105/11-15)**

Mr O'Dowd: The Department of Education's Press Office is part of the Communications Team which comprises a total of 13 staff - 5 information officers, 4 administrative staff and a Desktop Publishing Unit comprising 4 graphic design staff. In addition to press and public relations work the Communications Team has responsibility for; the Departmental website and intranet, managing webmail queries, updating the NI Direct website, design and print of documents, preparation of ministerial briefings relating to school visits and oversight of internal communications. Four of the 5 information officers would be primarily engaged in traditional press office functions and their salary costs for 2010/11 were £166,777. It is not possible to disaggregate other running costs.

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

Programme for Government

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Education what was the outcome of the pledge in the last Programme for Government to deliver major building projects at more than 100 schools.

(AQW 5116/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Public Service Agreement (PSA 16), contained within the Programme for Government, stated that building projects would be advanced at over 100 schools over the period to 2011.

There were 108 major capital school projects on my Departments Investment Delivery Plan (IDP). Of these 39 projects have been completed and there are a further 17 projects where construction work is currently progressing on site. This represents capital investment in the schools estate of over £536 million

Going forward I have commissioned the ELB's working in close conjunction with CCMS and the other sectors, to coordinate a strategic area planning process to determine the future pattern of education delivery. Previously identified projects, including those projects not started under the previous Programme for Government, will be critically assessed alongside all other potential projects as part of the area planning process.

Nursery School Places: Ballymena

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education how many fully funded places will be available at each nursery in the Ballymena Borough Council area.

(AQW 5130/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Funded pre-school places are available in statutory nursery schools, nursery units in Primary Schools and in voluntary and private sector pre-school education centres.

The tables below detail the approved enrolment figure for nursery schools and units and voluntary/private settings in the Ballymena Borough Council area in the current school year:

STATUTORY NURSERY SCHOOLS/UNITS

Name of School	Number of nursery places
Ballykeel Primary School	52
Ballymena Nursery School	104
Braidside Integrated Primary School	26
Broughshane Primary School	26
Buick Memorial Primary school	26
Clough Primary School	26
Dunclug Nursery School	78

Name of School	Number of nursery places
Gracehill Primary School	26
Harryville Primary School	26
St Mary's Primary School	26
Total	416

VOLUNTARY/PRIVATE SETTINGS

Name of School	Number of nursery places
Ballee Pre-School Playgroup	33
Broughshane Centre of Early Learning	21
First Steps Playgroup	21
Glenravel Community Playgroup	39
Gracehill/Galgorm Playgroup	26
Happitots Playgroup	24
High Kirk Community Playgroup	20
Kenbaan Community Playgroup	37
Kirkinriola Early Years	19
Portglenone Community Playgroup	17
St Louis Playgroup	24
Stepping Stones Playgroup	18
The Country Playgroup	37
Tiny-Tots Community Playgroup	31
Total	367

The overall number of funded pre-school places available in the Ballymena Borough Council area in the current school year is 783.

Early Years Strategic Alliance Manifesto

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the recommendations in the Early Years Strategic Alliance Manifesto.

(AQW 5146/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Manifesto provides a useful contribution to the debate on early years services and how the Executive should meet the needs of children and their families over the coming years. The recommendations address a range of issues but press for a fundamental reshaping of how early childhood and care services are delivered.

The Executive's draft Programme for Government (PfG) acknowledges the importance of working more effectively across departments, and also signals its intention to work in partnership with the private and the voluntary and community sectors in ways that will deliver tangible outcomes. Some of the issues identified by the Alliance are also included in the draft PfG – for example child poverty, childcare and the commitment to the funded pre-school year.

ICT Accredited Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many schools are ICT accredited.
(AQW 5147/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Statutory assessment of the cross-curricular skill of Using ICT against Levels of Progression (LoP) will be introduced from 2013/14. In the interim, schools can choose to participate in the CCEA voluntary ICT Primary and Post-Primary Accreditation Schemes.

The number of schools registered in 2010/11 for the CCEA ICT Accreditation Schemes and, through the moderation process, have had their judgment to award Levels confirmed, is as follows:

Primary Sector	556 schools
Post Primary Sector	35 schools

In addition, 102 schools registered and used the schemes this year to prepare tasks and become familiar with the LoP in advance of the introduction of the statutory requirements.

Percentage of Children Attending Grammar Schools

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children attend a Grammar school in each council area.
(AQW 5154/11-15)

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

PERCENTAGE OF POST-PRIMARY PUPILS WHO ATTENDED GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, BY AREA OF RESIDENCE, 2010/11

Council Area Resided In	% of pupils attending grammar schools
Antrim	48.5
Ards	49.7
Armagh	28.9
Ballymena	49.1
Ballymoney	43.9
Banbridge	39.2
Belfast	37.8
Carrickfergus	47.3
Castlereagh	60.8
Coleraine	56.3
Cookstown	26.8
Craigavon	31.4
Derry	43.3
Down	42.8
Dungannon	43.6
Fermanagh	46.2
Larne	37.4

Council Area Resided In	% of pupils attending grammar schools
Limavady	33.8
Lisburn	48.0
Magherafelt	28.0
Moyle	14.4
Newry & Mourne	37.8
Newtownabbey	45.0
North Down	59.7
Omagh	42.7
Strabane	30.3
Total	42.0

Source: NI school census

Note:

- 1 Figures in the table relate to area of residence of pupils.
- 2 There were 1,640 pupils in post-primary schools in NI in 2010/11, for whom a valid NI postcode was not held.

Provision for Children with Autism

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the findings of the evidence based assessment of current provision for children with autism which was recently carried out by his Department.

(AQW 5155/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Following the introduction of the Autism Act earlier this year, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is the lead department in the development of a cross-departmental autism strategy. Aligned to this is my Department's ongoing work on the development of a strategic framework for autism provision in the education sector.

In order to underpin this strategic framework an assessment of current autism practice in the education sector was undertaken. Important themes identified as part of the assessment include the need for more collaborative partnership across education and health bodies including the two departments, education and library boards, health trusts and schools; differences in educational provision across the five education and library board areas which can give rise to an inequity of access to educational services for children with autism; and a need to identify and disseminate best practice through a structured approach to research and training.

The Department is developing responses to these issues within the context of the cross-departmental autism strategy.

Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to outline the work his Department has carried out in the last three years, and the work his Department plans to carry out over the next three years, to improve accommodation and access at Gaelscoil an Chaistil, Ballycastle.

(AQW 5160/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Gaelscoil an Chaistil qualified for capital funding from the Department in the 2009/10 financial year, following which the Department grant-aided the provision of a replacement double temporary classroom, together with a modular building for ancillary accommodation at a cost of £372K inclusive of professional fees. The Department also paid £350k grant-aid to the school for the

purchase of the site at Kiln's Road. A £120k contribution was also made to DRD for improvements to the footpaths and entrance to the school.

In relation to proposed works planned at the school in the next 3 years you will be aware that I made a statement to the Assembly on 26 September. In that statement I set out the plans for the future of education provision. I have commissioned the Education and Library Boards working in close conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained schools and the other sectors to undertake viability audits of all schools focusing on sustainable enrolments, quality of education and financial viability.

In any area potential capital projects, such as Gaelscoil an Chaistil, will be critically assessed as part of the area planning process to determine how they will contribute to the overall infrastructure needs of an area. Future capital investment will, therefore, be targeted at supporting area plans.

Sure Start Provision: Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education to outline the rationale behind the selection of individual electoral wards in Fermanagh for SureStart provision.

(AQW 5176/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When Sure Start was introduced here during 2000/01, under the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the four Childcare Partnerships were asked to identify suitable localities within their area and to support potential applicants in these areas to enable them to submit sustainable bids for Sure Start funding. Each proposal had to provide an assessment of the overall extent to which children in the area were failing to fulfil their potential.

In July 2000, Ministerial approval was given for the first 15 Programmes across the North. Cherish Sure Start in Fermanagh was launched in January 2001 and was originally established to provide services to the following five wards: Irvinestown, Kesh Ederney and Lack, Trillick, Ballinamallard and Lisnarick.

The Children and Young People's funding package (2006-2008) enabled the establishment of the policy of ensuring coverage to at least the top 20% most disadvantaged wards (per NI MDM). In addition to the five existing wards, three further wards were identified within the Fermanagh area which met this criteria and Cherish Sure Start extended provision to offer outreach services to the wards of Newtownbutler, Rosslea and Devenish.

Sure Start Services are provided from the centre base in Irvinestown and a range of services are also delivered on an outreach basis in community centres, leisure centres and playgroups throughout the operational catchment area. Sure Start is a universal service within the designated wards and as such persons living within the catchment wards may attend a service at any location.

The draft Early Years 0-6 Strategy contained a commitment to seek to expand the reach of Sure Start. A phased plan is being drafted for the incremental extension of the coverage of Sure Start to the top 25% most disadvantaged wards over time. The introduction of this and the further expansion of Sure Start will depend on the availability of additional resources.

No additional wards in County Fermanagh have been identified as falling within the top 25% most disadvantaged wards.

Sure Start

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the shortest; and (ii) the longest distance that residents of each qualifying electoral ward live from their SureStart centre.

(AQW 5178/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When Sure Start was introduced here during 2000/01, under the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the four Childcare Partnerships were asked to identify suitable localities within their area and to support potential applicants in these areas to enable them to submit sustainable bids for Sure Start funding. Each proposal had to provide an assessment of the overall extent to which children in the area were failing to fulfil their potential.

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No additional wards in County Fermanagh have been identified as falling within the top 25% most disadvantaged wards.

Sure Start

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Education whether his Department has any plans to expand the provision of SureStart to other electoral wards in County Fermanagh.

(AQW 5180/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: When Sure Start was introduced here during 2000/01, under the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the four Childcare Partnerships were asked to identify suitable localities within their area and to support potential applicants in these areas to enable them to submit sustainable bids for Sure Start funding. Each proposal had to provide an assessment of the overall extent to which children in the area were failing to fulfil their potential.

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No additional wards in County Fermanagh have been identified as falling within the top 25% most disadvantaged wards.

Interactive Computerised Assessment System

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education for an update on the Interactive Computerised Assessment System.

(AQW 5186/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) is the method currently specified by the Department to be used by schools in carrying out assessments in the autumn term. Schools administer the assessments throughout the term and at this time the majority of schools have completed them. The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment monitors feedback from schools and receives regular reports from the developers about the performance of their systems. No systemic issues have been raised by schools this year.

The contract with the University of Durham's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) for provision of the InCAS assessments is due to end in January 2012. The use of data from computer-based assessments remains a key aspect of the Department's school improvement policy and a public procurement process has been carried out to identify suppliers of these assessments from September 2012 onwards. The outcome of this process is that new providers for Literacy and Numeracy assessments have been identified, specifically Tribal Education Ltd and Rising Stars UK Ltd. Schools have been notified about this outcome and more detailed communication, including arrangements for trialling and evaluation of the new assessments prior to implementation, will issue in the near future.

School Closures

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools which have been closed in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area, in each of the last five years, broken down by the (a) maintained; (b) controlled; and (c) integrated sectors.

(AQW 5189/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The schools closed in the period 2007 to 2011 are set out in the tables below:-

(I) PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Sector	Year	School	Date of closure
(a) Controlled	2007	Groomsport PS	31/08/07
		Charley Memorial PS	31/08/07
		Drumbo PS	31/08/07
		Hillhall PS	31/08/07
		Lambeg PS	31/08/07
	2008	Conlig PS	31/08/08
	2009	Newtownbreda PS	31/08/09
	2011	Ballycloughan PS	31/08/11
		Derriaghy PS	31/08/11
	(b) Maintained	2007	St Mary's PS, Ballygowan
2008		Guinness PS	31/08/08
2009		St Colman's PS, Moira	31/03/09
(c) Integrated	2008	Kindle IPS	31/08/08
		Hilden IPS	30/11/08

(II) POST-PRIMARY

Sector	Year	School	Date of closure
(a) Controlled	2008	Lisnasharragh HS	31/08/08
	2009	Donaghadee HS	31/08/09
(b) Maintained			
(c) Integrated	2008	Down Academy	31/08/08

School Audits

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education whether the audit of schools, under the Sustainable Schools Policy, will include all schools.

(AQW 5194/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: As outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Viability Audit, which are available from the Department's website (<http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/85-schools/area-planning-2.htm>), the audit will apply to all grant-aided primary and post-primary schools, including those with special units, of all management types in each of the five Education and Library Board areas. At this stage it will not apply to nursery schools or special schools.

Proposed Closure of Knockmore Primary School, Lisburn and Dunmurry High School, Belfast

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education how many letters he has received in relation to the proposed closure of (i) Knockmore Primary School, Lisburn; and (ii) Dunmurry High School, Belfast.

(AQW 5195/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: I have received 16 letters in relation to the proposed closure of Knockmore Primary School, Lisburn and 4 letters in relation to the proposed closure of Dunmurry High School, Belfast.

Encouraging Children and Young People to Become Entrepreneurs

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education how much funding his Department has provided towards encouraging children and young people to become entrepreneurs in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5217/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Employability, which includes enterprise and entrepreneurship, is an integral part of the revised curriculum delivered through the areas of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) at primary level and Learning for Life and Work (LLW) at post-primary. Schools receive delegated budgets to enable them to deliver all aspects of the curriculum, including the PDMU and LLW areas of learning and the Department does not hold financial information regarding spending on employability activities by each individual school.

In addition to schools delegated budgets, my Department provides funding to a number of organisations for programmes for both primary and post-primary pupils, designed to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship and to introduce young people to the world of work. Organisations include Young Enterprise, Sentinus, School Employer Connections, Charter Work Experience and a number of Business Education Partnerships. The funding allocated to deliver these activities over the last five years is as follows:

- 2006/07 – £700k*
- 2007/08 – £715k*
- 2008/09 – £1,550k
- 2009/10 – £1,545k

- 2010/11 - £1,550k

- * Prior to 2008/09, Young Enterprise was funded by Invest NI for enterprise & entrepreneurship activities and therefore is not included in these figures.

Spend in the West Belfast Constituency

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

(AQW 5262/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: My Department and its Arms Length Bodies do not hold the information in the format requested.

School Closures

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of schools which were closed between 2009 and 2011.

(AQW 5277/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: There have been 25 school closures between 2009 and 2011. This total is broken down as follows:

- 10 Controlled primary schools
- 8 Maintained primary schools
- 2 Preparatory departments
- 3 Controlled post-primary schools
- 1 Grant-maintained integrated post-primary school
- 1 Special school

Additionally, 9 schools have been closed due to amalgamations in the last 3 years to form 4 new schools. This total is broken down as follows:

- 4 Maintained primary schools formed 2 new primary schools;
- 2 Maintained secondary schools and 1 voluntary grammar formed 1 new post-primary school;
- 1 Controlled secondary school and 1 voluntary grammar formed 1 new post-primary school.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Report

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development report which highlighted that students from Northern Ireland do not perform any better in international tests than those in other parts of the UK, despite consistently out-performing them in GCSEs and A Levels.

(AQW 5290/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a survey of the ability of 15-year olds to apply their reading, maths and science skills. The achievement of pupils here, and in England, Scotland and the south of Ireland, in reading and maths was not statistically different from the OECD average. Wales performed significantly below the OECD average. Performance in science was significantly above the OECD average; scores in England, Scotland and the south of Ireland were similar, but Wales performed significantly below the OECD average.

Looking at the proportion achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent), recent exams data indicates England is now almost 4% points ahead of us (79% compared to 75%). A slightly higher

proportion of our pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and maths (59.8% compared to 58.3%), but the rate of improvement in England was greater so the gap is closing, standing at 1.5% points in 2010/11, down from 5.1% points in 2009/10.

While we have a similar exams system to England and Wales, it is much more informative to compare our system with the top performing systems internationally. We lag behind the highest performing countries and we still have too strong a link between disadvantage and underachievement.

The outcomes from surveys such as PISA, along with exams data and inspection evidence, show the continued need to raise standards further, especially in the economically important skills of literacy and numeracy. That is why I am stepping up implementation of a range of policies aimed at tackling the root causes of underachievement and improving educational outcomes for all our young people.

Money more Primary School

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Education to detail the current status of the traffic management proposals at Money more Primary School; and whether these works are included in the Minor Works Programme for 2011/12.

(AQW 5295/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Southern Education and Library Board who have responsibility for carrying out minor works at Money more Primary School have confirmed that work to provide a traffic management scheme commenced on site on Monday, 28 November 2011 and is due for completion by 31 March 2012.

Schools Holiday Schedule

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Education what consideration his Department has given to encouraging all schools to observe the same holiday schedule to enhance the efficient and effective delivery of (i) school transport; (ii) meal provision; and (iii) childcare arrangements for parents who work.

(AQW 5300/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department recognises the desirability of having standardised school holidays and dates are agreed each year with a group representing all school sectors and are harmonised to take account of the availability of school transport and meal services. This contributes towards economical and efficient provision of support services. However, schools retain the flexibility to operate on these dates at their own discretion to arrange staff training days and to close for occasional days to meet their own specific circumstances.

Cost of Translating and Publishing Documents in Irish

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of translating and publishing his Department's documents in Irish in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5302/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The cost of translating and publishing the Department of Education's documents in Irish in each of the last five years, was as follows:

	Cost (including publishing of bilingual Irish/English documents)
2006/07	£5,361
2007/08	£16,313
2008/09	£67,340
2009/10	£68,105
2010/11	£111,508

Since 2008 the Department of Education has employed Irish Language Officers to facilitate its use of Irish. The Irish Language Officers have undertaken a range of duties, including urgent translation work. The costs incurred in carrying out specific tasks are not separately calculated.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages places obligations on Government Departments to promote and encourage the use of regional or minority languages in public life. There are duties under the Good Friday Agreement in relation to linguistic diversity, including the Irish language. The St Andrew's Agreement also refers to the need to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. There are a significant and growing number of Irish speakers in the north of Ireland and there is an increasing demand for Irish medium education. My Department's use of Irish reflects the need to communicate with Irish speakers in their language of choice.

Translation of CCEA Documents

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of publishing and translating the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment documents, including exam papers and support material, in Irish, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5303/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The table below details the costs for the period 2006/07 to 2010/11 which the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment have spent on publishing and translating documents in Irish.

Financial Year	Cost
2006-2007	£98,028
2007-2008	£75,858
2008-2009	£152,578
2009-2010	£455,213
2010-2011	£598,828

Funding Returned by CCEA

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the amount of monies returned to his Department from the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5304/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: During the period 2006/07 to 2010/11, CCEA declared the following reduction in budget requirement to the Department of Education:

Financial Year	Total
Year	£000s
2006/07	1,962
2007/08	0
2008/09	1,331
2009/10	1,123
2010/11	1,385

Creation of a Holistic and Sustainable School Transport Policy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Education what action his Department has taken in response to the Motion, as amended, on 11 October 2011 on the creation of a holistic and sustainable school transport policy.

(AQW 5308/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Since the debate on the home to school transport policy in the Assembly on 11 October 2011, I have been considering the nature, timescale and format of what will be a complex review. I will announce the arrangements and terms of reference in due course when I have thoroughly considered the matter.

Uptake of STEM Subjects

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Education to detail the uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects in the (i) 2008/09; (ii) 2009/10; and (iii) 2010/11 academic years.

(AQW 5309/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Mathematics is a compulsory element across all key stages of the revised curriculum which was introduced in schools here on a phased in basis from September 2007 – June 2010. Science and Technology is covered through the World Around Us in the primary curriculum and is a specific area of learning in the post-primary curriculum, including at Key Stage 4. Therefore, our expectation is that all pupils will, from September 2010, have been studying STEM-related areas at all stages of the revised curriculum.

Additionally, we are able to monitor the specific uptake of STEM subjects at GCSE and A level and the details of examination entries in STEM subjects are provided in the table below.

GCSE AND A LEVEL STEM SUBJECT ENTRIES, 2008/09 - 2010/11

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
GCSE STEM entries	70,542	70,248	70,404
A level STEM entries	11,504	12,289	12,711

Source: RM Data solutions

- 1 The STEM subject classifications are based on those in Annex 2 of the 2009 Report of the STEM review for the Department of Education and the Department for Employment and Learning.
- 2 The tables represent GCSE and A level entries in STEM subject areas.
- 3 The data does not include equivalent qualifications.

A Shared Future

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

(AQW 5310/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: A Shared future set out a vision for a peaceful, inclusive, prosperous, stable and fair society firmly founded on the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust and the protection and vindication of human rights for all.

Much of the work of my Department supports this vision by ensuring children and young people can fulfil their full potential and take their place as contributors to society and the economy, founded on partnership, equality and mutual respect.

My Department's Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education (CRED) policy, which was launched in March, has the specific aim of contributing to improving relations between communities by educating children and young people to develop self-respect and respect for others, promote equality and work to eliminate discrimination. The policy includes a commitment that as new policies are developed or existing policies reviewed, the potential to impact positively on CRED issues will be considered.

The draft Programme for Government includes a commitment to ensure all children have the opportunity to participate in shared education programmes and to substantially increase the number of schools sharing facilities by 2015. This will deliver educational benefits in terms of raising standards and more efficient use of resources, as well as building good relations.

All Departments are required to fulfil the statutory duty to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. In keeping with this statutory duty, my Department already considers how all policy development and spending decisions contribute to promoting good relations.

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

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many Private Finance Initiative capital projects his Department has agreed for new builds for schools in the next three financial years.

(AQW 5323/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: In March 2011 my Department approved the Full Business Case for the Lagan College and Tor Bank Special School Public Private Partnership (PPP) project, which was the last of a number of earlier announced PPP projects to reach contract signature. The new school building for Tor Bank will open in October 2012, with new and refurbished school buildings for Lagan College opening in June 2013.

My Department has not announced any new Private Finance Initiative / PPP projects since 2004.

Bangor Central Integrated Primary School

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education for an estimate of the cost to bring Bangor Central Integrated Primary School's buildings up to standard.

(AQW 5324/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The current estimated cost to bring Bangor Central Integrated Primary School's buildings up to standard is £144k. This figure is based on the maintenance backlog derived from the Schools' Estate Management System. This backlog figure is the 'make good' cost for the components of the school that are deemed to be in poor or very poor condition.

Almost £500k has been spent to date on significant minor works and maintenance at the school over the past 4 financial years.

Careers Guidance

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Education how the Education and Training Inspectorate measures the success and outcomes of careers guidance in schools.

(AQW 5346/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) evaluate the quality of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) as an integral part of all inspections of post-primary schools. They do so using the inspection framework supplemented by a range of quality indicators which reflect fully the joint DEL and DE Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) strategy 'Preparing for Success'.

E-Schools Project

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the cost of the e-Schools Project in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5348/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Work on the e-schools project commenced in April 2008. The costs associated with the project from this date are:

	Capital	Resource	Total
2008/09	£1,760,000	£179,000	£1,939,000
2009/10	£96,000	£202,000	£298,000
2010/11	£745,000	£572,000	£1,317,000

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Education for his assessment of the value of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme as a development programme for young people.

(AQW 5409/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is one of a number of programmes that provide young people with access to a range of positive developmental opportunities. It is a programme used in formal and non formal education. The balanced programme of activity helps the young person to develop a range of skills in an environment of social interaction and team working. Children and young people can access the Scheme through a number of organisations including schools and youth groups. By participating, young people enhance their life and employability skills, as well as improving their physical and mental well-being through the pursuit of a series of personal goals in volunteering, physical activity, practical skills and the completion of an adventure expedition. The Scheme is supported by the Education and Library Boards and the Youth Council. In 2011/12 the Youth Council provided £66,000 to the scheme as part of its Infrastructure Support Funding.

Sale of Land

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the powers that the Education and Library Boards have to sell land and to where the proceeds of such sales are allocated.

(AQW 5412/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Article 106 of the 1986 Education and Libraries Order gives Education and Library Boards, with the approval of the Department of Education, the power to dispose of land.

Since the 2007/08 financial year the Department of Education's annual capital budget allocated from Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) has been gross of receipts - this means an estimated amount has been included in the allocation and assumes that receipts will be received in-year to the value of this estimated amount. However, as the actual capital receipts have been substantially lower than this estimated amount in recent years, the Department has in turn made capital allocations to the Voluntary Sector, the Education & Library Boards and internal DE capital requirements net of capital receipts, i.e. excluding this estimated amount. Funding released as and when actual capital receipts are received by the Department is then redistributed to meet pressures existing at that time throughout the overall Departmental capital budget.

Irish Taught in Schools

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Education to detail the level of Irish currently being taught in English-medium (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools.

(AQW 5493/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Modern languages are a statutory requirement at Key Stage 3, and a qualification choice at Key Stage 4 and sixth form. Schools can choose to deliver any of the languages of the 27 EU member states, including Irish. However, it is up to individual schools to decide which languages they choose to offer to meet the needs of their pupils.

The Department does not hold information on the languages schools choose to teach in Primary Schools or up to Key Stage 3 in Post-Primary schools. However, we do have information on Key Stage 2 assessments in Irish returns for 2010/11, examination entries for Irish in 2010/11 and the number of schools delivering Irish through the Entitlement Framework. Therefore I can confirm that there are 851 schools in Key Stage 2 dataset in total, of which 831 of these are English Medium. 9 of the 831 EM schools made returns in respect of KS2 assessments in Irish – 93% of these pupils achieved level 4 or above.

There was 1656 entries in GCSE Irish across 67 English medium schools, 49 entries in Gaelige from English medium schools and 273 entries in A level Irish across 49 English medium schools.

There are currently 76 English Medium schools delivering Irish through the Entitlement Framework ranging from Level 1 (entry level), Level 2 (GCSE) and Level 3 (A Level).

To support primary schools wishing to deliver language learning the Primary Language Programme was introduced in 2007 to give pupils at Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 the opportunity to learn an additional language in school. The programme offers primary schools the opportunity to work with peripatetic language tutors to deliver Irish, Spanish and Polish. As at 30 November 2011, 85 schools are learning Irish through this programme.

In addition, we have also commissioned an Irish language primary pilot programme for pupils in Key Stage 2 which aims to build upon and complement the provision made available via the Primary Languages Programme. The programme involves 10 primary schools in the Derry/North West area and will run for 4 years.

Department for Employment and Learning

Public Contracts

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

(AQW 4214/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): A list setting out all current public contracts within the Department for Employment and Learning, the name of the contractor in each case, and the means of advertising the contract has been placed in the Library and is available on my Department's website [http:// www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

Public Appointments

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

(AQW 4751/11-15)

Dr Farry: A table detailing all public appointments made by me and my predecessors since May 2007 has been placed in the Library and is available on my Department's website <http://www.delni.gov.uk>.

Capital Small Grants Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what capital small grants schemes are available from his Department, or its arm's-length bodies, for a group to create a garden, at a residential home, for the benefit of people with disabilities.

(AQW 4837/11-15)

Dr Farry: There are no capital small grants schemes available from my Department or its arm's length bodies for a group to create a garden, at a residential home, for the benefit of people with disabilities.

Funding for Students

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he would consider providing additional funding for students who wish to enrol in courses in England, Scotland or Wales which are not available at Northern Ireland universities, so that they are not financially disadvantaged because they have to pay higher fees than students at Northern Ireland universities.

(AQW 4875/11-15)

Dr Farry: From academic year 2012/13 my Department will provide increased tuition fee loans of up to £9,000 for eligible students from Northern Ireland who opt to study in Great Britain. These tuition fee loans are not means-tested and repayment of the loans will commence in the April following completion of the course, subject to the borrower earning above a specified threshold. The threshold in 2012 is £15,795 and this will increase annually in line with inflation. In addition, all eligible students will continue to be able to apply for support with living costs. This support is provided through a combination of grants and loans depending on the borrower's circumstances.

It is simply not affordable for my Department to introduce a similar model to that announced by the Welsh Government from academic year 2012/13, under which Welsh students will receive a non repayable grant to cover the difference in the current fee level and the fee which universities can charge from 2012/13.

Unlike Wales, where enrolments show a significant number of incoming students (and therefore fee income) from other parts of the UK, Northern Ireland is a net exporter of undergraduate students. Indeed enrolment data for academic year 2008/09 show that almost 4,000 Northern Ireland domiciled students enrolled on first-year, full-time degree courses elsewhere in the United Kingdom. By comparison, just over 200 students domiciled in other parts of the UK enrolled at higher education institutions in Northern Ireland.

In the context of the budget pressures that my Department is already facing in this comprehensive spending round, this information was key in informing the conclusion that such an approach would not be affordable

Jobseekers Allowance

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) whether people in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance are required to undertake unpaid work experience placements; and (ii) if so, to detail the number of (i) jobseekers who have undertaken placements in the last 12 months; and (ii) hours they were required to work.

(AQW 4881/11-15)

Dr Farry:

- (i) Those aged 18 to 24 who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for six months or more and those aged 25 or over who have been claiming JSA for 18 months or more are mandated to participate in the Steps to Work (StW) programme which aims to assist people who are unemployed or economically inactive find and sustain employment.

As part of the StW programme some participants may be required to undertake a work experience placement arranged by a provider contracted to deliver StW. Participants on a work experience

placement are paid a Benefit Based Training Allowance. This is equivalent to their former rate of Jobseeker's Allowance, plus a weekly top-up payment of £15.38.

- (ii) (i) During the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, the latest period for which validated statistics are available, a total of 6,813 JSA claimants were required to take up a work experience placement on the StW programme. In addition 1,663 JSA claimants participated on a voluntary basis. All participants were paid a Benefit Based Training Allowance.
- (ii) JSA benefit claimants attending a work experience placement on StW normally undertake 30 hours per week. However, JSA benefit claimants with health conditions or caring responsibilities are able to reduce their hours of attendance in line with any restrictions set out in their Jobseekers' Agreement, drawn up when making their claim for JSA.

Board of Governors of St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 4236/11-15, to detail the occupations of the remaining 15 members of the Board of Governors of St Mary's University College, Belfast.

(AQW 4887/11-15)

Dr Farry: St Mary's University College has advised me that the occupations of the remaining 15 members of the Board of Governors of the College are as follows:

Barrister at Law	2
Civil Servant	1
College Principal	1
College Deputy Principal (retired)	1
College Lecturer	1
School Principal	1
School Principal (retired)	2
School Teacher (retired)	1
Solicitor	1
Student Union President	1
University Lecturer	2
University Pro Vice Chancellor	1
Total	15

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

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 4225/11-15, what percentage of the annual income of St Mary's University College, Belfast comes from (i) his Department; and (ii) earned sources; and to detail the figures for both St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College, Belfast for the last three years.

(AQW 4888/11-15)

Dr Farry: Based on the information contained in the published financial statements for both University Colleges, the table below details for the last three academic years the non-capital percentage income from Departmental, earned and tuition fee sources.

Funding Percentages	Stranmillis			St. Mary's		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Departmental Funding	58%	58%	54%	64%	63%	61%
Tuition Fees	24%	26%	27%	25%	28%	31%
Earned Income	18%	16%	19%	11%	9%	8%

Bridge to Employment Programme

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people have gained employment as a result of the Bridge to Employment Programme.

(AQW 5003/11-15)

Dr Farry: The number of people who have gained employment as a result of Bridge to Employment since 2006/07 is set out overleaf:

Year	Numbers starting training	Number successfully completing training	Number obtaining employment
2006/07	623	547	473
2007/08	679	611	537
2008/09	339	334	330
2009/10	420	411	402
2010/11	422	401	375
2011/12*	72	72	49

* figures for 2011/12 are from 1st April 2011 – 31st October 2011

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

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 4320/11-15, how much of the funding for the refurbishment of Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College, Belfast came from (i) his Department as capital investment; and (ii) earned income.

(AQW 5056/11-15)

Dr Farry: The funding associated with the amount spent by the two university colleges in the last three academic years on enhancing or refurbishing their learning and teaching areas is shown in the table below. This is broken down into that received from the Department as capital funding and that provided from the university college's reserves.

St Mary's College	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Funded by the Department	£49,774	£411,061	£233,323	£694,158
Funded from College Reserves	£8,783	£90,494	£290,171	£389,448
Total Spend	£58,557	£501,555	£523,494	£1,083,606

Stranmillis College	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total
Funded by the Department	£224,264	£169,775	£588,741	£982,780
Funded from College Reserves	£158,033	£799,919	£10,420	£968,372
Total Spend	£382,297	£969,694	£599,161	£1,951,152

Staff Mileage Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the cost to his Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 5066/11-15)

Dr Farry: The cost to this Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years is shown below.

Year	£
2009-2010	450,526
2010-2011	460,390

Neighbourhood Renewal Programme

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why his Department is not involved in the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme for the Kilcooley Estate, Bangor; and what plans he has to address this situation.

(AQW 5068/11-15)

Dr Farry: My Department is committed to tackling disadvantage whether in Neighbourhood Renewal areas or elsewhere. While the Department does not fund Neighbourhood Renewal services, per se, it delivers a range of programmes related to employment and skills which aim to address disadvantage and are targeted at the needs of individuals, many of whom live in Neighbourhood Renewal areas.

Regarding the Department's engagement with Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, this should take place at local level between the Partnership and its local office network management on employment-related issues.

DEL officials attended meetings of the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership until December 2009. At that time the economic downturn created additional pressures for the local office network and it was no longer possible to attend Partnership meetings but staff remained available to discuss issues relevant to DEL when these arose. I understand that Kilcooley produced an Action Plan for 2007-10 but it was not received by my Department.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much his Department has spent on Education Maintenance Allowance in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5096/11-15)

Dr Farry: The following payments were made by my Department in respect of means-tested Education Maintenance Allowance in each of the last three financial years:

2008/09	£20,706,000
2009/10	£23,594,000
2010/11	£25,985,000

St Mary's University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the employment and recruitment at St Mary's University College, Belfast, broken down by the number of (a) staff; and (b) new recruits from the (i) Protestant community; and (ii) Roman Catholic community, in each year since the college adopted its Equal Opportunities Employment Policy Statement in 1998.

(AQW 5112/11-15)

Dr Farry: St. Mary's University College has provided the information attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COMPOSITION OF STAFF BY COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Monitoring Year	No. of Catholic Staff	No. of Protestant Staff	No. of Non-Determined Staff	Total Staff
Feb. 2011	151	12	6	169
Feb. 2010	149	11	9	169
Feb. 2009	155	11	7	173
Feb. 2008	167	13	7	187
Feb. 2007	160	11	7	178
Feb. 2006	158	8	7	173
Feb. 2005	162	8	8	178
Feb. 2004	162	10	6	178
Feb. 2003	157	11	5	173
Feb. 2002	155	8	0	163
Feb. 2001	157	7	3	167
Feb. 2000	162	5	2	169
Feb. 1999	160	3	1	164
Feb. 1998	151	1	1	153

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COMPOSITION OF APPOINTEES BY COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Month & Year	No. of Catholic Appointees	No. of Protestants Appointees	No. of Non-determined Appointees
Feb. 2011	20	0	1
Feb. 2010	13	0	2
Feb. 2009	7	0	0
Feb. 2008	14	2	0
Feb. 2007	25	3	0
Feb. 2006	19	1	1
Feb. 2005	19	3	3

Month & Year	No. of Catholic Appointees	No. of Protestants Appointees	No. of Non-determined Appointees
Feb. 2004	19	1	1
Feb. 2003	16	3	1
Feb. 2002	20	2	2
Feb. 2001	8	4	2
Feb. 2000	14	5	1
Feb. 1999	23	2	1
Feb. 1998*			

* Breakdown cannot be found for this year.

Chair of the Governing Body of Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 4844/11-15, whether the Governors and management of Stranmillis University College were aware that the Chair of the Board of Governors was to give a media interview; and whether the Chair's remarks were agreed prior to the interview.

(AQW 5121/11-15)

Dr Farry: Stranmillis University College is an autonomous body. As such the College's Governing Body is responsible for its own actions. The Governing Body's and the Chair's roles and responsibilities are laid down in its Articles of Government. The manner in which the Governing Body conducts its business, including the giving of media interviews, is a matter for the Governing Body.

Agency Workers: Maternity Rights

Ms Gildernew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the maternity rights that are afforded to agency workers as a result of the introduction of the Agency Workers Directive.

(AQO 900/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Agency Workers Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 are due to come into operation on 5 December 2011. The Regulations will provide additional protections for temporary agency workers, including new rights for pregnant workers and new mothers. The intention of these provisions is to allow women to continue to work during pregnancy, and to ensure that they are not treated unfairly because of their pregnancy.

Most of the new rights provided by the Regulations will accrue following a 12-week qualifying period. After completing this qualifying period, pregnant agency workers will be allowed paid time off to attend ante-natal medical appointments and ante-natal classes when on assignments.

In addition, if a pregnant agency worker can no longer complete the duties of her assignment for pregnancy-related health and safety reasons, she has the right to be offered suitable alternative work. This alternative work must be paid at a rate that is not substantially less favourable than the rate for the previous assignment, which was terminated on pregnancy-related grounds.

If suitable alternative work cannot be found, the pregnant woman will have the right to be paid by the agency for the intended duration of the original assignment.

In addition, there will be no detriment to the accrual of equal treatment rights as a result of a maternity-related absence, up to a maximum of 26 weeks after childbirth.

Queen's University, Belfast: Student Plus Programme

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the range of services offered as part of the Student Plus programme at Queen's University, Belfast.

(AQO 903/11-15)

Dr Farry: Student Plus is a web based service provided by Queen's University for potential and existing students. The University has advised that the Student Plus programme consists of seven areas which are involved in all aspects of the student journey and student life, beginning with the application and admissions process and culminating in the student graduating with a degree from the University. The seven units which make up the programme are: Marketing; Student Recruitment and Admissions; the Students' Union; Accommodation and Hospitality; Queen's Sport; Culture and Arts; Childcare; and Eventus (events, conferences, ceremonial and timetabling).

Higher Education: Student Flows

Mr Ó hÓisín asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action is being taken by his Department to increase third-level student flows on a North-South basis.

(AQO 904/11-15)

Dr Farry: I and my Department remain committed to ensuring that students from Northern Ireland continue to have a free choice of academic institution within the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and elsewhere and I welcome the opportunity to explore any factors that may restrict Northern Ireland students in that choice.

In academic year 2009/10, across all levels of study, there were 1165 Northern Ireland domiciled undergraduates enrolled on Higher Education courses in the Republic of Ireland and 3800 undergraduate students from the Republic of Ireland enrolled at Northern Ireland higher education institutions.

I met recently with Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills, to discuss collaborative working on a number of important matters of mutual interest. My officials have also met with their counterparts in the Department of Education and Skills, with the intention of mapping out the extent of existing co-operation and developing a collaborative work programme for the future.

That future work programme could include increased collaboration on higher education issues, closer co-operation on Research & Development and the issues surrounding 'A' Level equivalence.

Furthermore, following the publication of the Irish Business and Employers Confederation and the Confederation of British Industry (IBEC-CBI) Joint Business Council Report, 'A Study of Obstacles to Cross-border Undergraduate Education', the Irish Business and Employers Confederation has proposed the establishment of a forum to discuss the outcomes of the report and I have agreed that my Department will be represented on this forum.

Employment Skills

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he would consider establishing a funding package to support organisations that work with schools to help develop employment skills, to complement the work of the Department of Education.

(AQO 905/11-15)

Dr Farry: I have no plans to fund any additional packages to support organisations currently working with schools.

Resources were made available to further education colleges through the Vocational Enhancement Programme (VEP) pilot, which ran from 2004 to 2008.

The Vocational Enhancement Programme was aimed at stimulating collaboration between schools and further education colleges, and other training providers, to increase the vocational curricular offer to young people.

The Department of Education currently provides additional ear-marked Entitlement Framework funding to schools. This presumes that there may be additional costs associated with planning and delivering an expanded curricular offer through collaboration with others.

The Entitlement Framework was introduced by the Department of Education in 2007/08, and is funded solely by that Department. The Entitlement Framework requires schools to offer a pupil-centric curriculum, one third of which has to be vocational in nature. Good practice dictates that schools should ascertain from their pupils where their interests lie, and do all that is reasonably practical to provide access to appropriate courses. This can be either in the school, or in collaboration with others including further education colleges and training providers. The two Departments continue to work closely on a framework that supports local collaboration between post primary schools, further education colleges and training providers. This ensures that the needs of learners are central to our thinking.

Step Ahead Programme

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline his plans to fill the void left by stopping the Steps Ahead strand of the Steps to Work programme.

(AQO 906/11-15)

Dr Farry: Those jobseekers who can no longer avail of Step Ahead due to the present pause in recruitment will, of course, be able to avail of the full range of provision currently on offer through the Steps to Work programme. This includes the opportunity to undertake meaningful and relevant work experience placements; support to gain a work related qualification; assistance with improving the essential skills of literacy, numeracy and ICT; and assistance for those participants who wish to become self-employed. Help is also available to develop skills needed to search for, and sustain, employment for example interview skills, jobsearch skills, CV preparation.

Voluntary and community organisations will also be able to offer work experience placements to Steps to Work participants who are interested in gaining work experience within that sector.

It is regrettable that it was necessary to introduce a pause on recruitment to Step Ahead. As previously stated, should additional resources become available later this financial year, I would intend to restart recruitment to this strand of provision, although this may be on a more selective and targeted basis.

I am also awaiting the outcome of a bid to the Social Protection Fund which would enable me to introduce a variant of Step Ahead targeted at assisting the young unemployed, lone parents and those affected by the Incapacity Benefit re-assessment process.

Finally, I can assure the Member that no unemployed person seeking work will be denied the opportunity of a place on the Steps to Work programme.

Unemployment

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline his target for a reduction in unemployment levels by the end of the Programme for Government period.

(AQO 907/11-15)

Dr Farry: There is no target for a reduction in unemployment in Programme for Government nor does my Department have a target for reducing unemployment as we have no control over this. However, one of the key areas of work for my Department is to help people who are or become unemployed to find a job. This is particularly important given the current difficult economic and labour market conditions. This is why we put a target into the Programme for Government for my Department to support people into employment. We aim to assist at least 114,000 benefit claimants into work over the period of the Programme for Government. The purpose of the Employment Service and my Department's Programmes such as Steps to Work is to help those who are at a disadvantage in the labour market to compete for jobs. By preparing benefit claimants for work, we will ensure that they do not become detached from the labour market and slip into long-term benefit dependency. This will benefit the people themselves and their families, potential employers, and society in general.

Schools: Careers Provision

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the careers provision in schools, to equip students with employability skills.

(AQO 908/11-15)

Dr Farry: Responsibility for the equipping of students in schools with employability skills lies with their teachers and the Department of Education.

It is the role of the Education and Training Inspectorate to ensure the quality of careers education provision in schools. I understand that schools and colleges have adopted the Inspectorate Quality Indicators for careers education, information, advice and guidance.

The main function of my Department's Careers Service is in two distinct areas. The first, careers information, is to provide access to up-to-date labour market information and information relating to educational and training opportunities, to inform career planning and management.

The second, careers advice and guidance, is the provision of client-centred advice and guidance to assist in making appropriate career decisions and choices which are informed and well thought through.

'Preparing for Success' - the careers education, information, advice and guidance strategy and implementation plan, was published jointly by my Department and the Department of Education in January 2009. Its aim is to develop effective career decision makers leading to increased and appropriate participation in education, training and employment and to support the Department of Education's Revised Curriculum including the Entitlement Framework policies and my Department's Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The focus for the delivery of the joint careers strategy is initially five years and implementation is progressing well.

Agency Workers

Mr Irwin asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans he has to ensure that agency workers are made fully aware of their rights in advance of the introduction of the Agency Workers Directive in December 2011.

(AQO 909/11-15)

Dr Farry: The Agency Workers Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 are due to come into operation on 5 December 2011, and will provide additional protections for temporary agency workers.

Following consultation with numerous stakeholders, the Department has developed and published extensive guidance on the Regulations. This guidance was shaped and informed by engagement with all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of workers. The guidance has also been issued to all relevant stakeholders, including those organisations that provide employment advice to workers.

The Department has also ensured that Northern Ireland's two main citizen and business-facing websites, NI Direct and NIBusinessInfo, have been updated with detailed information on the Regulations, including the additional rights of workers.

The Department is currently developing a short information leaflet, specifically designed for agency workers, which will set out in a concise form the rights available under the Regulations. It is anticipated that this information will also be made available in a range of different languages. In addition, the Department will be including information articles in a variety of community newsletters which are issued by ethnic minority groups, and can therefore be accessed by migrant workers.

Universities Ireland

Mr McMullan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the work priorities of Universities Ireland.

(AQO 910/11-15)

Dr Farry: The stated work priorities of Universities Ireland for 2011-12 are to:

- promote, manage and secure business sponsorship for five North-South Masters scholarships for the 2011/12 academic year;
- promote and host three student debates by 30 April 2012 (the first of which took place on 10 November);
- facilitate one international conference focusing on high priority research or policy areas, such as North/South co-operation in the European Union's 7th Framework Programme for research and technological development, before 30 April 2012 (this has been replaced by an initiative bringing together the nine universities' Departments of History to plan a major inter-university programme to reflect on the 1912-1922 period in Irish history);
- promote and facilitate two Distinguished Speaker seminars by 30 April 2012 (this year, the Universities Ireland council has agreed that, rather than inviting overseas speakers to address them, they will go overseas to see how a successful university system is run – in this case, the Scottish university system);
- continue to provide administrative support for the Irish-African Partnership for Research Capacity Building until 30 April 2012 (the last of six workshops in this initiative was held in September, and support for the initiative has now been given over to a consortium led by Dublin City University); and
- represent the Island of Ireland's higher education sector through the Scholars at Risk network for the period up to 30 April 2012.

Stranmillis University College, Belfast

Mr Sheehan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to outline the action his Department will take to ensure the long-term viability of Stranmillis University College, Belfast, should the proposed merger with Queen's University, Belfast not take place.

(AQO 911/11-15)

Dr Farry: As I outlined in my Statement to the Assembly on 28 November, I will bring forward the legislation to enable the proposed merger between Stranmillis University College and Queen's University Belfast as soon as I believe there is sufficient political support. In the absence of that support, however, the future outlook for Stranmillis is bleak should the proposed merger not proceed. I do not have any additional resources that could be diverted to Stranmillis nor would I favour such a move as it would continue to perpetuate the current inefficient system of training teachers in Northern Ireland.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Invest NI: Business Loan Scheme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the introduction of a business loan scheme was announced by the Chief Executive of InvestNI on a local radio programme; and for her assessment of whether this was an appropriate way for such an announcement to be made.

(AQW 3743/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): The intention to introduce a business loan scheme has been the subject of much discussion for a number of months. Indeed, I first referenced it as far back as March of this year when I announced Invest NI's £30million development and £16million co-investment funds.

This Loan Fund will be an important element of Invest NI's wider Access to Capital strategy, and will be closely aligned with Invest NI's recently launched Boosting Business initiative which has been developed in direct response to the renewed economic downturn.

The Fund aims to generate £150 million sales growth per annum in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) safeguarding and creating over 2,000 jobs over a 10 year period. It will address a gap in the market for access to finance by complementing existing sources, including bank finance, venture capital and private equity finance.

Invest Northern Ireland will provide £25 million to the Fund, which is intended to be principally financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland, with a further £25m provided from the private sector.

Following the decision by NILGOSC to contribute, in principle, the £25m private sector investment to the Fund, I was able to announce on 25 November that the full funding was in place and that a public procurement process was being initiated to secure a professional fund manager.

It was therefore wholly appropriate for the Invest NI Chief Executive to reference it in a recent wide-ranging interview, where he was outlining the suite of support measures through which the organisation will support businesses to create and protect jobs, to build the skills of their workforce, to use new technology to improve their competitiveness, to create new products and take them to new markets.

Project 3113

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on Project 3113. (AQW 3878/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Project 3113 refers to the appointment of a fund manager for the proposed £30m Development Fund.

Four tender submissions were received and it was recommended that the contract be awarded to Crescent Capital on the grounds that they submitted the most economically advantageous tender.

Crescent Capital is now working to raise the required private funding match of £20m.

Power Cuts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number and average duration of (i) planned; and (ii) unplanned power cuts in (a) 2009; and (b) 2010. (AQW 4781/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not collect the data requested in this question.

Power Cuts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of households that experienced (i) at least one unplanned power cut; (ii) at least one planned power cut; and (iii) a power cut of any description in (a) 2009; and (b) 2010. (AQW 4784/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not hold the information requested.

Power Cuts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of households affected by (i) unplanned; and (ii) planned power cuts lasting three hours or longer in (a) 2009; and (b) 2010. (AQW 4788/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not hold the information requested.

Power Cuts

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the maximum duration of (i) an unplanned; and (ii) a planned power cut in (a) 2009; and (b) 2010; and the number of households affected.

(AQW 4791/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department does not collect the data requested in this question.

Energy Generated from Renewable Sources

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the percentage of energy that is currently generated from renewable sources.

(AQW 4847/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Renewable electricity generated in the current 2011/12 financial year has averaged 12.12% to end October 2011. For the month of October 2011, renewable electricity generation accounted for 17% of all electricity distributed in that month.

As part of the 2010 study into the potential development of the renewable heat market, an assessment was made on the total heat demand in Northern Ireland and the levels of renewable heat. It was determined that the heat demand in Northern Ireland is 17,362 GWh, of which 1.7% currently comes from renewable sources.

Sustainable Economic Development Fund

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she will consider working with the local banks to establish a Sustainable Economic Development Fund, with each bank making an annual investment which would be part of its contribution to the economic recovery.

(AQW 4897/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The availability of finance at reasonable terms is, strategically, a very important issue in Northern Ireland and is crucial for our economic recovery. While my Department has no statutory control of the banking sector, I and my officials have met with the main banks in Northern Ireland to emphasise the importance of supporting business development and growth.

In addition, my Department, through Invest NI, continues to develop and implement an Access to Capital Strategy which supports the availability of capital within the local SME market. An important element of the strategy is the establishment of a £50m Growth Loan Fund which will help small and medium sized businesses with growth ambitions.

The Finance Minister has already been working with both government and the local banks to try to ensure that finance is available to businesses. In particular he has worked with the banks to ensure that the British Bankers' Association Business Finance Taskforce recommendations are implemented locally. These include making finance available through the Business Growth Fund which will see the banks providing up to £2.5 billion to invest in suitable businesses across the UK, including those in Northern Ireland. The Finance Minister has also been engaging with the banks to ensure that increased mortgage lending is available to match the additional £10m funding provided by the Executive for the Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Scheme this year to simulate some much needed activity in the local property market.

InvestNI

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) how many times InvestNI has sought the clawback of any assistance paid by it in each of the last five years; (ii) for what reasons; and (iii) how much has been successfully recovered.

(AQW 4908/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Over the last five financial years the number of clawback cases is as follows:

(i) -

2006/7	48
2007/8	42
2008/9	56
2009/10	49
2010/11	77
Total	272

- (ii) Clawback is triggered when a client company defaults on the terms and conditions of the grant offer. Common reasons for default include company closure or the failure to satisfy the conditions of offer.
- (iii) £20.94 Million has been successfully recovered in relation to these 272 cases.

Geothermal Energy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what consideration her Department is giving to the development of geothermal energy sources; (ii) for her assessment of the extent to which electricity can be generated from geothermal sources; (iii) for an estimate of the scale on which geothermal energy could be harnessed for providing heating or electricity; and (iv) whether her Department has considered the possibility that chemicals left underground as a result of fracking would mean that an area could not be used to generate future geothermal energy.

(AQW 5044/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) My Department is committed to developing all forms of renewable energy in line with targets set in the Strategic Energy Framework of 10% renewable heat and 40% renewable electricity by 2020. Deep geothermal energy is already eligible for incentives in the form of Renewable Obligation Certificates for renewable electricity generation. In addition, my Department is considering how renewable heat from deep geothermal resource could be incentivised and had a call for evidence as part of the recent public consultation on the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive.
- In addition, the Geological Survey is a partner in the IRETherm project, a programme of research into the deep geothermal energy resources in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; this is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and runs from 2011-15. This research is looking at the deep geothermal potential of the sedimentary basins and granites of Northern Ireland and will build on the results from previous research commissioned under the Innovation Fund.
- (ii) Across the UK, the deep geothermal power sector remains at an embryonic stage. Currently there is only one geothermal plant in the UK, a heat only station in Southampton. It is expected that electricity generated from geothermal energy will make a very small, if any, contribution to Northern Ireland's overall electricity levels by 2020 given the high capital cost of development involved. The most efficient use of geothermal resources is for the production of both electricity and heat.
- (iii) Previous studies have demonstrated that there is potentially significant geothermal resource that could be exploited in Northern Ireland primarily for renewable heat generation. Areas identified as having such resource include Ballymena, Ballymoney, Larne, Ballycastle, Bushmills and Antrim. The actual level of energy that could be exploited through deep geothermal would, of course, vary on a site-by-site basis.
- (iv) My Department sees no reason why the presence of any fracturing fluids in gas shales should have any impact on the use of an area for future deep geothermal energy use. The shales would not be targets for deep geothermal energy and boreholes used for the extraction of geothermal energy would be isolated from the shale intervals by steel casing and cement.

Local Enterprise Agency Network

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline her Department's plans for the continued use of Local Enterprise Agency Network resources.

(AQW 5061/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department and Invest NI continue to view Local Enterprise Agencies (LEAs) as key contributors to the delivery of economic development at both a local and sub-regional level.

The principal relationship with Invest NI is through the delivery of publicly procured and contracted programmes such as the Social Entrepreneurship Programme. Similar programmes are delivered for DEL. However my Department recognises that LEAs have close links to many local stakeholders, including Councils and local chambers. As such, they are an important part of a wide enterprise network. They also hold a considerable property asset which provides a solid base for local businesses.

Indeed, recognising their importance, I welcomed the publication in 2010 of a Study into the Future Role of the Enterprise Agency Network. The "BDO study" was undertaken with considerable input of Councils, Invest NI and LEAs. Whilst the Study highlighted challenges for the network, it also pointed to areas of good practice and future opportunities. The original context of this study was against the background of Reform of Public Administration (RPA). With RPA now re-established within the Draft Programme For Government, this Study is once again timely and relevant.

With my encouragement, work is also being undertaken by Councils and Invest NI in relation to maximising the potential of the LED Measure for European Funding. This too is very relevant to LEAs. It will provide opportunities for them to tender for initiatives born out of this work.

So in summary, LEAs should be well positioned to continue to provide a key role in local economic development.

Go for It Programme

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether the arrangement of one in ten clients on the Go for It Programme being from Neighbourhood Renewal Areas will continue after the change in the programme provider.

(AQW 5062/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The question refers to an arrangement whereby one in ten clients on the former Go For It Programme should be from Neighbourhood Renewal Areas (NRA). In fact, no such arrangements existed on that programme, although NRA was acknowledged as a target group. However, as a result of the Jobs Fund initiative, there is even greater focus on Neighbourhood Renewal in relation to the Go For It Programme.

A specific element of the Jobs Fund is targeted at Neighbourhood Renewal areas through the provision of a business incentive grant of £1,000 to new business starts.

Invest NI is not currently delivering a Business Start Programme as it is prevented from doing so as a result of legal action. It has however put in place arrangements to respond to enquiries and to ensure that those individuals with an interest in establishing their own business are able to access relevant advice and guidance during the period of delay.

There is early evidence that the incentive based approach provided for by the Jobs Fund is encouraging individuals from NRA areas to consider self employment, and Invest NI is dealing with this appropriately.

With regard to the future delivery of a Business start Programme, the original invitation to tender made it clear that the programme should be accessible and deliver on Invest NI's equality and diversity agenda, including individuals living in NRA areas.

Local Enterprise Agencies

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what role Local Enterprise Agencies will play in future economic development.

(AQW 5063/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department and Invest NI continue to view Local Enterprise Agencies (LEAs) as key contributors to the delivery of economic development at both a local and sub-regional level.

The principal relationship with Invest NI is through the delivery of publicly procured and contracted programmes such as the Social Entrepreneurship Programme. Similar programmes are delivered for DEL. However my Department recognises that LEAs have close links to many local stakeholders, including Councils and local chambers. As such, they are an important part of a wide enterprise network. They also hold a considerable property asset which provides a solid base for local businesses.

Indeed, recognising their importance, I welcomed the publication in 2010 of a Study into the Future Role of the Enterprise Agency Network. The "BDO study" was undertaken with considerable input of Councils, Invest NI and LEAs. Whilst the Study highlighted challenges for the network, it also pointed to areas of good practice and future opportunities. The original context of this study was against the background of Reform of Public Administration (RPA). With RPA now re-established within the Draft Programme For Government, this Study is once again timely and relevant.

With my encouragement, work is also being undertaken by Councils and Invest NI in relation to maximising the potential of the Local Economic Development (LED) Measure for European Funding. This too is very relevant to LEAs. It will provide opportunities for them to tender for initiatives born out of this work.

So in summary, LEAs should be well positioned to continue to provide a key role in local economic development.

InvestNI Budget

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of InvestNI's budget will be used to support and develop small and medium sized enterprises under the new Programme for Government.

(AQW 5089/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Invest NI's role is to grow the economy by supporting new and existing businesses of all sizes and by attracting new investment to Northern Ireland. In doing so, Invest NI does not have specific budget allocations set aside based on the size of the companies it supports.

In previous years, however, the majority of offers made by Invest NI have been directed towards Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs). Indeed, during the period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2011, around 90% of the offers made to businesses by Invest NI were to locally-owned SMEs. Over the period, these offers amounted to circa £200million, 37% of the total assistance offered by Invest NI to businesses during that time.

Given that SMEs form the majority of Northern Ireland's business base, Invest NI expects that the majority of its offers will continue to be made to locally owned SMEs through the course of the new Programme for Government period, reflecting the trend over the last 5 year period.

InvestNI

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 3933/11-15, to detail (i) the level of investment; and (ii) the number of jobs promoted by InvestNI in each constituency in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5091/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Table 1 below shows the (i) the level of investment, or assistance offered, by Invest NI and (ii) the number of jobs expected to be created, which are described as 'Jobs Promoted', by Invest NI clients that had an offer of assistance approved between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2011, broken down by Parliamentary Constituency Area (PCA) and financial year. This represents the total amount of assistance that investors have been offered and the number of jobs that they plan to create over the lifetime of assisted projects.

The assistance offered by Invest NI has been presented in terms of employment-related projects and business development projects, such as R&D, training and trade development. Whilst not directly related to job creation, these activities will improve business competitiveness, enabling growth and thereby creating employment opportunities.

It should be noted that Government grant support is offered at the start of a project based on a company's commitment to create jobs. Based on these financial commitments, the company will then contract with Invest NI to create an agreed quantity of jobs, which will be delivered over an agreed period of time, which could be up to five years. If the company cannot fully deliver their commitments then all the assistance offered may not be paid.

It should also be noted that Invest NI does not allocate budgets by geographic areas such as PCAs. The geographic location of projects is determined by those businesses which bring forward projects suitable for Invest NI assistance and are based on their specific requirements.

TABLE 1: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED AND JOBS PROMOTED IN EACH PCA (1ST APRIL 2006 TO 31ST MARCH 2011)

Pca	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		Total	
	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)
Belfast East	678	19.02	304	21.86	1,089	31.60	396	23.99	925	28.09	3,392	124.56
Belfast North	91	2.63	51	1.50	117	6.46	472	8.30	66	1.70	797	20.58
Belfast South	966	15.17	527	14.35	358	15.34	642	32.58	703	15.70	3,196	93.13
Belfast West	58	1.54	178	2.90	92	3.19	46	3.72	5	0.36	379	11.70
East Antrim	69	9.61	284	5.21	42	5.77	53	4.73	222	4.70	670	30.02
East Londonderry	56	1.66	389	4.77	58	2.32	73	12.37	63	1.54	639	22.66
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	722	7.32	250	9.38	397	7.62	149	5.46	198	2.99	1,716	32.76
Foyle	875	8.48	994	11.79	217	3.81	265	18.18	365	2.58	2,716	44.85
Lagan Valley	143	3.68	107	2.12	102	2.66	186	7.58	251	5.17	789	21.19
Mid Ulster	270	3.11	398	6.62	356	6.12	228	12.36	177	4.04	1,429	32.26
Newry & Armagh	424	4.35	427	6.69	928	9.42	135	5.76	613	6.78	2,527	33.01
North Antrim	246	3.86	95	4.15	191	2.58	42	6.15	106	6.22	680	22.96
North Down	255	1.38	60	1.79	91	1.98	172	2.72	25	0.50	603	8.38

Pca	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		Total	
	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)	New Jobs	Assistance Offered (£m)
South Antrim	48	0.72	65	3.58	212	7.48	134	5.46	715	12.06	1,174	29.29
South Down	93	0.75	61	1.34	569	9.24	148	4.38	115	1.14	986	16.84
Strangford	86	1.48	61	1.26	134	1.37	137	3.09	33	0.81	451	8.00
Upper Bann	147	5.04	102	3.72	269	15.54	713	19.14	116	6.34	1,347	49.78
West Tyrone	116	1.59	199	3.20	71	2.24	106	3.42	70	0.83	561	11.29
Unknown	0	2.52	0	4.71	0	6.03	20	0.27	545	6.27	565	19.80
Total	5,343	93.90	4,552	110.95	5,293	140.77	4,113	179.66	5,312	107.82	24,612	633.09

Notes:

- 1 New Jobs represents the number of jobs expected to be created by the project.
- 2 These figures include both projects that are specifically aimed at job creation and projects that are not; therefore, job numbers do not directly correlate with the assistance figures included in this table.
- 3 Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.

In addition, Invest NI supported over 8,500 new locally-owned jobs indirectly through its Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) – formerly the Start A Business Programme. Between 2006-07 and 2008-09 almost £2.9m was offered to participants on this scheme; however, in 2009-10 the programme was amended to offer only advice and guidance and no monetary support. Table 2 shows the breakdown of these jobs by financial year and PCA.

TABLE 2: INVEST NI ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JOBS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EDP) 2006-07 TO 2010-11 BY PCA

PCA	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	TOTAL
Belfast East	59	84	68	58	92	362
Belfast North	58	77	63	78	108	383
Belfast South	81	86	73	76	120	436
Belfast West	81	85	61	62	78	368
East Antrim	104	97	65	56	68	389
East Londonderry	120	149	99	87	139	595
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	184	202	143	124	148	800
Foyle	125	164	97	74	84	545
Lagan Valley	81	78	53	58	94	364
Mid Ulster	141	166	105	124	181	718

PCA	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	TOTAL
Newry & Armagh	112	136	86	81	116	532
North Antrim	122	142	81	52	81	477
North Down	69	56	50	34	69	278
South Antrim	80	76	57	53	88	355
South Down	102	132	79	79	105	497
Strangford	80	72	47	42	76	317
Upper Bann	85	108	93	67	101	454
West Tyrone	121	148	109	111	134	623
Unknown	0	0	0	3	7	10
Total	1,806	2,058	1,431	1,321	1,888	8,504

Note: Invest NI revises performance data on a regular basis to ensure that it reflects implemented projects; therefore, the data above may differ to previously published information.

Staff Mileage Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the cost to her Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 5103/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Reimbursements to staff, for mileage undertaken for official business travelling, cost the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment £167,840 in 2009/10 and £185,500 in 2010/11.

Programme for Government

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what was the outcome of the pledge in the last Programme for Government to see 45 new businesses and 600 existing businesses become exporters.

(AQW 5119/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Within the last Programme for Government, Invest Northern Ireland was tasked with supporting the establishment of 45 start-ups with the potential to export outside of the UK (Global Starts) and also to support 600 companies to export for the first time. By the 31st March 2011, Invest NI had achieved both targets with the agency having supported 48 Global Starts and 727 companies to export for the first time.

Broadband Coverage in South Armagh

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the quality of broadband coverage in South Armagh.

(AQW 5135/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Pursuant to my response to AQW 1482/11-15, I would re-iterate that since December 2005, broadband services with download speeds of at least 512 kilobits per second (Kbps) have been available across the whole of Northern Ireland. These services, as is the practice globally, are delivered via a mix of technologies including fixed-line, fixed-wireless and satellite.

In December 2009, DETI embarked on the Next Generation Broadband project which, through extensive deployment of fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) technology, is delivering higher speed broadband services across Northern Ireland. While the specific objective of this project is to bring higher speed services to 85% of Northern Ireland businesses, under the wholesale arrangements set down by the contract

with BT, other service providers can access the BT infrastructure to deliver their own brand of fibred broadband products, which also includes services aimed at residential customers.

Cabinet upgrades have been completed across some 36 areas in the Newry and Armagh Constituency making available broadband services with download speeds of up to 40 megabits per second (Mbps). Details of where the upgraded cabinets are located can be found at www.fasterbroadbandni.com or www.nibroadband.com.

For those areas where, due to the long line lengths between the premises and the exchange/and or cabinet, DETI has put in place a contract with Avanti Communications to deliver satellite broadband services with speeds ranging between 512Kbps and 3 Mbps. This contract is due to end in January 2012 and a procurement process is currently underway to put in place a new contract for delivery of services in areas currently unserved by fixed line technology. A requirement for higher specification services than those currently supported under the contract with Avanti have been specified by the Department as part of this procurement.

Locations across County Armagh have also benefited from a project supported under the NI Broadband Fund through which additional street cabinets have been fibre enabled across the Forkhill, Newtownhamilton and Crossmaglen exchange areas. Again, these upgrades facilitate the delivery of services of up to 40 Mbps.

High Speed Broadband Coverage: Newry

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the level of high speed broadband coverage in Newry.

(AQW 5136/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Under my Department's Next Generation Broadband project, fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) technology offering download speeds of up to 40Mbps has been delivered to 19 cabinets serving Newry. While the specific objective of this project is to bring higher speed services to 85% of Northern Ireland businesses, under the wholesale arrangements set down by the contract with BT, other service providers can access the BT infrastructure to deliver their own brand of fibred broadband products, which also includes services aimed at residential customers.

In addition, BT continues to invest in rollout of fibre to the cabinet technology under its "business as usual" programme. Details of the locations of the cabinets upgraded under contract to my Department can be found at www.fasterbroadbandni.com. Details of the full fibre rollout (including those under BT's additional investment plans) in Newry can be found at www.nibroadband.com.

For those premises unable to access a high speed fixed line service, satellite services of up to 3Mbps are available through Avanti Communications under contract to my Department. This contract expires in January 2012 and a procurement process is currently underway to put in place a new contract. Higher specification services than those currently supported under the contract with Avanti have been specified by the Department as part of this procurement.

Giants Causeway: Visitors

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of visitors to the Giant's Causeway in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 5142/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The number of visitors to the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, in each of the last ten years, is detailed below:

Year	Visitors
2001	383,133
2002	406,801

Year	Visitors
2003	398,977
2004	445,327
2005	464,243
2006	553,063
2007	712,714
2008	751,693
2009	714,612
2010*	464,195

* In 2010, the National Trust revised the methodology used to estimate visitor numbers.

Source: Northern Ireland Visitor Attraction Survey. Participation in the NI Visitor Attraction Survey is voluntary. Statistics presented are given on the basis of information provided by the proprietors of attractions.

Sustainable Energy Programme

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 4714/11-15, what action she intends to take to encourage domestic energy suppliers to subsidise home insulation products through the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme, given that all current energy efficiency projects are means-tested and therefore of no benefit to middle-income families.

(AQW 5333/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There are currently cash back offers of £150 on cavity wall insulation and £150 on loft insulation available from Power NI to all Northern Ireland households. Additionally improved offers including free insulation, supported by the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme which is run by the independent Utility Regulator, are available to qualifying households.

Department of the Environment

Septic Tanks

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment (i) for his assessment of the number of homes with an outside septic tank; (ii) whether his Department has carried out research on the condition of these septic tanks; (iii) what levels of pollutants are leaked from outside septic tanks; and (iv) what action his Department is taking to ensure that new dwellings are not constructed until adequate sewerage structures are in place.

(AQW 2123/11-15)

Mr Attwood (The Minister of the Environment): Northern Ireland Environment Agency's (NIEA) Water Management Unit (WMU) has responsibility for the protection of the aquatic environment.

Under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, the consent of the Department of the Environment is required to discharge trade or sewage effluent to a waterway or water contained in underground strata. This includes the discharge of effluent from domestic septic tanks.

I hosted Good Beach Summits in June and September 2011, which identified the need for a project to further investigate the impacts, including the scale of problem, caused by discharges from septic tanks on bathing water quality.

- (i) There are currently approximately 108,000 septic tanks serving single domestic dwellings in Northern Ireland in possession of Water Order discharge consents. Following a pilot exercise last year, NIEA initiated a project in October 2011 to improve its information management system for

septic tanks. This will include a mapping exercise to identify all discharges from single domestic dwellings that are not connected to the Northern Ireland Water foul sewerage infrastructure. On completion of the mapping exercise, a work stream will be developed to bring unconsented septic tanks into the regulatory control regime based on the areas of priority.

- (ii) NIEA has not carried out research on the condition of every individual septic tank with a discharge consent. NIEA have obtained funding to progress a major desktop and field study to identify and mitigate against pollution sources from septic tanks. Given the high numbers of septic tanks in Northern Ireland, this work will initially focus on areas of poor water quality, in particular, bathing waters at risk of failing the revised Bathing Waters Directive and for areas requiring high levels of protection for example Natura 2000 sites. NIEA have focussed its initial efforts at mapping septic tanks in the areas close to Brown's Bay, near Larne to determine if they have been consented and if they are compliant with the consent conditions.
- (iii) It is not common practice to take samples of the effluent from septic tanks serving single domestic dwellings, as the low flow from such systems makes obtaining a representative sample difficult. Rather, consent compliance is based on visual assessment. For those discharges not routinely monitored, a supplementary inspection/sampling programme is in place. At present regulatory effort in this area is being targeted at known problematic sites. Where these discharges are found to be non-compliant, or where through other fieldwork a problem is detected, appropriate action is taken by NIEA.
- (iv) Planning permission will only be granted for development relying on non-mains sewerage, where the applicant can demonstrate that this will not create or add to a pollution problem. Applicants are required to submit sufficient information on the means of sewage treatment to allow a proper assessment of such proposals to be made. A negative condition may be attached to a planning permission, requiring that development shall not take place until works to facilitate it, such as infrastructural improvements, have been carried out. Where a proposal involves an on-site treatment plant, such as a septic tank, a negative condition may be attached to a planning permission stating that the house should not be occupied until the relevant sewerage works are complete.

Planning Applications

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the percentage of streamlined planning applications that were processed within 42 days in each of the last three years, broken down by council area.

(AQW 3014/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The percentage of streamlined planning applications that were processed within 42 days in each of the last three years, broken down by council area is set out in the table below.

% STREAMLINED PLANNING APPLICATIONS PROCESSED WITHIN 42 DAYS

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Antrim	93	96	79
Ards	90	49	19
Armagh	94	44	6
Ballymena	96	73	38
Ballymoney	78	45	20
Banbridge	76	73	35
Belfast	100	86	34
Carrickfergus	N/A	89	65
Castlereagh	N/A	80	17

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Coleraine	97	72	57
Cookstown	100	66	29
Craigavon	100	72	35
Derry	63	41	27
Down	97	58	25
Dungannon	98	83	52
Fermanagh	92	78	71
Larne	N/A	90	44
Limavady	87	60	30
Lisburn	95	44	22
Magherafelt	100	72	65
Moyle	100	39	22
Newry And Mourne	94	49	19
Newtownabbey	100	93	21
North Down	96	57	53
Omagh	98	46	37
Strabane	96	70	45

Noise Levels

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment what noise level is referred to in the Pollution Control and Local Government (NI) Order 1978, which states that plant and equipment must be situated, operated and maintained so as to prevent the transmission of noise or fumes to nearby dwellings, while the Environmental Health Department, Belfast City Council requires that noise from premises shall not be audible within any dwelling between 1900 hours and 0800 hours Monday to Saturday or at any time on a Sunday.

(AQW 3041/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Excessive noise can reduce quality of life, have a harmful impact on health and cause interference with communications. There are a variety of legislative controls which deal with noise in different circumstances. Some relate to noise from particular sources, while others such as the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 (PCLGO) have a more general application.

Your question raises two separate issues relating to noise control:

- (i) the noise level relevant to the powers to control noise contained in the PCLGO; and
- (ii) the requirements of the Environmental Health Department within Belfast City Council (BCC) in relation to restricting the hours during which noise must not be audible within a dwelling.

PCLGO

There is no fixed level of noise which constitutes a statutory nuisance in the PCLGO or in any other legislation. Individual circumstances differ and each case is judged on its merits. In deciding whether or not a noise amounts to a statutory nuisance, the environmental health officer has to consider the

reaction of the average reasonable person to the noise, taking account of not only its volume, but also factors such as when and how often the noise occurs and the duration of the noise occurrence.

The PCLGO applies to noise occurring at any time of the day or night. Given the subjective nature of the statutory nuisance test, it is likely however that a lower level of noise will be deemed to constitute a nuisance if it occurs at night, as opposed to during the day, when ambient noise levels are usually higher.

BCC Environmental Health Department – Planning Requirements

As a Statutory Consultee, district councils assess all planning applications in respect of the range of matters which fall under their remit. In relation to noise, consideration is given to the potential noise impact both during the day and at night with further restrictions likely to be imposed, as appropriate, at times when residents are most likely to be disturbed.

In order to protect local communities and prevent loss of amenity, and in an effort to provide a consistent approach to noise control, the Chief Environmental Health Officers of the 26 councils in Northern Ireland have adopted a range of standard requirements in relation to planning applications including:

- (i) Standard planning conditions restricting noise activity to certain hours in order to prevent noise nuisance in nearby dwellings (for example, the 1900 to 0800 hrs Monday to Saturday and any time on Sunday restriction); and
- (ii) General planning informatives for plant and equipment to ensure that noise and fumes are not transmitted to nearby dwellings.

Dog Fouling

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail how much each council has raised through Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3058/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Under Article 4 of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 it is an offence to permit a dog to foul and the following table lists the amount raised through fixed penalties for that offence in each district council area in each of the last 5 years.

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	Totals
Antrim Borough Council	50	100	0	50	0	£200
Ards Borough Council	250	400	500	450	400	£2000
Armagh City and District Council	0	0	150	50	50	£250
Ballymena Borough Council	150	450	150	300	100	£1150
Ballymoney Borough Council	0	0	0	0	50	£50
Banbridge District Council	100	0	50	100	0	£250
Belfast City Council	4150	3350	4550	2150	5450	£19650
Carrickfergus Borough Council	200	250	150	0	0	£600
Castlereagh Borough Council	100	50	50	0	0	£200
Coleraine Borough Council	450	250	1850	1850	1600	£6000

	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	Totals
Cookstown Borough Council	0	100	50	150	50	£350
Craigavon Borough Council	400	2950	2300	3400	2350	£11400
Derry City Council	0	0	50	0	50	£100
Down District Council	150	150	300	500	350	£1450
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council	0	100	0	0	0	£100
Fermanagh District Council	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larne Borough Council	600	950	550	225	100	£2425
Limavady Borough Council	0	50	0	0	50	£100
Lisburn City Council	50	100	50	0	100	£300
Magherafelt District Council	200	100	50	0	0	£350
Moyle District Council	0	50	100	200	100	£450
Newry & Mourne District Council	0	50	50	50	200	£350
Newtownabbey Borough Council	3800	2350	1050	750	1450	£9400
North Down Borough Council	200	50	100	100	300	£750
Omagh District Council	150	0	200	100	0	£450
Strabane District Council	0	0	0	0	50	£50
Totals	£11000	£11850	£12300	£10425	£12800	£58375

Planning: George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the terms of reference of the Independent Review of the George Best Belfast City Airport's Planning Agreement; and (ii) the proposed timescale of the Review.

(AQW 3061/11-15)

Mr Attwood: My officials are currently considering a number of issues in relation to the process for modifying the Planning Agreement including the terms of reference for the public examination into the proposals and the appropriate procedure for conducting the examination. I will make the details of the process known, including the terms of reference, when I have decided on the appropriate way forward.

It is my intention that the process should be completed by early Summer 2012.

Industrial Effluent Spillages and Leakages

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment how many industrial effluent spillages and leakages into rivers have resulted in fish kills in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3066/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, it is an offence to discharge any trade or sewage effluent, including site drainage liable to contamination, to a waterway, or any water contained in underground strata, from any commercial, industrial or domestic premises, without the consent of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

The Agency initiates an investigation following a report of suspected pollution, which may come from a number of sources, such as members of the public or field staff working on behalf of NIEA.

In cases where a fishkill occurs, NIEA uses the following classifications to record the significance:

Slight: Less than 10 fish killed.
Moderate: 10 – 100 fish killed.
Major: More than 100 fish killed.

Table 1 below sets out the number of pollution incidents, where fishkills occurred, where the source was determined as Industrial.

TABLE 1 SOURCE - INDUSTRY

Year	Fishkill Classification			Total
	Slight	Moderate	Major	
2006	0	1	1	2
2007	0	1	1	2
2008	2	0	4	6
2009	0	1	0	1
2010	5	1	0	6

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of heavy goods vehicles which had defects detected in each of the last three years; and (ii) of these, how many were dealt with by (a) warnings; (b) fixed penalties; and (c) fines.

(AQW 3087/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The numbers of heavy goods vehicles detected with mechanical defects in each of the last three years including those dealt with by warning, fixed penalties and fines is as follows:

Period	Apr 09 / Mar 10		Apr 10 / Mar 11	Apr 11 / Sep 11
Number of heavy goods vehicles which had defects detected	478*	524	943	552
Number dealt with by warnings	126*	Not Available	221	168
Number dealt with by fixed penalties	Scheme not Available			0
Number that received a Defect Notice and / or Prohibition Notice	352*	Not Available	722	384

Period	Apr 09 / Mar 10		Apr 10 / Mar 11	Apr 11 / Sep 11
Number also prosecuted	41*	Not Available	72	27

* Before April 2010, the number of warnings issued was not routinely collated but information on the number of defects dealt with by warnings was recorded for vehicles checked during the 2009 Goods Vehicle Compliance Survey.

Demolition Material from Pomeroy Police Station

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment whether the dumping of material from the demolition of the Pomeroy Police Station in the GAA ground was compliant with planning controls; and whether all relevant consents were in place.

(AQW 3121/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The planning permission granted to Pomeroy Plunketts GAC in March 2010 under application I/2009/0242/F allowed for the infilling of land.

In accordance with the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, NIEA granted a paragraph 19 exemption to Pomeroy Plunketts GAC on 22 September 2011. This exemption allows for the infilling of land for the purposes of relevant work, in accordance with planning approval I/2009/242/F, using material in EWC codes 17-05-04 waste soil and stones and EWC 17 01 07 mixtures of concrete, bricks, tiles and ceramics other than those mentioned in 17 01 06. The final levels and dimensions must not exceed those granted on planning drawing 1916-D-011 (2) associated with planning approval I/2009/0242/F.

Extinct Plants and Species

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to provide an estimate of the number of native plants and animal species which became extinct in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3165/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Extinction of a native plant or animal occurs when the last individual of that species dies. It is usually determined retrospectively and is done so using a scientifically robust methodology developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Coming to this conclusion requires expert knowledge, exhaustive surveys and usually a long period of biological records.

From time to time, species that have been judged extinct are re-found in the wild. Consequently, it is not possible to produce estimates of species extinctions on a five year basis but, as far as we know, no native species have become extinct over the past five years.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is working with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Republic towards the publication of Red Lists for particular groups of species. These lists are typically constructed on an island-of-Ireland basis. In addition, the Department is committed under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 to maintain lists of species considered important to conserve. As part of that process, which is broadly similar in methodology to Red Listing, it will report on any species judged to be extinct or at risk from extinction. NIEA will also continue to monitor species of conservation importance and develop plans to restore populations where this is necessary and appropriate.

Quality of Rivers and Waterways

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the quality of rivers and waterways.

(AQW 3183/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Monitoring of rivers and lakes is carried out by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Results are assessed against environmental quality standards contained in the Water Framework

Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011. Overall classification utilises a combination of biological, chemical and hydromorphological quality elements.

In 2009, 574 river water bodies and 21 lake water bodies were classified using a five band system comprising 'High', 'Good', 'Moderate', 'Poor' and 'Bad'.

Assessment is carried out on an annual basis and published in the NI Environmental Statistics Report. Figures for 2010 will be available in January 2012.

The numbers of water bodies in each class are shown in the following table.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE OVERALL CLASSIFICATION FOR RIVERS AND LAKES 2009

Class	Number of River Waterbodies	Number of Lake Waterbodies
High	6	0
Good	140	5
Moderate	258	7
Poor	142	3
Bad	28	6

Cars Registered

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment how many cars are currently registered.
(AQW 3197/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Vehicle licensing is an excepted matter which is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Transport. It is administered in Northern Ireland by the Driver & Vehicle Agency under a formal agreement between my Department and the Department for Transport (DfT).

At 12 October 2011, there were 982,935 cars registered (but not necessarily currently licensed) in Northern Ireland.

Classic Cars Exempt From Road Tax

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of registered classic cars that are exempt from road tax.
(AQW 3216/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Vehicle licensing is an excepted matter which is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Transport. It is administered in Northern Ireland by the Driver & Vehicle Agency under a formal agreement between my Department and the Department for Transport (DfT).

Classic Car is not a term used in the registration and licensing of vehicles. Vehicles which were constructed before 1 January 1973 and fall within a list of qualifying vehicles may be taxed within the Historic Vehicle Taxation class. Vehicles licensed within this tax class are exempt from paying vehicle excise duty but a valid nil licence disc must be displayed on the vehicle where it has not been declared off road.

Currently there are 10,173 vehicles on the DVA vehicles database within the Historic Vehicles taxation class. Of these vehicles 6,177 are currently licensed and the remaining 3,996 have a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) declaration in force.

Old Mill, Poyntzpass

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment to detail whether any nominations to list the Old Mill building in Poyntzpass were received prior to or during its demolition.

(AQW 3218/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A member of the public contacted the Built Heritage Directorate of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on 8 August 2011, seeking the protection of the building, as they were concerned that the building was going to be demolished.

My office was also contacted by a member of this Assembly, having been approached by a member of the public seeking the listing of the 'Old Mill'.

Some, limited, partial demolition had already taken place by this time.

There is no legal requirement for an owner to seek permission to demolish an unlisted building

Old Mill, Poyntzpass

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment whether the Old Mill building in Poyntzpass was suitable for listed building status.

(AQW 3219/11-15)

Mr Attwood: A senior Conservation Architect from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) visited the building on 8 August 2011. The evidence from site was considered along with initial research into the building's history, and this was evaluated by NIEA's 'Architect's Forum'. Its view was that the building did not merit protection by listing because it did not meet the 'special architectural or historic interest' test of the legislation.

Research identified that the building was not a mill but a large storage building associated with the nearby Newry Canal.

Control of River Population in Northern Ireland

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the progress made against each of the 21 recommendations of the 1998 Northern Ireland Audit Office report 'Control of River Pollution in Northern Ireland'.

(AQW 3220/11-15)

Mr Attwood: On 30 April 1998 Mr John Dowdall, head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), reported to Parliament on his examination of:

- a) the organisation of water quality management functions in Northern Ireland;
- b) the performance of DOE's Environment and Heritage Service, now Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in the discharge of its responsibility for water pollution control in inland waterways; and
- c) the effectiveness of measures employed by the Department of Agriculture to prevent pollution from farm sources.

The report, "Control of River Pollution in Northern Ireland" set out the findings of the NIAO.

Departments do not routinely provide NIAO with a direct response in relation to any recommendations included in their report. However, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) conduct a hearing based on the report and following this issue their own report and conclusions which may cover some of the recommendations already made in the NIAO report. The NIAO report, "Control of River Pollution in Northern Ireland" was considered by the PAC on 23 November 2000.

On 27 April 2001 Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) (working with the Department) issued a Memorandum in response to the PAC report "Control of River Pollution in Northern Ireland" on the

control of river pollution which responds to each of the PAC conclusions. Of the 25 PAC conclusions 21 were the responsibility of DOE to progress, 3 the responsibility of DARD and 1 the responsibility of DFP

In February each year NIAO contact the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) requesting an update on any further progress on the Control of River Pollution report and to reflect any further developments on the implementation of conclusions still to be achieved.

I have attached at Annex 1 a summary of current status of the 21 PAC conclusions that fall within the responsibility of DOE.

Annex 1

Accountability Grid

Date of Hearing 23 November 2000

CONTROL OF RIVER POLLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND POSITION AT OCTOBER 2011

PAC Conclusion	Departmental Commitment	Current Status
7	DOE to publish a report 'A River Water Quality Monitoring Strategy for NI' to be made available on EHS Website by July 2001.	Achieved.
9	EHS to publish river reach targets by July 2001 and made available on EHS Website. DOE to publish the 2000 Water Quality Report in 2001 which will compare water quality against these targets.	Achieved. Achieved.
11	EHS to produce information on industrial discharge compliance statistics.	Achieved.
12	DOE to include in 2001/02 EHS Operational Plan a new target of 10% improvement in industrial compliance by 2004 in comparison with 2000 baseline.	Achieved.
13	EHS to give urgent consideration to practicalities and implications of introducing random sampling, including consideration of cost effectiveness. Where discharges not routinely sampled are found through other field work, the Department will ensure appropriate enforcement action is taken.	Achieved. Achieved.
16	DOE to produce a detailed written procedure for EHS and Field Staff by 1 May 2001 regarding the implementation of a trigger mechanism for prosecution of non-compliant dischargers.	Achieved.
17	EHS to complete the regulatory framework, including the development of environmental needs standards within the proposed timescales.	Achieved.
23	From 2001 EHS to publish a report on Water Service compliance on an annual basis and place a copy in the Assembly library.	Achieved.

PAC Conclusion	Departmental Commitment	Current Status
24	<p>EHS to strive to achieve a 4 hour response time to high and medium pollution incidents from 2002 onwards.</p> <p>EHS has set a target to assess and prioritise all reported incidents within 30 minutes.</p> <p>EHS to benchmark its performance against that of both the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, to ensure that any target in Northern Ireland is of a comparable standard.</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>Achieved.</p> <p>Achieved.</p>
25	EHS will examine the feasibility and resource implications of providing bailiffs with the necessary legal authority and the associated appropriate training, taking into account the health and safety implications associated with the use of volunteer assistance.	Achieved.
26	EHS will continue to make Water Service staff aware of their responsibilities to prevent pollution and to take appropriate action to rectify unsatisfactory discharges.	Achieved.
30	DOE to publish the proposed Consultation Paper in May and, subject to the Assembly's scrutiny, to have the farm pollution control regulations in place by the end of 2001.	Achieved.
31	<p>DOE to introduce and operate the discharge consents charging scheme as soon as possible (scheduled for June 2001).</p> <p>DOE to achieve full cost recovery by April 2002.</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>Achieved.</p>
34	We were also told that a pro forma is now used to record costs. Consequently, EHS knows the full costs of clean up because it engaged in the first reactive action to the incident and is in a position to monitor the costs of clean-up at all stages. We welcome EHS's assurance that the new guidance to its agents will include all the points suggested in the C & AG's report.	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>Implemented with effect from 1 April 2008</p>
35	We welcome EHS's assurance that its emergency pollution team monitors all aspects of the clean-up operations conducted by third parties, including Water Service to ensure that they are appropriate.	The Department notes the Committee's comments.
36	DOE to continue to make appropriate representations to the Northern Ireland Courts Service regarding the level of fines.	Achieved.

PAC Conclusion	Departmental Commitment	Current Status
37 and 38	DOE to consult with a range of parties regarding the future delivery of field services during 2001.	<p>The proposal to transfer the field staff engaged in water pollution investigation and enforcement duties, on behalf of NIEA, from Councils' Group Environmental Health Committees (GEHC) to the Department of the Environment has not been completed due to consideration of a potential pension shortfall.</p> <p>Alternative options are now under consideration. In parallel, NICS has issued a draft Service Level Agreement to GEHC.</p>
39, 41 and 42	Ministers to decide whether the issue of the future status of EHS should be addressed within the scope of the review of public administration or through the deferred quinquennial review.	<p>The Minister of the Environment has put the concept of an independent environment agency back on the reform agenda.</p> <p>The purpose of the recent Environmental Governance discussion document was to test the water to establish firmly and directly what the community, stakeholders and others believe is best in going forward and to gauge if there is an appetite for structural reform leading to a truly independent environment agency - 83% of respondents to the initial discussion document exercise indicated support for the creation of an independent Environment Agency.</p>

PAC Conclusion	Departmental Commitment	Current Status
39, 41 and 42 <i>continued</i>	Ministers to decide whether the issue of the future status of EHS should be addressed within the scope of the review of public administration or through the deferred quinquennial review.	<p>In moving this issue forward it will be necessary to carry out a much more detailed consideration, taking into account the views of key interests and all of the relevant issues, including for example the impact on farmers, to ensure that any final proposals for the creation of an independent environment agency are robust, deliverable and most importantly will deliver improved and more efficient levels of environmental protection.</p> <p>An important element of any future work programme will be to complete a robust and fully costed business case. The business case will be essential to support final proposals to establish an independent environment agency.</p> <p>There will also be a full public consultation on any final proposals.</p>

EU Recycling Obligations

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment whether Northern Ireland is meeting its recycling obligations as required by the European Union.

(AQW 3238/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The European revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD) places a renewed emphasis on the importance of treating waste further up the waste hierarchy, away from disposal and towards waste prevention, recycling and reuse and energy recovery. New targets have been set to recycle 50% of household waste and 70% of construction and demolition waste by 2020.

Over the last 8 years, Northern Ireland's household recycling rate has increased by 27.5%. The most recent Northern Ireland household recycling rate for 2010/11 is 37.5%, an increase of 1.9% on the previous year. Provided the current rate of increase can be maintained Northern Ireland should be able to achieve the 2020 EU target of 50%.

My Department has completed a survey on Construction, Demolition and Excavation (CDE) waste, the results of this will be published shortly.

Village Scape Character

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to increase the number of villages designated as an area of Village Scape Character.

(AQW 3256/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Planning Policy Statement (PPS 6): Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage (March 1999) sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans.

An addendum to PPS 6 'Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage' entitled 'Areas of Townscape Character' was published in August 2005. The addendum, which should be read in conjunction with the provisions of PPS 6, provides additional planning policies relating to Areas of Townscape Character, for demolition of buildings, new development and the control of advertisements. The addendum advises that, for its purposes and those of other planning policy publications, all references to Areas of Townscape Character should be read as including Areas of Village Character.

Areas of Townscape / Village Character are designated in accordance with regional planning policy through the development plan process. The table below sets out the number of designations proposed in the four draft plans which are currently progressing through the development plan preparation process.

Draft Plans	Total No. of Areas of Village Character (AVC) / Areas of Townscape Character (ATC) Designations	No. of AVC / ATC Designations located in villages / small settlements
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan	100	14
Banbridge Newry and Mourne Area Plan	35	13
Northern Area Plan	4	1
Magherafelt Area Plan	3	1

Red Squirrel Population

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to protect the red squirrel population in the North Down area.

(AQW 3259/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In 2000 the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) published a Northern Ireland Species Action Plan for the red squirrel which identified the main threats to the species and proposed a series of measures which were aimed at conserving the remaining population. This plan was subsequently superseded by an all Ireland Red Squirrel Species Action Plan in 2008.

To further the conservation effort and to progress actions contained within the Species Action Plan, NIEA has taken on the role of chair of the Northern Ireland Squirrel Forum. The forum brings together various organisations in order to develop and deliver best practice in red squirrel conservation.

Since taking on this role, NIEA has helped create, and subsequently supports, a number of local squirrel groups. These groups focus on local squirrel issues and provide regular updates to the forum. There are currently six groups active within Northern Ireland.

As a result of recent expressions of interest, NIEA is currently attempting to facilitate the creation of a squirrel group in the North Down and Ards Peninsula area.

Once established this group will help provide a more locally focused conservation effort in the area. Additionally, as members of the forum, the group will be able to network with those currently engaged in ongoing projects drawing on their experience of successful red squirrel protection measures and potentially accessing external funding.

October Monitoring Round

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any financial pressures that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3262/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As part of the October Monitoring Round, my Department did not identify any financial pressures which could be addressed solely through additional in-year funding, without creating a financial liability for future financial years.

Hare Survey

Ms Lo asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has commissioned a re-analysis of the 2002-2010 hare survey data; (ii) if the re-analysis has been completed; and (iii) on what date any results will be made public.

(AQW 3304/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) commissioned Queen's University Belfast to carry out a retrospective analysis of the 2002-2010 Irish hare survey data. The project commenced in December 2009 and a report of the analysis was presented to NIEA on 31 August 2010. The report's findings and its implications for future Irish hare surveys have been carefully considered by NIEA and it will be available for download on the NIEA web site shortly.

October Monitoring Round

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any easements that have been identified by his Department in the October Monitoring Round.

(AQW 3324/11-15)

Mr Attwood: As part of the October Monitoring Round, my Department has proactively taken steps to generate sufficient resources to fund a number of capital investment opportunities in relation to Rethink Waste and plant and machinery equipment for the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

In addition, an easement has arisen as a consequence of slippage in the delivery of the Roe Valley Hydro Electric Scheme. Therefore, £0.4 million capital funding has been returned to the Executive.

Fly-Tipping

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment to detail how many instances of fly-tipping were recorded in each of the last five years, broken down by council area.

(AQW 3347/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Six councils in Northern Ireland currently record incidents of fly-tipping via Flycapture. Flycapture is a web based fly-tipping database which is managed by the Environment Agency and provided to all Councils in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) only holds the figures for 2010/11:

Armagh	122
Ballymena	159
Banbridge	39

Larne	201
Newtownabbey	427
Strabane	867

The NIEA does not collect the figures for the other 20 Councils in Northern Ireland,

NIEA is currently in negotiations with councils on the subject of fly-tipping as a result of The Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and is endeavouring to encourage all Councils in Northern Ireland to record information on fly-tipping on the flycapture database.

Squirrel Numbers

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment to provide the latest estimate of the population number of the (i) red; and (ii) grey squirrel.

(AQW 3420/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The latest estimate for the squirrel population dates from 2008. It estimates the all Ireland population of red squirrels to be 40,000, and the grey squirrel population to be 250,000. There are no recent estimates of the Northern Ireland population for either species.

Cost of Equality Schemes

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the cost to his Department of equality schemes since the publication of 'Reviewing the Effectiveness of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998' by the Equality Commission in May 2007.

(AQW 3428/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Following the publication of the Equality Commission's 'Review of the Effectiveness of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998' in November 2008 and its revised guidance to the Section 75 statutory duties in April 2010, the Department submitted its new Equality Scheme 2011-2016 to the Commission on 28 September 2011. The previous Equality Scheme was approved by the Commission on 8 February 2001.

As compliance with the Section 75 statutory duties is now mainstreamed into the Department's policy making processes, it is not possible to separately identify or disaggregate these costs.

Departmental Spend

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

(AQW 3497/11-15)

Mr Attwood: For 'direct spend' the table below outlines grants paid by the Department to Belfast City Council and to third parties within the Belfast City Council area. However, due to the historical nature of these payments, the detail of the grant payments in the early financial years 2001-04 is incomplete and therefore the overall total is likely to be understated.

The main element of the total (£59.7 million) relates to the de-rating element of the General Grant (£43.0 million). Other grants include those in relation to listed buildings, environmental protection, natural heritage and waste management.

It has not been possible to include in this answer grants paid to third parties within the Belfast City Council area where the funding would be used to provide services across other council areas; payments to suppliers of goods and services located within the Belfast City Council area; and the administration costs of departmental staff employed in delivering frontline services to citizens within the council area.

This information is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost, as would the indirect spend incurred by the Department's Arms Length Bodies.

Year	Amount
2001/02	593,308
2002/03	1,096,709
2003/04	8,625,152
2004/05	9,034,804
2005/06	7,718,236
2006/07	7,540,455
2007/08	5,910,049
2008/09	6,715,424
2009/10	6,379,119
2010/11	6,059,705
Total	59,672,951

PPS 8

Mr Storey asked the Minister of the Environment what consideration he has given to the issue of management companies in relation to PPS 8.

(AQW 3530/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Planning Policy Statement 8 – Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation states that planning permission will not be granted until the developer has satisfied the Department that suitable arrangements, such as management companies, have been put in place for the future management and maintenance in perpetuity of areas of open space required under the policy.

I am aware of the issue of management companies. The planning aspects of this matter are dealt with through Planning Policy Statement 8. However, it is clear that in the current economic environment, there are occasions where in practical terms issues are arising. I will consider the matter further but do so with caution as the issue of the future of management companies is beyond the authority of DOE.

Arthur Cottage, Ballymena

Mr Storey asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 331/11-15, for an update on the on-going work between his Department and Ballymena Borough Council in relation to Arthur Cottage, Ballymena.

(AQW 3532/11-15)

Mr Attwood: My Department has continued to liaise with counterpart officials in Ballymena Borough Council. A detailed schedule of works that will be needed for the reconstruction and repair of the damaged parts of the cottage has been sent to them, along with a list of conservation architects experienced in vernacular buildings.

The proposal to reinstate the cottage has to be taken before Ballymena Borough Council by its Tourism Department, before the Technical Services Department can proceed with the procurement process. Officials have advised that it is hoped to have this matter on the agenda for the Council's November meeting.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the (i) number; and (ii) location of trees in the North Down area that have Tree Preservation Orders placed on them.

(AQW 3541/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Tree Preservation Orders have been served on trees or tree groups at 67 locations throughout North Down. The locations are detailed on the attached list.

1.	Lands at 35 & 39 Glen Road, Cultra, Holywood
2.	Lands at 3, 3a, 5 and 7 Alexandra Park, and 3 Norwood Lane, Holywood
3.	Lands at Brook House, 17 Croft Road, Holywood, Co Down
4.	3 Seahill Road, Holywood
5.	Lands at North West Boundary of 1 - 4 Woodland Manor, Helen's Bay, Co Down
6.	Land North of 32 Downshire Road, Bangor (Thalassa Phase 3)
7.	Lands at Ballymullan Road and 67 Ballyrobert Road, Crawfordsburn
8.	102 & 102a Bangor Road Holywood
9.	Lands at 42 Victoria Road, Holywood
10.	Lands at Bridge Road, Helen's Bay
11.	Lands at 141 Bangor Road, Holywood
12.	Lands 10m south of 45 Glen Road, Cultra
13.	Lands at 16 - 18 Victoria Road, Holywood - PROVISIONAL
14.	Land adj to 10 Whinney Hill, Holywood
15.	Woodbank, Croft Road, Holywood
16.	Adjacent to 11 Whinney Hill, Holywood.
17.	Whinney Hill Development, Holywood
18.	Tree Tops, Whinney Hill, Holywood
19.	Killaire House, Killaire Road, Bangor
20.	Knocknatten, Whinney Hill, Holywood, Co. Down
21.	Dromkeen House, My Lady's Mile, Holywood
22.	Plas Merdyn, Church Road, Holywood
23.	Croft House, Croft Road, Holywood
24.	Lands at Whinney Hill, Holywood
25.	Cultra House, Cultra
26.	Land to the rear 63 Station Road, Craigavad, Holywood
27.	Beechfield Avenue, Conlig, Bangor.
28.	Seacourt, Bangor
29.	To the rear of 43 Station Road, Craigavad
30.	The Rectory, 2 Raglan Road, Bangor

31.	Lands to the south of 5, 21, 23 and 25 Carneyhill Seahill
32.	67 Station Road, Craigavad
33.	Worcester Avenue, Bangor
34.	Lands at St. Columbanus, adjacent to 57 Craigdarragh Road, Helen's Bay.
35.	The Beeches, Gransha Road, Bangor
36.	Lands at 83a Victoria Road and 44 Glenview Road, Holywood
37.	At 14 Seafront Road, Cultra, Holywood.
38.	159 Groomsport Road, Ballyholme, Bangor.
39.	42 Victoria Road, Holywood
40.	Lands at 15 Morningside, Ballyholme, Bangor
41.	Land at St Mark's Church of Ireland Church, Holywood Road, Belfast.
42.	16 Glen Road, Cultra, Holywood, Co Down.
43.	Lands at 1 Kathleen Drive, Helen's Bay, Co Down.
44.	Land from 20-46 Ballymenoch Road + 19-21 Whinney Hill, Holywood
45.	Lands 32 Bridge Road, Helens Bay
46.	Lands at 18 Ailsa Road, Cultra, Holywood
47.	Trees in the grounds of 126 Bangor Road, Holywood
48.	Land to the rear of 49 Ballyrobert Road Crawfordsburn
49.	Lands at 4 Bennet Wood, Helen's Bay, Co Down.
50.	Lands at 73,75 & 77 Victoria Road and to the rear of 22, 24, 26 & 28 Church Avenue, Holywood
51.	Lands at Ardavon, 16 Glen Road, Holywood
52.	Adjoining Fruithill Park, Bangor
53.	2 Circular Road East, Cultra
54.	Lands North East of 165 Groomsport Road, Bangor
55.	Lands at and adjacent to Woodside Cottage, 103 Main Street, Conlig
56.	Lands at Kathleen Avenue, Helen's Bay.
57.	48 Station Road (Cedar Lane), Craigavad, Holywood, Co Down
58.	Land at 8 Killaire Avenue, Ballykillaire, Bangor, Co Down.
59.	lands at Ballykillaire Sports Ground, Old Belfast Road, Bangor
60.	15 Farnham Road, Bangor
61.	3, 5 & 7 Croft Gardens, Holywood
62.	21 Windsor Avenue, Bangor.
63.	Lands at Cultra Avenue, Old Cultra Road, Cultra Lane, Cultra Terrace, Farmhill Road, Farmhill Lane, The Orchard, Orchard Way, Tarawood, Clanbrassil Road, Ailsa Road, Seafront Road and Ben Vista Park, Cultra

64.	21 Bridge Road, Helen's Bay
65.	9 Bridge Road, Helen's Bay
66.	Land between Inn Car Park & Crawfordsburn River, Crawfordsburn
67.	239, 241 & 243 Bangor Road, Seahill - PROVISIONAL

Supplementary Planning Guidance for PPS18

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of whether the Supplementary Planning Guidance for PPS 18 is suitable and conducive to the Executive's target of achieving 40 percent renewable energy by 2020.

(AQW 3544/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The purpose and scope of the Wind Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes – Supplementary Planning Guidance to Planning Policy Statement 18 Renewable Energy (SPG) clearly highlight that "This guidance shares the aim of PPS18 to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment in order to achieve Northern Ireland's renewable energy targets and to realize the benefits of renewable energy".

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency, on behalf of the Department, undertook an assessment to determine the compatibility of the Supplementary Planning Guidance with the Draft Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland 2009 Assessment (SEF).

The conclusions of the assessment were:

- The Department considers that appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that the SEF has been adequately taken into account during the production of the SPG and that the broad strategic guidance contained within the SPG is clear, proportionate and necessary.
- The Department considers that the SPG contributes to an appropriate planning policy framework which is in place to support the achievement of the targets within the SEF.

I believe that every reasonable opportunity for renewables should be considered. As a result, a renewables planning group for officials and external people/groups involved in the industry, have been meeting to identify how the planning process can be developed to assist applications. As a consequence of this and for other reasons, I am convening a dedicated meeting on anaerobic digesters in December, reviewing guidance on applications in peatland areas, considering what action may be needed to better facilitate application in certain DPO's etc.

Planning Applications for Wind Turbines

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications for the erection of wind turbines have been considered by the Omagh Planning Office in each of the last three years and how many have been approved.

(AQW 3570/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The table below details the information requested.

	Approved	Refused	Total
2008/09	34	4	38
2009/10	22	8	30
2010/11	38	9	47
Total	94	21	115

Source: Planning NI

Smoke Control Zones

Mr Hussey asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the process by which local councils can create Smoke Control Zones.

(AQW 3597/11-15)

Mr Attwood: There are a number of situations where a District Council may consider it appropriate to declare a Smoke Control Area. For example, as part of a strategy to improve local air quality, where there is evidence of elevated concentrations of emissions from coal burning, or as part of an action plan in an air quality management area. The Department of the Environment has published Policy Guidance on Smoke Control Areas for district councils which sets out the procedure for establishing a Smoke Control Area. The document is available on the DOE website at the link below.

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/local_air_quality_management_policy_guidance_on_smoke_control_areas_pdf_format.pdf

Horse Mussel Beds in Strangford Lough

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister of the Environment how he intends to evaluate the economic impact of any decision to increase the protection of the horse mussel reefs in Strangford Lough.

(AQW 3767/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I do not consider that the measures proposed by the Department of the Environment to facilitate the restoration of horse mussel reefs in Strangford Lough will have a significant economic impact. I am however concerned about the financial implications of not taking appropriate action should the European Commission decide to renew its infraction case.

Zebra Mussels

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to stop any further spread of zebra mussels across the island of Ireland.

(AQW 3775/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department recognises the threat posed by zebra mussels to our native wildlife and officials in the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) have undertaken a number of actions in an effort to stop their further spread. The Department does not have any jurisdiction in the Republic of Ireland but recognises the need for co-ordinated action across the island of Ireland. NIEA therefore liaises closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Republic to develop joint actions that aim to control the spread of this Invasive Alien Species.

Following their initial discovery in the Shannon - Erne system in 1997, officials in NIEA established a Zebra Mussel Control Group through which they have worked in partnership with a range of other Departments and organisations to co-ordinate actions to stop the further spread of zebra mussels, where it is possible to do so. This group also keeps up to date with research undertaken in other countries, where Zebra mussels are considered to be an invasive species, to ensure that Northern Ireland is kept up to date with current best practice knowledge in relation to monitoring, prevention of spread and potential control options for zebra mussels.

Actions undertaken by NIEA have included the production and placement of zebra mussel warning signage at slipways at affected and high risk sites, the production of Codes of Good Practice for recreational water users and marina managers; and the wide circulation of a dedicated advice leaflet on best practice measures to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

In addition, the recent introduction of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011 added zebra mussels to Schedule 9 of the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 which now makes it an offence for any person to release zebra mussels into the wild.

While the prevention of further spread of zebra mussels is a shared responsibility of all recreational water users, there are natural vectors of spread. Recent surveys suggest that the flood events in the Erne system during 2009 may have resulted in a number of small outlying lakes being colonised.

Flooding: Financial Assistance

Mr Molloy asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of his statement on 24 October 2011, regarding the financial assistance available for householders affected by floods, to detail (i) when it will be made available; (ii) how much will be available; and (iii) how people can apply for this assistance.
(AQW 3888/11-15)

Mr Attwood: In my written statement to the Assembly on 26 October 2011, I advised Members of my intention to activate a Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance and the Scheme is now in operation for District Councils to administer. Householders who wish to apply for financial assistance should notify their local council within 21 days of their property being flooded and payments of £1k to eligible householders will be issued by councils as quickly as possible afterwards. This expenditure will be reimbursed by the Department.

Facilities to Process and Dispose of Radioactive Substances

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the facilities that currently exist which would be capable of processing and disposing of naturally occurring radioactive substances brought to the surface as a result of drilling for oil and gas.
(AQW 3913/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The processing and disposal routes for wastes containing naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) resulting from oil and gas production vary according to the concentration of radioactivity they contain. The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 defines what is radioactive for the purpose of regulation. NORM waste may be “out of scope”, “exempt” or “non exempt”. Out of scope or exempt NORM waste can be disposed of to a landfill in Northern Ireland in the same manner as non radioactive waste.

NORM that is not exempt can only be disposed of to a facility that has an authorisation issued under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. I have been advised that there are no such facilities in Northern Ireland.

The only current facility for handling non exempt NORM in the UK is based at Drigg, Cumbria.

Public Contracts

Mr McCartney asked the Minister of the Environment to list all the current public contracts within his Department, including to whom each contract was awarded; how the contracts were advertised; and when each contract is next due to go out to tender.
(AQW 4253/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department does not retain a central register of contracts less than £30k. Due to the high volume of low value contracts, and the significant number of related invoices which would have to be reviewed (approx 34,000 per annum) to ensure accurate identification of all current low value contracts, this information is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department is currently in discussions with CPD with a view to progressing all contracts over a lower threshold of £20k. In addition to creating potential opportunities for more small and medium sized suppliers, the application of the lower threshold will improve centrally held information on all contracts above £20k.

The Department follows CPD guidance in relation to securing quotations/selected tenders for contracts below £30k which do not require public advertisement.

However, the Department retains a central database of all public contracts over £30k in value which are awarded through the Department of Finance and Personnel, Central Procurement Directorate (CPD).

I have detailed at Annex A all current public contracts over £30k, the end date of the contract and to whom each contract was awarded.

In relation to re-tendering, the end date of each contract period has been provided and subject to assessment of operational need for future work and availability of future funding, the re-tendering process, if needed, usually commences around six months before the expiry of the current contract. Re-tendering has commenced for the following two existing contracts which are due for tender early next year:

- (i) site maintenance contract, Regional Operations, Natural Heritage, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA); and
- (ii) cash transit, Driver Vehicle Agency (DVA).

All public contracts which are awarded through CPD are advertised via:-

- e Resourcing NI on the CPD web site;
- advertisements in 3 local newspapers – Belfast Telegraph, Belfast Newsletter and Irish News and includes a link ‘new to view’ to the CPD site;
- in specialist journals/periodicals (when requested); and
- in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) where the EU threshold is exceeded.

Contract Description	Contractor Name	Contract end date
Air Quality Archive & Website for NI 2009-2012	AEA Technology	March 2012
Campaign advertising – re-think waste	AV Browne Group	Nov 2012
Independent expert review of retail application and Public Enquiry	Colliers International	End of enquiry
Belfast Tall Building guidance	Urban Initiatives	March 2012
Provision of cash services	Securicor	3 months notice
Provision of Technical Accountancy Support Service	CIPFA	March 2012
Road Safety - Appointment of an Advertising Agency	Lyle Bailie International Ltd	July 2012
Teaching Aid Calendar	Rusk Design	Nov 2011
Annual Schools Requisition	ROSPA	Dec 2011
IT/IS Provision (01/06/09 - 31/05/14)	BT Ireland Ltd	May 2014
Events Management 2008-2011 Living History Events	Irish Arms	April 2012
Cleaning/Catering, Omagh	Mountcharles	March 2012
Provision of Driving Theory Testing Services	Pearson Driving Assessment Ltd	June 2014
Personal Protection Equipment	ARCO/JBS Boylan	June 2013
FM Contract (NIDLS/DATACARD)	FUJITSU LTD	August 2013
Taxi Licensing Information System	BT	Oct 2013
MOT 2	Romaha Ltd	2018

Contract Description	Contractor Name	Contract end date
Booking Service	Northgate Management Services Ltd	March 2012
Sale of vehicle reg marks	Wilson Auctions	Dec 2012
Supply of consumables for taxi plates	VIP Systems Ltd	Feb 2013
SUN Accounting System	SUN Sisco	Nov 2011
DVA Cash in Transit	GS4	To be agreed
Maintenance Calibration & Verification of the DVA Weigh Bridge Network in Northern Ireland	Control Ltd	March 2013
Waste disposal	Greenstar NI Ltd	March 2012
Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007	University of Ulster	March 2012
GIS Data Support	Compass Informatics	March 2012
Atlas of Breeding and Wintering Birds in GB & Ireland	Bird Watch Ireland	Dec 2011
Field Research & Analysis in Respect of UK Marine SPA Programme	JNCC	Aug 2013
Natural Heritage Research Partnership	Queen's University	June 2018
Survey and monitoring of semi-natural habitats in NI	ADAS UK Ltd	Dec 2011
Developing Standard Site Specific Monitoring Methodologies for ESCR Sites	AECOM	March 2012
Cedar Initiative - Survey, Monitoring and Advisory Services for Species features on Designated Sites 2009/13	National Museums & Galleries of N.I.	March 2013
Cedar Initiative - NIMF 2011/2014	National Museums & Galleries of N.I.	May 2014
Site Maintenance	WB Contracts	March 2012
Site Maintenance	JF McGovern	March 2012
Site Maintenance	SM Cuffey Landscapes	March 2012
Site Maintenance	The Landscape Centre	March 2012
Cedar Initiative - Orchid Ireland	National Museums & Galleries NI	Sept 2012
Saving our magnificent meadows	Plant Life International	Dec 2011
Invasive Species in Ireland	Enviro Centrte Ltd	Dec 2012
Second Survey of Historic Buildings	Paul Logan	March 2012
Second Survey of Lisburn, Banbridge, North Down, Belfast, Castlereagh & Coleraine Council Areas	Alastair Coey Architects	March 2013
IT Facilitator	Transformation Services Ltd	Nov 2011

Contract Description	Contractor Name	Contract end date
Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum - Staff & Work Programme	Northern Ireland Archaeology Link	Nov 2011
Provision of archaeological Fieldwork Service	QUB	Nov 2012
Publication of Excavations	Nick Brannon	Nov 2011
Provision of a managed publishing service	The Stationery Office	Jan 2012
Provision of Maritime and Freshwater Archaeological Services 2009 - 2012	University of Ulster	March 2012
Editorial Assistance Contract	Dr BG Scott	Aug 2013
Private Water Supplies Sample collection & Analysis	White Young Green	Jan 2012
Technical Review & Determination of PPC & PAD Applications	Entec Uk Ltd	Sept 2012
Radiochemical analysis of public drinking water sources NI	Health Protection Agency	March 2012
Preparation of a UK Recovery Handbook for Chemical Incidents	Dept for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs	March 2012
Quality waste protocols programme	Environment Agency	Aug 2012
Analytical Sub Contract Framework - Shellfish Flesh	AFBI	Nov 2011
Analytical sub contracting Framework - Macroinvertebrates	APEM Ltd	Nov 2011
Analytical sub contracting Framework - Phytoplankton Identification	Ensis Ltd	Nov 2011
Analytical sub contracting Framework - Diatoms, Macrophytes Lakes, Macrophytes Rivers	Jacobs Ltd	Nov 2011
Analytical sub contracting Framework - Trace Analysis	National Laboratory Services / Environment Agency	Nov 2011
Analytical Sub Contract Framework - Identification of Lake Profundal	Sweeny Consultancy	Nov 2011
Analytical sub contracting Framework - Benthic Taxonomy & Invertebrate	Unicomarine Ltd	Nov 2011
Research Assistants	QUB	March 2012
Aquacheck 2009 - 2012	Aquacheck Ltd	March 2012
Lease of Lester House Springfarm Industrial Estate Antrim	Oregon Properties Ltd	July 2018
Protective Clothing	ARCO/Antrim Supplies/JSB/O'Sullivan Safety	June 2012
Purchase and supply of mopeds for schools	Piaggio & C spa	March 2014

Contract Description	Contractor Name	Contract end date
Legal services for SWaMP2008 infrastructure project	Author Cox Sols	March 2012
PR service for SWaMP infrastructure project	ASG	March 2012
Provision of arboriculture services	Clarke Cunningham Tree Maintenance Ltd	Aug 2012
NICCIP	SNIFFER	March 2012
Recommendation of determination of PPC Permit and PAD applications	AMEC Environmental & Infrastructure UK	June 2012
Designated Keepers of Dangerous Wild Animals and Endangered Species	Specialist Wildlife Services	July 2013
GCMS Triple Quadrupole System	Agilent Technologies	Feb 2012
Ariel monitoring	PDG Helicopters	Sept 2013
Provision of archaeological office related services	Pro-Arc Ltd	Nov 2013

Fish Kills

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment what progress has been made in reducing the number and scale of fish kills in rivers in the last two years.

(AQW 4481/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible for investigating reports of water pollution, for regulating discharges to waterways and underground strata and for initiating enforcement action where appropriate, as defined under the terms of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, including incidents where a fishkill is confirmed.

The Agency operates on a 24-hour, 365 days-a-year basis, to co-ordinate the Agency's response to incidents of water pollution and fishkills. Water pollution incident reporting is encouraged by NIEA and the use of the Water Pollution Hotline 0800 807060 is promoted widely.

NIEA has set targets for responding to pollution incidents based on their severity. When a report of pollution is received, the Agency aims to assess and estimate the incident severity and issue a report to an investigation officer within 30 minutes so that a response can be carried out as quickly as possible, in order to minimise any potential impact that may be caused.

NIEA Water Management Unit (WMU) protects the aquatic environment through a variety of proactive prevention activities including monitoring water quality, implementing River Basin Management Plans, regulating effluent discharges, supporting research and taking action to combat or minimise the effects of pollution.

Proactive inspection visits are carried out at a significant number of industrial, water utility and agricultural premises each year to provide advice on the necessary measures to prevent a pollution incident from occurring.

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), there are extensive monitoring requirements. NIEA carries out regular sampling at over 500 river sites, 21 lake sites, over 80 groundwater sites and some 40 marine sites in Northern Ireland. This helps to identify areas at risk from pollution and allows the Agency to direct proactive pollution prevention and regulatory control work to these areas.

NIEA also carries out a significant number of regulatory activities under various pieces of legislation. Regulation is aimed at controlling discharges to ensure that they can be sustained by the receiving

waterway without damage to the aquatic environment and without breaching national or EU Directive standards.

These activities reduce the risk of water pollution incidents from occurring and consequently the risk of fishkills.

Unfortunately, there remains the potential for accidents to occur and there will always be instances where individuals will act outside of the law for their own financial benefit or convenience.

Where pollution occurs, it is NIEA policy to take formal enforcement action if this is warranted by the severity of the pollution and the circumstances which led to it occurring. In an incident of water pollution, where there has been a significant fishkill and where the polluter is known, NIEA will normally seek to take enforcement action.

Through this enforcement action, NIEA has secured 38 criminal convictions in 2009 and 41 criminal convictions in 2010. There is a significant risk for any polluter that they may be identified by NIEA and be subject to enforcement action including prosecution. This risk is a serious and on-going deterrent to potential polluters.

Table 1 below sets out the number of fishkills in each of the last 2 years. Although this shows an increase in 2010 compared with 2009 it is not possible to draw conclusions on the basis of only two years data. The combined aim of the reactive, proactive, preventative and regulatory work undertaken by NIEA is to see a reduction in both the number and the scale of fishkills in rivers in the future.

Table 1: Total Number of fishkills in Northern Ireland in the last 2 years

Category	2009	2010
Slight (less than 10 fish killed)	7	11
Moderate (10 – 100 fish killed)	8	7
Major (more than 100 fish killed)	2	4
Total	17	22

Human Waste Sludge Site on the A37 Broad Road, Limavady

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of the Environment on how many occasions enforcement processes have been carried out at the human waste sludge site on the A37 Broad Road, Limavady, in each of the last two years.

(AQW 5018/11-15)

Mr Attwood: NIEA, has granted a mobile plant licence to a company to permit the storage and treatment of sewage sludge in an old quarry alongside the A37 Limavady to Coleraine Road.

The licence includes a range of conditions to ensure the sludge is managed properly and fully complies with waste legislation. The licence also includes a Site Specific Working Plan

The Waste Licensing Section, NIEA routinely inspects and monitors the site to ensure compliance with the waste licence and the Site Specific Working Plan.

The Section has undertaken enforcement action twice during 2010 and 2011. These actions were:

- On the 19 January 2011 the Agency issued the company with a formal warning regarding the operation of the facility. Complaints had been received and were substantiated in relation to bad odour on the stretch of road which passes the site, lorries parking on the hard shoulder and the odour from these, as well as the dirty nature of the road was not satisfactory. The company was required to remedy all of these breaches and to comply with the licence conditions and site specific working plan.

- On 8 April 2011 NIEA issued the company with a statutory Notice under Article 16(4) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The company was required to remedy breaches of the Site Specific Working Plan, relating to odour, mud on the road and the quantity of material treated at the site. These breaches had been substantiated by the Waste Licensing Section in NIEA as a result of a site inspection.

Installation of Double Glazing in Listed Buildings

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the criteria used by his Department to permit the installation of double glazing in listed buildings.

(AQW 5021/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The policy in relation to the repair and/or replacement of windows in listed buildings is covered in Annex E: Guidelines for the Alteration, Extension and Maintenance of Listed Buildings, of Planning Policy Statement (PPS)6 - Planning Archaeology and the Built Heritage - paragraphs E12-E18. I have attached a copy of these paragraphs for ease of reference. PPS6 may be viewed online at - http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/planning_statements/pps06.htm

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 6 - Planning Archaeology and the Built Heritage – paragraphs E12-E18.

Windows

E12 As a rule, windows in historic buildings should be repaired, or if beyond repair should be replaced “like for like”. In considering listed building consent applications for additional windows it is important that their design, scale and proportion should be sympathetic to the character of the building. The fact that owners so often wish to alter windows demonstrates that windows attract the attention of practically anyone who objectively looks at a building. They are the eyes of the building and they catch the eye. The finish, the material from which they are made, the method of opening, the subdivisions of the glass, the characteristics of the glass, the interplay of panes, the profiles of each component, the relation of sills, architraves, encasements, shutters etc. all play their part in the overall character of the window. The window plays a vital role in the overall appearance and character of the building internally as well as externally.

E13 Old windows were generally made of sturdy materials, they may look shabby and rundown and they may fit badly and admit drafts but nevertheless it is possible, more often than not, to repair and restore the original units. Repair rather than replacement should be the first aim in any scheme for a listed building. Original timber sliding box sash windows and casement windows can be fitted with seals, gaskets and improved ironmongery to provide a performance that will match any modern window type.

E14 Within the broad window types such as sash or casement there is a wide variation of detail according to date, function and region. Standardisation to one pattern should be avoided. The thickness and moulding of glazing bars, the size and arrangement of panes and other details should be appropriate to the date of the building or to the date when the aperture was made.

Replacement Windows

E15 The insertion of factory made standard windows of all kinds, whether in timber, aluminium, galvanised steel or plastic is almost always damaging to the character and appearance of historic buildings. In particular, for reasons of strength the thickness of frame members tends to be greater in plastic or aluminium windows than in traditional timber ones. Modern casements with top-opening or louvred lights or asymmetrically spaced lights are generally unsuitable as replacements for windows in historic buildings. Such alterations will not therefore be permitted be allowed. Architects’ drawings and specifications should make clear the manner in which new windows are intended to open.

E16 It is usually impossible to install double-glazed units in existing frames without altering the character or appearance of a listed building. Listed building consent is quite likely to be refused for such an alteration because the form and detailing of windows is so often a key architectural element of historic buildings. The more complicated the glazing pattern the more difficult it will be to double glaze and for the installation to meet acceptable conservation standards. Conversely, where there is a

simple undivided single sheet of glass in each frame double glazing can usually be fitted without any appreciable change to the appearance and character of the window.

E17 Where there are difficulties, the first step is to discover, by calculation, whether or not double glazing would provide a material benefit in controlling heat loss. Traditional internal timber shutters and good quality curtains will give an equal performance during the hours of darkness. However, heat may be lost through other routes. Commonly this is via the air gaps around badly fitting frames. The installation of draft strips and weather seals is a simple and very effective procedure. Reglazing with thicker single sheet glass or the installation of secondary glazing are other options that will not normally require listed building consent. Plastic strips simulating glazing bars and sandwiched into the cavity of the double glazed unit are not an acceptable conservation option.

E18 In certain circumstances trickle ventilation will be a statutory requirement. There are a variety of ways to modify the designs of traditional windows to make this provision and there are ventilators available that have been specially designed to meet conservation criteria. Where difficulties arise it is as well to remember that the purpose of the ventilator is simply to ventilate the room; it is not a requirement that it be provided through the window. Other locations should therefore be assessed in difficult circumstances.

Installation of Gas Wells

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment to provide details of whether the installation of gas wells would require planning permission.

(AQW 5038/11-15)

Mr Attwood: I have been advised by officials that any proposal for a gas well is considered to be development requiring the granting of planning permission. DOE Planning & Local Government Group is not currently processing any planning applications for gas well installations in Northern Ireland.

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

Mr McCallister asked the Minister of the Environment when secondary legislation will be brought forward to ensure the implementation of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 by the target date of April 2012.

(AQW 5043/11-15)

Mr Attwood: Six sets of subordinate regulations are required under the Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010. Work on the regulations is well advanced with four sets already drafted and public consultations on the last two sets of regulations recently issued. The Department plans to bring forward the six sets of regulations to the Assembly Environment Committee in March 2012, with the Goods Vehicle Act commencing operationally in April 2012.

Planning Application for a New Supermarket in the Castlereagh Area of Belfast

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether any planning application for a new supermarket in the Castlereagh area of Belfast has been submitted or approved, or whether any interest has been expressed, in the last two years; and, if so to provide details.

(AQW 5046/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The Department currently has four planning applications under consideration for supermarkets and associated development in the Castlereagh Council Area.

The first application was received on 24 October 2007 for the construction of retail units and apartments at Carryduff Shopping Centre. The application is being considered under Article 31 procedures.

The second application by Tesco Stores Ltd is for a supermarket adjacent to 694 Saintfield Road, Carryduff and was received on

1 May 2009. The application was presented to Castlereagh Borough Council on 27 October 1011 with a recommendation to approve. The decision will be issued shortly.

The third application was received on 25 September 2009 under Article 28 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 to vary Condition 4 in Planning Approval Y/1986/0061 to allow for the sale of convenience goods in an existing retail unit at Homebase, Upper Galwally, Belfast. The proposal is still currently under consideration.

The fourth application by Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd is for a retail store, petrol station and industrial units at the former Rolls Royce factory, Upper Newtownards Road Dundonald was received on 5 March 2010. This application is being considered under Article 31 procedures.

Planning Applications for Wind Turbines

Mr Storey asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of planning applications for wind turbines in the (i) Ballymoney Borough Council; (ii) Ballymena Borough Council; and (ii) Moyle District Council areas have been (i) approved; and (ii) refused in the last three years.

(AQW 5075/11-15)

Mr Attwood: The table below shows the number of planning applications in the Ballymoney Borough, Ballymena Borough and Moyle District Council areas that have been approved and refused in each of the last three years.

	2008/09		2009/10		2010/11	
	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused
Ballymena	9	0	4	1	3	0
Ballymoney	8	1	8	0	13	0
Moyle	3	3	2	0	2	0

Department of Finance and Personnel

Surplus Posts in the Civil Service

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) number; and (ii) location of surplus posts in the Civil Service at grades (a) Professional and Technical Officer; (b) Higher Professional and Technical Officer; and (c) Senior Professional and Technical Officer.

(AQW 3495/11-15)

Mr Wilson (The Minister of Finance and Personnel): The information requested is set out in the attached table.

Number and Location of surplus posts at grades (a) Professional and Technical Officer; (b) Higher Professional and Technical Officer; and (c) Senior Professional and Technical Officer in the NICS at 19 October 2011

	Professional & Technical Officer (PTO)	Location	Higher Professional & Technical Officer (HPTO)	Location
DHSSPS	2	Stormont	1	Stormont
*DOE	45	*Various	52	*Various
Total	47		53	

- * It is not possible to identify precisely the individual location of surplus staff as staff may be transferred at any time in response to workloads and business need.

Only those Departments with surplus PTOs and HPTOs are listed.

There were no surplus SPTOs.

Industrial Rating Liability

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether a decision has been made on extending the current cap of 30 percent in industrial rating liability beyond the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

(AQW 4408/11-15)

Mr Wilson: As part of the Budget 2011-15 process the Executive agreed to hold industrial derating at its current level of 70% for the full Budget period. A copy of the final agreed budget can be accessed at

http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/revised_budget_-_website_version.pdf

Official Visit to the Irish Ploughing Championships

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 3640/11-15, whether the campaigning of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for a candidate in the Irish Presidential election (i) was consistent with these regulations; and (ii) if not, what action he has taken, or intends to take, to recoup any of the money spent by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development during her official visit to the Irish Ploughing Championships.

(AQW 4633/11-15)

Mr Wilson: In all matters pertaining to the Ministerial Code, including the rules relating to the use of public funds, all Ministers are bound by this code and they are each individually responsible for ensuring that they adhere to it at all times. Any complaints regarding the conduct of a Minister, or indeed any Assembly Member, should be progressed in line with the Complaints Procedure section of the NI Assembly "Code of Conduct together with The Guide to The rules Relating to the Conduct Of Members".

Staff Officer Level: Vacancies

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether any Department has vacancies at Staff Officer level in the Derry area.

(AQW 4656/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Department for Social Development has two vacancies at Staff Officer level in the Londonderry area.

Paper Copies of Payslips

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much has been spent on providing civil and public servants with paper copies of their payslips in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4668/11-15)

Mr Wilson: DFP manage the payroll service for the Northern Ireland Civil Service and a number of other public sector bodies. The service is provided by a private sector contractor and includes provision of hard copy payslips to approximately 27,000 staff. Individual elements of the service are not costed separately. As such it is not possible to specify the cost of providing paper copies of payslips.

Gross Domestic Product

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the level of Gross Domestic Product per capita which would be necessary to eliminate poverty.

(AQW 4713/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Annual estimates of Gross Value Added (GVA) are produced by the Office for National Statistics for the countries and regions of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland. GVA is an estimate of the value of output of goods and services produced by a country or region in a given time period. GVA is not a measure of income or living standards and gives no indication of the distribution of wealth across a society. It does not necessarily follow that an increase in GVA would produce any change in the relative distribution of income and wealth in a country.

Public Appointments

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

(AQW 4823/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Details of the appointments for the years 2007-2010 are already in the public domain and can be accessed via the following link <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/making-government-work/public-appointments.htm>

Details for 2010/2011 will be published by OFMDFM in due course.

Evaluation of the Programme for Government

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what progress has been made on the evaluation of the Programme for Government against the 2011-15 budget.

(AQW 4850/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Budget 2011-15 was developed in the context of a constrained Spending Review settlement for Northern Ireland where the Executive faced a real terms decline in public spending.

In the absence of a new Programme for Government the Budget 2011-15 was predicated on the priorities set out in the Programme for Government 2008-11 and the views of that Executive in terms of emerging priorities. The over-arching aim, of peace, prosperity, fairness and wellbeing, in the draft Programme for Government 2011-15 remains the same as in the previous document. The economy remains the main priority in both documents.

The commitments set out in the draft Programme for Government 2011-5 are undoubtedly aspirational but the Executive believes that they are achievable even within the constrained budgets set for the 2011-15 period.

As time progresses over the coming months and years, the Executive will reallocate resources through monitoring rounds to ensure that the objectives as presented within the Programme for Government are delivered as effectively as possible.

Investment Package for Affordable Housing

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Westminster in relation to the financial investment package for affordable housing announced on 21 November 2011; and whether the provisions of such a package will be extended to Northern Ireland.

(AQW 4852/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Chancellor's Autumn Statement clarified that there will be Barnett consequential for Northern Ireland associated with the new 'Get Britain Building' and 'Empty Homes' elements of the

housing package. This amounts to £8.7 million in 2012-13, £5.9 million in 2013-14 and -£0.5 million in 2014-15.

The majority of this funding has been earmarked for use only when providing equity and loans to developers and the Executive will consider how to deploy this funding in due course. HM Treasury has indicated that the equity and loan finance funding will need to be repaid to the Exchequer by 2019-20.

Current Global Economic Crisis

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the progress made on any of the agreed actions emanating from the emergency meeting he held at the beginning of August 2011 to discuss the current global economic crisis.

(AQW 4913/11-15)

Mr Wilson: At the meeting we discussed concerns regarding the impact of the European sovereign debt crisis and weakening global economy on Northern Ireland and any actions that could be taken locally to mitigate the adverse impacts of these events.

In particular, business leaders highlighted the damaging impact the crisis was having on business and consumer confidence in Northern Ireland and stressed how important it was for the Executive to emphasis what it is doing to help restore this. In this regard, we have recently published our draft Programme for Government and Economic Strategy setting out our approach and the steps we are taking to support business and re-build the economy in the near term.

The impact of the crisis was having on our local banking sector and the availability of finance for local businesses was also identified as a major concern. Since this meeting, I have been working with both governments and the local banks to try to ensure that finance is available to businesses. In particular I have pressed the banks to ensure that the British Bankers' Association Business Finance Taskforce recommendations are implemented locally. Progress in this regard was announced at a regional Better Business Finance event in Belfast on 17 November, including establishing an independent appeal process; the creation of a mentoring network; and the finance that is being made available through the Business Growth Fund.

I also agreed that I would seek a meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss the particular issues faced by the Northern Ireland banking sector which took place on 16 November 2011. At that meeting I asked, and Sir Mervyn agreed to consider what mechanisms might be put in place to ensure that Northern Ireland can benefit from the initiatives taken nationally to improve liquidity in the banking system.

Economically Inactive People in Portavogie

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of economically inactive people in Portavogie in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4948/11-15)

Mr Wilson: It is not possible to provide estimates of the number of economically inactive in Portavogie in each of the last 5 years. However, results from the recent population Census will include estimates of the economically inactive in March 2011, in small areas such as Portavogie. These will become available from autumn 2012.

The Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey provides estimates of the economically inactive population at District Council Area (DCA) level. For information, economic inactivity estimates for Ards DCA, relative to the Northern Ireland average for each of the last five years, are included in the table below.

WORKING AGE ECONOMIC INACTIVITY¹ ESTIMATES, ARDS DCA & NI, 2006 - 2010

Year	Number economically inactive in Ards DCA	Economic inactivity rate in Ards DCA	Economic inactivity rate in NI
2006	14,000	28.4%	29.6%
2007	14,000	27.1%	28.6%
2008	15,000	28.5%	29.3%
2009	14,000	27.1%	30.1%
2010	13,000	27.6%	29.1%

1 The working age estimates are based on the population aged 16 to 64. These figures are sourced to a sample survey and are therefore subject to sampling error.

Source: Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey Annual (Jan-Dec) Dataset

Petroleum Extraction Licence in County Fermanagh

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for her assessment of the impact the award of a petroleum extraction licence in County Fermanagh will have on the land values in the area.

(AQW 4963/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Investigations indicate that there is no market evidence that would indicate that the granting of the petroleum extraction licence has affected the current market value of agricultural land in County Fermanagh.

In itself, the award of a petroleum licence in an area should not have a significant effect on land value because exploration activities are typically short-term and small-scale. Exploration companies may pay modest sums to landowners for temporary access to land to carry out seismic surveys or more substantial amounts for the rental of sites used for drilling, but these are unlikely to affect land prices substantially.

Peace Funding

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the groups in the greater East Belfast area that have received peace funding from his Department in each of the last three years; and (ii) who provides the 35 percent match funding for each group.

(AQW 4982/11-15)

Mr Wilson: DFP is not directly responsible for any PEACE III funding aside from the small Technical Assistance budget that covers Programme administration. DFP is, however, the sponsor department for the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), which is the PEACE III Managing Authority.

The table below details PEACE III funding awarded to groups in East Belfast (Belfast East parliamentary constituency) in the last three years.

OFMdfM is the Northern Ireland accountable department for funding awarded under PEACE III, Theme 1.1; DSD is the Northern Ireland accountable department for funding under PEACE III, Theme 2.1.

Year Awarded	Project	Organisation Name	Total Award (£)	Theme
2008/09	Short Strand Community Forum	Short Strand Community Forum ¹	96,394	1.1 Regional
	From Prison to Peace: Building on Experience	Charter Regional CTI2	351,813.34	1.1 Regional
	From Prison to Peace: Building on Experience	East Belfast Charter ²	307,531.12	1.1 Regional
	The Skainos Project	Skainos Ltd	6,125,831	2.1 Shared Spaces
2009/10	Community Capacity Building - Managing a Peace III programme	Copius Consulting ³	25,900	1.1 Local
	Scoping Exercise - Engagement Integration and Diversity Programme	Juniper Consulting ³	6,975	1.1 Local
	Changing attitudes	Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society ⁴	25,000	1.1 Local
	East Belfast Mission & Short Strand Community Forum Peace III project	East Belfast Mission ⁴	24,864.30	1.1 Local
	The Glentoran Respect Initiative	Glentoran Partnership ⁴	23,050	1.1 Local
	Rising Stars Initiative - Bridging Divides, Developing Leaders and Changing Perceptions	PeacePlayers International Northern Ireland ⁴	24,998.06	1.1 Local
	St Matthews & Avoniel Parent Support Programme	St Matthews Primary ⁴ School	23,700	1.1 Local
	Restoration of the SS Nomadic	Department for Social Development	2,324,780	2.1 Shared Spaces

Year Awarded	Project	Organisation Name	Total Award (£)	Theme
2010/11	Project X-Adventure	Ocean Youth Trust Ireland ⁵	29,500	1.1 Local
	Developing Youth Role Models	Copius Consulting ⁶	97,773	1.1 Local
	Dreamscheme - Future Together	Dreamscheme NI - Newtownbreda Baptist Church ⁶	49,260	1.1 Local
	What Unites Us	The Bytes Project ⁶	39,170	1.1 Local
	Kick it out!!!	Tullycarnet Community Football Club ⁶	21,050	1.1 Local
	Area Development Programme - Cultural Awareness and Relationship Building	Copius Consulting ³	90,000	1.1 Local
	Total		9,687,589.82	
2011/12	Belfast Local Action Plan - Phase II*	N.A.	4,491,417	1.1 Local

- 1 This project is a sub-project of the Training for Women Network Positive Relations Project
 - 2 These projects are sub-projects of the From Prison to Peace: Building on Experience project led by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)
 - 3 These projects are sub-projects of the Carrickfergus, Antrim and Newtownabbey Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
 - 4 These projects are sub-projects of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
 - 5 These projects are sub-projects of the Southern Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
 - 6 These projects are sub-projects of the Lisburn/Castlereagh Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan
- * This project has recently received a Letter of Offer. Calls for funding will be opened by Belfast City Council and it is possible funding will be allocated to some projects in East Belfast.

Funding to PEACE III projects comprises 67.54% from the European Regional Development Fund and 32.46% match funding provided by the two member states—Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Match funding is provided by the relevant accountable departments in the two jurisdictions.

Sick Absence Across the Civil Service

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the commitment in the draft Programme for Government to reduce the level of staff sick absence across the Civil Service, (i) what is the target; (ii) what percentage of improvement is required to attain the target; and (iii) what measures will be taken to achieve the target.

(AQW 4998/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The target is to reduce the overall level of sickness absence in the Civil Service to 8.5 days per staff year by 2015.

A 23% improvement is required based on the 2009/10 figure of 11 days per staff year.

The NICS has a comprehensive approach to managing sickness absence. Measures taken to achieve the targets include monitoring and reporting, early intervention (Occupational Health Service referral and Welfare intervention) and case management. The introduction of a revised inefficiency sickness absence policy focuses on areas such as return to work interviews, warning action and a new process for managing long term sickness absence.

NICS is also developing a new training programme for line managers aimed at ensuring they are equipped to manage sickness absence effectively.

National Assets Management Agency

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the most recent contact he has had with his counterpart in the Dublin Government about the National Assets Management Agency (NAMA) and its portfolio in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 5015/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have discussed the work of the National Assets Management Agency (NAMA) and the impact it is having in Northern Ireland many times with the current Irish Finance Minister, and his predecessor, the late Brian Lenihan. I most recently met with Michael Noonan TD and Brendan Howlin TD (Irish Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform) in the margins of the 18 November 2011 North South Ministerial Council Plenary where we discussed a number of banking and finance issues, including NAMA.

The issues discussed included the nature of the Northern Ireland assets held by NAMA and how these would be managed. The composition of the NAMA Board and how the representation of Northern Ireland interests might be strengthened was also discussed, as were the arrangements that have been established for local public representatives to contact the Authority.

The ongoing work of NAMA is going to have a significant impact on the Northern Ireland economy over the next few years and we agreed that we would need to carefully monitor and maintain contact on this situation.

National Assets Management Agency

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the influence of the National Assets Management Agency's property portfolio on the Northern Ireland property market.

(AQW 5016/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Firstly, I believe establishing NAMA was a necessary step to restore liquidity and confidence in the Irish financial system, including those Irish owned banks that operate in Northern Ireland. That said, £3.35bn of NAMA's total loan portfolio is based in Northern Ireland and clearly the approach that NAMA takes in disposing of the assets associated with these loans could have a significant impact on our property market.

On that basis, I have sought and received repeated assurances from the Irish Government and NAMA that there would be no firesale of Northern Ireland assets. We have been told that while NAMA has taken control of loans and assets from some major local property / development companies, these will be carefully managed. Nevertheless, we must realise that the release of NAMA properties to the market could exacerbate the imbalance in supply and demand that currently exists in the Northern Ireland property market and could depress prices. Clearly this is a major concern.

On the upside, if heavily discounted prices are accepted by NAMA this could provide a small stimulus to the housing market in a few niche areas. Furthermore, I also anticipate that specialist funds and institutional investors will become increasingly important in a context of constrained bank funding and if NAMA disposals are targeted at these potential purchasers, it may also stimulate more interest in Northern Ireland as a region for such investment.

Clearly the work of NAMA is going to have a significant impact in Northern Ireland for some years to come and I can assure you that I will monitor this situation very closely and will continue to liaise with

the Authority and the Irish Government to ensure that Northern Ireland interests are protected as much as is possible.

Public Procurement Contracts

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the commitment in the draft Programme for Government, to outline the nature of the social clauses which will be included in all public procurement contracts.

(AQW 5052/11-15)

Mr Wilson: Many large scale construction contracts, awarded by CPD and Centres of Procurement Expertise, include social clauses requiring the provision of work opportunities for the unemployed, apprentices, placements for students on construction related courses and training opportunities for the unemployed. Supplies and Services contracts provide less scope for social clauses related to employment and training as typically these contracts have a lower value and a limited labour content.

Most public procurement contracts currently include standard social clauses requiring compliance with applicable fair employment, equality of treatment, anti-discrimination and health & safety legislation as well as fair payment requirements.

More work will now be undertaken as part of the Procurement Board's Strategic Plan to ensure that social clauses are included where the scope exists to do so. This work will include the development of additional guidance to assist Departments and procurement practitioners across the public sector to meet this commitment.

Civil Servants Employed as Economists

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many Civil Servants are currently employed as economists.

(AQW 5083/11-15)

Mr Wilson: There are two categories of Economists employed in the Northern Ireland Civil Service; general Economists and Agricultural Economists. The table below sets out the position in each of the categories in accordance with the most recently published data at 1 January 2011.

TOTAL NUMBER OF NICS STAFF EMPLOYED AS ECONOMISTS AT 1 JANUARY 2011

Grade	Staff Headcount
Agricultural Economists	12
Economists	72
TOTAL	84

Notes

Data sourced from HRConnect at 1st Jan 2011.

Staff on career break have been excluded.

Devolution of Corporation Tax Powers

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if the unqualified commitment in the draft Programme for Government to press for the devolution of Corporation Tax powers mean he has changed his stance of December 2010 when he said that the devolution of the powers would be 'totally unattractive' if it resulted in a substantial cut to the block grant.

(AQW 5115/11-15)

Mr Wilson: No, my position has not changed on this. The commitment in the draft Northern Ireland Economic Strategy, which was published for public consultation alongside the draft Programme for Government, is clear that we will work to successfully conclude on the negotiations with the UK Government to secure the power to vary the rate of corporation tax “in a timely and affordable manner”.

List of Prescribed Recreations

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps a sport, which is not currently on the list of prescribed recreations, has to undertake, and what conditions would it have to meet to enable it to satisfy the criteria for 80 percent rate relief on any premises from which it operated.

(AQW 5153/11-15)

Mr Wilson: A sport must appear on the list of prescribed recreations in order to avail of 80 percent rate relief on any premises from which it operates. No relief can be applied if a sport is not listed. The list was last updated in 2007. The legislation prescribing applicable sports is only made following consultation with the Sports Council for Northern Ireland.

Relief is restricted to those activities that require an appreciable degree of physical effort. Games that require a high degree of skill or contribute to intellectual development but require little physical effort do not generally qualify as prescribed recreations, although the degree of physical effort in the list of prescribed recreations varies considerably.

People Registered as Unemployed

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of people who were registered as unemployed in each quarter of the last three years in (i) Coleraine; and (ii) Limavady, broken down by age.

(AQW 5196/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The information requested can be found in the tables below.

TABLE 1 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT CLAIMANTS BY AGE IN COLERAINE DCA, OCTOBER 2008 - 2011

Period	Age bands					All Claimants
	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 or over	
October 2008	345	230	215	140	70	1,005
January 2009	495	315	295	210	100	1,410
April 2009	500	365	320	230	105	1,525
July 2009	535	365	335	250	115	1,600
October 2009	530	420	370	260	100	1,680
January 2010	555	465	400	295	110	1,820
April 2010	540	440	385	300	110	1,780
July 2010	535	410	375	300	110	1,725
October 2010	550	405	365	290	115	1,725
January 2011	565	440	410	300	125	1,840
April 2011	520	460	405	285	125	1,790
July 2011	515	430	395	280	125	1,745
October 2011	545	460	385	280	140	1,815

Notes: Figures are not seasonally adjusted and relate to computerised claims only.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Northern Ireland Claimant Count

TABLE 2 – UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT CLAIMANTS BY AGE IN LIMA VADY DCA, OCTOBER 2008 - 2011

Period	Age bands					All Claimants
	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 or over	
October 2008	295	205	145	115	50	805
January 2009	365	335	255	180	70	1,205
April 2009	445	350	270	180	70	1,320
July 2009	500	375	275	180	65	1,390
October 2009	470	345	295	180	60	1,350
January 2010	500	400	325	205	70	1,500
April 2010	465	415	340	195	85	1,495
July 2010	540	420	330	200	85	1,575
October 2010	500	390	310	215	90	1,505
January 2011	515	430	330	210	95	1,575
April 2011	490	410	335	205	85	1,525
July 2011	525	420	325	210	80	1,560
October 2011	520	395	320	220	90	1,545

Notes: Figures are not seasonally adjusted and relate to computerised claims only.
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum due to rounding.

Source: Northern Ireland Claimant Count

Promoting a Shared Future

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

(AQW 5219/11-15)

Mr Wilson: My Department is fully committed to the Equality Agenda and this is evident in our new Equality Scheme, drawn up in April 2010 which details the actions we will take to ensure that equality of opportunity and good relations are positively promoted throughout all aspects of our work.

This includes screening all policies for equality and good relations impacts as recommended by the Equality Commission.

All previous actions are detailed in our Annual Progress Reports to the Equality Commission and these together with our new Equality Scheme are available on the DFP website.

Promoting equality of opportunity for all our citizens is an integral aspect of building a better future for everyone and as such underpins and influences all that we do in shaping a better society.

This includes the development of the Executive's budget and the Department of Finance and Personnel ensures that all departments consider how policy development and spending decisions contribute to

promoting good relations and that funding requests take account of equality of opportunity and good relations considerations.

Discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Treasury

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Treasury in relation to the content of the Autumn Statement and the implications for Northern Ireland and the Block Grant allocation.

(AQW 5271/11-15)

Mr Wilson: I have regular meetings with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to discuss a wide range of matters relating to the Northern Ireland Block Grant. Our most recent meeting was on 16 November 2011.

As a result of the Autumn Statement Northern Ireland will receive Barnett consequentials on comparable allocations to the budgets of Whitehall departments. In respect of Capital DEL this amounts to £134.1 million over the next three years. We have not yet received details of the Resource DEL implications. In addition we have received £7.4 million of Resource AME consequentials in respect of benefits.

Capital Investment

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the increased capital investment announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his assessment of the implications for the capital expenditure budget; and if there are any plans to increase infrastructural investment.

(AQW 5298/11-15)

Mr Wilson: The Chancellor's Autumn Statement resulted in additional capital DEL Barnett consequentials for Northern Ireland. This amounted to £23.8 million in 2012-13, 52.5 million in 2013-14 and £57.8 million in 2014-15.

These Barnett consequentials are unencumbered and for allocation locally in line with the Executive's priorities. The only exception to this is some £14.3 million in respect of the housing package, which may only be used to fund loans and equity investments. A further condition is that 60 per cent of this housing funding must be returned to the Exchequer by 2019-20.

The Executive will now consider how to allocate the additional capital investment funding.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Dental Practice Allowance

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of dental practices which were in receipt of the Dental Practice Allowance in each year since 2007 at (i) the lower level of four percent; and (ii) the higher level of eleven percent, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 4921/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The number of dental practices which were in receipt of the Dental Practice Allowance at (i) the lower level of four percent; and (ii) the higher level of eleven percent, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area, are shown in the tables below. As the Practice Allowance is calculated biannually, figures have been provided for each six month period since April 2007.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, APRIL 2007 - SEPTEMBER 2007.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	13	54
Northern	10	61
South Eastern	12	38
Southern	10	38
Western	11	23
Northern Ireland	56	214

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

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, OCTOBER 2007 - MARCH 2008.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	4	60
Northern	3	69
South Eastern	5	45
Southern	3	44
Western	10	24
Northern Ireland	25	242

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

TABLE 3: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, APRIL 2008 - SEPTEMBER 2008.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	4	62
Northern	9	66
South Eastern	4	46
Southern	15	32
Western	13	22
Northern Ireland	45	228

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

TABLE 4: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, OCTOBER 2008 - MARCH 2009.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	11	55
Northern	11	64
South Eastern	14	36
Southern	14	32
Western	11	24
Northern Ireland	61	211

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

TABLE 5: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, APRIL 2009 - SEPTEMBER 2009.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	11	55
Northern	12	62
South Eastern	14	35
Southern	14	32
Western	10	24
Northern Ireland	61	208

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

TABLE 6: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, OCTOBER 2009 - MARCH 2010.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	11	52
Northern	13	62
South Eastern	13	36
Southern	14	32
Western	10	24
Northern Ireland	61	206

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

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, APRIL 2010 - SEPTEMBER 2010.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	14	53
Northern	21	56
South Eastern	18	34
Southern	14	34
Western	15	22
Northern Ireland	82	199

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

TABLE 8: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, OCTOBER 2010 - MARCH 2011.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	13	53
Northern	24	53
South Eastern	15	37
Southern	18	31
Western	15	22
Northern Ireland	85	196

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

TABLE 9: NUMBER OF DENTAL PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, APRIL 2011 - SEPTEMBER 2011.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	17	48
Northern	23	54
South Eastern	18	35
Southern	17	34
Western	17	22
Northern Ireland	92	193

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

Notes

- 1 Dental Practice Allowance is paid to a designated contractor for each practice, including Orthodontic practices. Where a designated contractor owns multiple practices these have been excluded from the figures, as they could not easily be separately identified.

- 2 Some post payment adjustments may not be reflected in the figures; these adjustments may change a practice from 4% to 11% and vice versa.

Dental Practice Allowance

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of orthodontic practices which were in receipt of the Dental Practice Allowance in each of the last six months at (i) the lower level of four percent; and (ii) the higher level of eleven percent, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 4922/11-15)

Mr Poots: The number of orthodontic practices which were in receipt of the Dental Practice Allowance at (i) the lower level of four percent; and (ii) the higher level of eleven percent in the last six months, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area, is shown in table 1 below. As the Practice Allowance is only calculated biannually, monthly figures cannot be provided.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF ORTHODONTIC PRACTICES IN RECEIPT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE ALLOWANCE BY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, APRIL 2011 - SEPTEMBER 2011.

HSC Trust	Practices Receiving Allowance at 4%	Practices Receiving Allowance at 11%
Belfast	0	2
Northern	0	2
South Eastern	0	3
Southern	0	1
Western	0	3
Northern Ireland	0	11

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

Notes

- 3 Dental Practice Allowance is paid to a designated contractor for each practice. Where a designated contractor owns multiple practices these have been excluded from the figures, as they could not easily be separately identified.
- 4 Some post payment adjustments may not be reflected in the figures; these adjustments may change a practice from 4% to 11% and vice versa.
- 5 An orthodontic practice is defined as a practice meeting the criteria set out in Determination XI 1 (1) (a) of the 2010/11 Statement of Dental Remuneration.

Services to Children Subject to Residence Order Proceedings

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total cost of providing services to children subject to Residence Order proceedings in each of the last three years, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 4930/11-15)

Mr Poots: The cost of providing services to children subject to Residence Order proceedings in each of the last three years by Health and Social Care Trust area, is set out in the table below.

Residence Order costs	2010/11 Costs £	2009/10 Costs £	2008/09 Costs £
HSC Trust			
Belfast HSC Trust	210,694	257,696	162,355

Residence Order costs	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09
HSC Trust	Costs £	Costs £	Costs £
Northern HSC Trust	429,493	437,404	434,262
South Eastern HSC Trust	576,833	460,719	400,269
Western HSC Trust	179,892	207,613	193,340
Southern HSC Trust	436,623	301,247	255,608
Total	1,833,535	1,664,679	1,445,834

Calls to Age NI in Relation to Community Care

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that 15 percent of calls to Age NI are in relation to community care, how his Department intends to tailor the review of Health and Social Care Services to provide for the ageing population.

(AQW 4936/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Review of Health and Social Care Services is examining the future configuration and delivery of services across hospital, primary and community care settings. As part of its remit, the Review Team has been looking at issues of accessibility, safety and quality of services, and value for money. Services for older people have been raised with the Review Team during the extensive consultation with key stakeholders and the public. The Review's conclusions and recommendations will inform decisions on changes needed to our system. I intend to report to the Assembly shortly on the outcome of the Review.

Draft Programme for Government

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the potential consequences for other aspects of the health budget arising from the commitment in the draft Programme for Government to allocate an increasing percentage of the overall health budget to public health.

(AQW 4995/11-15)

Mr Poots: The importance of early interventions and other initiatives which assist people to engage knowledgeably in regard to their own health, has long been advocated as an approach to reduce later costs to the health service, especially those related to treating chronic conditions which are all too often preventable e.g. lung cancer, Type 2 diabetes, liver disease. Allocating an increasing percentage of the overall health budget to public health, to enable a further emphasis on prevention, is therefore crucially important for the sustainability of the Health Service.

All aspects of health and social care service have a role to play in delivering preventative measures, and increasing funding in this arena will allow professionals more scope to pursue these elements of their work.

The commitment outlined in the draft Programme for Government will not be to the detriment of other services. Rather, it will lead to a more proactive health system that will allow surgeons, doctors and social workers better flexibility to meet the needs of their patients and clients.

Careers in Midwifery

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to encourage young people to pursue a career in midwifery. [R]

(AQW 5031/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Department commissions 65 student midwifery places per year at Queen's University Belfast. There are two routes open to undergraduates who wish to study midwifery: a 3 year direct

entry midwifery course (35 places) and an 18 month course for registered nurses (30 places) who wish undertake the midwifery qualification. Demand for student places for the 2011 intake remains high with 546 applications being received for the direct entry course and 72 for the 18 month course.

The Department publishes careers information for midwives on www.nidirect.gov.uk and commissioned the Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for nurses and midwives to develop information specifically for school leavers, which is available on <http://www.nursingandmidwiferycareersni.com/>. In addition, the University and HSC Trusts work with local schools, colleges and community groups to promote midwifery as a career.

Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when all school children in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area will be able to avail of the Multi-Agency Support Team for Schools.

(AQW 5090/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools (MASTS) Service has been operational within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust since 2007 with 137 schools already receiving services under the scheme.

MASTS plans to expand the service to the remaining 117 Primary and Nursery Schools by reviewing the model of service provision locally and through a planned review currently being undertaken by the Health and Social Care Board in association with the Public Health Agency, to ensure that resources are being used effectively. That planned review is expected to be completed in mid 2012.

Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what criteria were used to determine (i) which schools were initially included in the Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools scheme; and (ii) schools that have joined subsequently.

(AQW 5092/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools (MASTS) service is run by the Health and Social Care Trusts in close collaboration with their respective Education and Library Boards. I am advised by Health and Social Care Trusts that access to services provided by the scheme has largely been through expressions of interest by individual schools and the pace of inclusion has been dependent on available resources.

In those Trust areas where not all schools are yet participating in the scheme, plans are in place to ensure that access is optimised through the issue of further invitations or review of particular service models to ensure that resources are used effectively.

Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to list the schools, in each District Council area, in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area (a) included in the Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools (MASTS); (b) which have indicated an interest in joining MASTS; and (c) have not expressed a wish to join MASTS; and (ii) for his assessment of the effectiveness of MASTS to date.

(AQW 5093/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) I am advised by the Northern Trust that:
- (a) 137 schools are involved in the MASTS scheme
 - (b) 55 schools have indicated an interest in joining MASTS.
 - (c) 60 schools have not indicated an interest in joining

Tab A lists these schools by District Council area.

(ii) Evidence indicates effectiveness of the service as follows:

- 78% of Principals and 69% of teachers highlighted that children benefited from intervention from the MASTS service;
- 95% of parents/carers highlighted that their child benefited from support provided by the MASTS team in the school setting;
- 79% of parents/carers felt the support provided by MASTS had a positive impact on the child's learning; and
- 92% of children interviewed stated that they would recommend MASTS to a friend.

Effectiveness has also been recognised by the achievement of a number of national, regional and local awards.

Tab A

ANTRIM DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Annhorish PS, Toome	Creavery PS	Carlane PS
2	Antrim PS	Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach, Cromghlinn	St Mac Nissius' PS, Tannaghmore
3	Ballycraigy PS	Straidhavern PS	
4	Creggan PS		
5	Crumlin PS		
6	Duneane PS		
7	Greystone PS		
8	Groggan PS		
9	Loanends PS		
10	Maine Integrated PS		
11	Millquarter PS		
12	Moneynick PS		
13	Mount Saint Michael's PS & NU		
14	Parkhall PS		
15	Randalstown Central PS		
16	Rathenraw PS		
17	Round Tower PS		
18	St Comgall's PS, Antrim		
19	St Joseph's PS, Antrim		
20	St Joseph's NS, Antrim		

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
21	St Joseph's PS & NU, Crumlin		
22	St Oliver Plunketts PS & NS, Toomebridge		
23	Steeple NS		
24	Templepatrick PS & NU		

BALLYMENA DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Ballykeel PS & NU	Buick Memorial PS & NU	Braid PS
2	Ballymena NS	Camphill PS	Carnaghts PS
3	Ballymena PS	Clough PS & NU	Glenravel PS
4	Braidside Integrated PS & NU	Dunclug PS	Hazelbank PS
5	Broughshane PS & NU	Fourtowns PS	Longstone PS
6	Carniny PS	Kirkinriola PS	St Mary's PS, Cargan
7	Dunclug NS	Moorfields PS	St Paul's PS, Ahoghill
8	Gracehill PS & NU		The Diamond PS, Cullybackey
9	Harryville PS & NU		
10	Kells & Connor PS		
11	Portglenone PS		
12	St Brigid's PS, Ballymena		
13	St Colmcilles's PS		
14	St Mary's, PS & NU Portglenone		

BALLYMONEY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Ballymoney NS	Carrowreagh PS	Bushvalley PS
2	Ballymoney Model PS	Knockahollet PS	Cloughmill's PS
3	Balnamore PS	Leaney PS	Garryduff PS
4	Dalriada Prep	St Brigid's PS, Cloughmills	Kilmoyle PS & NU

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
5	Eden PS, Ballymoney	St Joseph's PS, Dunloy	Lislagan PS
6	Landhead PS		William Pinkerton Memorial PS
7	Rasharkin PS		
8	St Anne's PS, Corkey		
9	St Brigid's PS, Ballymoney		
10	St Patrick's PS & NU, Loughgiel		
11	St Patrick's PS & NU, Rasharkin		

CARRICKFERGUS DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Acorn IPS	Carrickfergus Model PS	Ballycarry PS
2	Carrickfergus Central PS	St Nicholas PS, Carrickfergus	
3	Eden PS, Carrickfergus	Sunnylands PS	
4	Oakfield PS & NU	Whitehead PS & NU	
5	Silverstream PS & NU	Woodlawn PS	
6	Sunnylands NS		
7	Woodburn PS		
8	Victoria PS & NU		

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Ballylifford PS	Donaghey PS	Ballytrea PS
2	Cookstown NS	Lissan PS	Churchtown PS
3	Cookstown PS	Sacred Heart PS, Rock	Coagh PS
4	Crievagh PS	St Patrick's PS, Loup	Phoenix Integrated PS
5	Derrychrin PS	St Patrick's PS, Moneymore	St Malachy's PS, Drumullen
6	Holy Trinity PS & NU		Stewartstown PS
7	Moneymore PS & NU		

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
8	Orritor PS & NU		
9	Queen Elizabeth II PS		
10	St Joseph's PS ,Killeenan		
11	St Mary's PS, Dunamore		
12	St Mary's PS, Pomeroy		
13	St Mary's PS, Stewartstown		
14	St Patrick's PS, Ardboe		
15	St Peter's PS & NU Moortown		

COLERAINE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Ballysally NS	Ballyhackett PS	Culcrow PS
2	Ballysally PS	Carhill PS	DH Christie Memorial PS
3	Carnalridge PS	Macosquin PS	Garvagh PS
4	Castleroe PS	Portstewart PS & NU	Gorran PS
5	Crossroads PS	St Patrick's & St Joseph's Federated PS, Garvagh	Hezlett PS
6	Cullycapple PS		St Colum's PS, Portstewart
7	Damhead PS		St Malachy's PS Coleraine
8	Harpur's Hill PS & Cuirath Corner NU		St Mary's PS & NU, Cushendall
9	Killowen PS		
10	Kilrea PS		
11	Kylemore NS		
12	The Irish Society PS & NU		
13	Milburn PS		
14	Mill Strand NS & PU		
15	Portrush PS		
16	St Columba's PS, Garvagh		
17	St Columba's PS & NU, Kilrea		
18	St John's PS, Coleraine		

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
19	St Patrick's PS, Portrush		

LARNE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Carnlough IPS	Corran PS & NU	Carnalbanagh PS, Glenarm
2		Kilcoan PS	Carncastle PS
3		Larne & Inver IPS	Glynn PS
4		Linn PS & NU	Seaview PS, Glenarm
5		Mullaghdubh PS	St Anthony's NS, Larne
6		Olderfleet PS	St Anthonys PS, Larne
7		Toreagh PS	St John's PS, Carnlough
8			St MacNissi's PS, Larne

MAGHERAFELT DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Castledawson PS	Ampertaine PS	Altayiskey PS
2	Drumard PS	Bellaghy PS	Gaelscoil An tSeanchai PS, Magherafelt
3	Holy Family PS & NU	Desertmartin PS	Culnady PS
4	Knockloughrim PS	Gaelscoil Na Speirini PS, Draperstown	Kilross PS
5	Magherafelt NS	Maghera PS	Knocknagin PS
6	St Brigid's PS, Mayogall	New Row PS	Magherafelt PS
7	St Columba's PS, Straw	St Brigid's PS, Tirkane	St Eoghan's PS, Draperstown
8	St John Bosco PS	St Columb's PS, Desertmartin	St Trea's, PS, Ballyronan
9	St John's PS, Swatragh	St Mary's PS, Draperstown	Tobermore PS
10	St Mary's PS & NU, Bellaghy		
11	St Mary's PS, Glenview		
12	St Mary's PS, Greenlough		
13	St Patrick's PS, Glen		

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
14	Spires IPS		
15	Woods PS		

MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Armoy PS	Barnish PS	Bushmills PS & NU
2	Ballycastle IPS	St Ciaran's PS Cushendun	Dunseverick PS
3	Ballytober PS		St Mary's, PS, Rathlin
4	Gaelescoil an Chaistil PS		St Olcan's PS Armoy
5	Glenann PS, Cushendall		Straidbilly PS
6	Moyle PS & NU, Larne		
7	St Patricks & St Brigids PS & NU, Ballycastle		
8	St Patrick's PS, Glenariffe		

NEWTOWNABBEY DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
1	Abbots Cross PS	Ballyclare NS	Ballyhenry PS
2	Ashgrove PS	Ballyclare PS	Carnmoney PS
3	Ashgrove NS	Doagh PS	Hollybank PS
4	Ballyhenry NS	Gaelscoil Eanna, Gleann Ghormlaithe	Kilbride Central PS
5	Ballynure PS	King's Park PS	St Mary's-on-the-Hill PS, Newtownabbey
6	Earlview PS & NU	St MacNissi's PS, Newtownabbey	Tildarg PS
7	Fairview PS	Upper Ballyboley PS	Whiteabbey PS
8	Glengormley Integrated PS		
9	Greenisland PS		
10	Mallusk PS		
11	Monkstown NS		
12	Mossgrove PS & NU		

	Schools involved in MASTS initiative	Schools who have applied to join since the closing date	Schools who have not applied
13	Mossley NS		
14	Mossley PS		
15	Parkgate PS		
16	Rathcoole PS & NU		
17	St Bernard's PS & NU, Newtownabbey		
18	St James PS & NU, Newtownabbey		
19	Straid PS		
20	Tir-na-Nóg PS		
21	The Thompson PS		
22	Whitehouse PS & NU		

Dental Patients

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the change in the number of patients who were registered with a General Dental Practitioner, under the Health Service arrangements, between October 2010 and October 2011, broken down by age group and locality.

(AQW 5097/11-15)

Mr Poots: The change in the number of patients who were registered with a General Dental Practitioner, under the Health Service arrangements, between October 2010 and October 2011, broken down by age group and locality, is shown in table 1 below.

Patients are assigned to a Local Government District on the postcode of the practice at which they are registered. Patients are not necessarily resident in the Local Government District in which their practice is located.

Table 1: Change in the number of patients who were registered with a General Dental Practitioner, under the Health Service arrangements, between October 2010 and October 2011.

Local Government District	Age Group							Total
	0-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-64	65+	
Antrim	39	280	216	243	356	3,085	651	4,870
Ards	-73	137	270	137	392	3,257	971	5,091
Armagh	7	150	163	203	290	3,029	636	4,478
Ballymena	19	196	249	263	451	4,598	1,081	6,857
Ballymoney	2	94	96	64	147	1,777	457	2,637
Banbridge	138	165	274	176	414	2,938	491	4,596
Belfast	167	1,374	1,207	1,005	2,190	20,311	3,713	29,967
Carrickfergus	51	161	142	89	219	2,268	532	3,462

Local Government District	Age Group							
	0-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-64	65+	Total
Castlereagh	113	321	226	220	334	4,685	1,062	6,961
Coleraine	29	205	133	135	422	3,584	937	5,445
Cookstown	63	107	85	105	175	2,159	330	3,024
Craigavon	11	427	369	391	668	6,391	1,264	9,521
Derry	119	582	447	499	905	10,050	1,348	13,950
Down	136	401	269	223	670	5,308	1,178	8,185
Dungannon	94	291	158	245	395	3,752	682	5,617
Fermanagh	6	218	176	211	336	2,923	569	4,439
Larne	-11	28	65	85	58	1,243	405	1,873
Limavady	1	152	78	97	158	1,982	388	2,856
Lisburn	179	599	297	391	800	7,271	1,381	10,918
Magherafelt	75	211	134	190	361	2,815	465	4,251
Moyle	9	54	40	56	85	897	206	1,347
Newry & Mourne	71	451	289	443	933	7,133	1,144	10,464
Newtownabbey	21	327	328	297	563	6,043	1,252	8,831
North Down	70	323	211	180	450	5,234	1,233	7,701
Omagh	52	130	210	122	341	2,757	359	3,971
Strabane	4	201	152	97	379	2,849	518	4,200
Northern Ireland	1,392	7,585	6,284	6,167	12,492	118,339	23,253	175,512

Waiting Times for Dental Patients

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the waiting time a for new patient to receive treatment under Health Service arrangements in each dental practice in County Fermanagh.

(AQW 5127/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is not available.

Ballymena Health and Care Centre

Mr Swann asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the development of Ballymena Health and Care Centre.

(AQW 5129/11-15)

Mr Poots: A business case setting out the detailed proposals for the new Ballymena Health and Care Centre has been developed. I have instigated work to consider how best to progress a range of new Health and Care Centres, including Ballymena. This will look at financing options both conventional and private with a view to early delivery of these projects together with the most cost-effective procurement methodology.

Whilst this review is progressing I have given approval for the enabling works for the new Ballymena Health and Care Centre to commence and work is expected to start on site shortly. It will only progress however, if all primary care providers are committed to the proposal.

Cost of Treating a Head Injury Caused by Being Struck by a Glass Bottle

Mr McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an estimate of the cost of treating a head injury caused by being struck by a glass bottle on the head or on the face, including the cost of ambulance call out to Belfast city centre, the cost of an x-ray, the cost of stitching or stapling of a wound, and the average cost of further medical attention, such as follow up appointments, removal of stitches, and dental work.

(AQW 5143/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is not possible to detail this information as it can only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Kinship Carers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many kinship carers, of children with 'looked after' status, are currently receiving allowances under the Model Payment Scheme.

(AQW 5150/11-15)

Mr Poots: All 'looked after' children, whether in foster care/kinship foster care, receive allowances under the Model Payment Scheme.

Kinship Carers

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many kinship carers, of children who are subject to (i) Residence Orders; and (ii) Supervision Orders, are currently receiving financial support packages from his Department.

(AQW 5151/11-15)

Mr Poots: The table below reflects the number of kinship carers of children, who are subject to (i) Residence Orders; and (ii) Supervision Orders and who are currently in receipt of financial support packages from Health and Social Care Trusts.

TRUST	Residence Orders	Supervision Orders
Northern*	56	0
Southern	53	0
Belfast	0	8
South Eastern	9	50
Western	18	0

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

* The Northern HSC Trust has indicated that this figure includes both kinship and non-kinship carers as they are unable to provide a break down. The Trust has also indicated that a significant proportion of the total number are kinship foster carers.

Kinship Care Arrangements

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consultation processes exist within the Trusts to gauge the views and experiences of (i) kinship carers; (ii) children subject to

Care Orders; (iii) children subject to Residence Orders; (iv) children subject to Supervision Orders; and (v) other kinship care arrangements; and for how long these arrangements have been in place.

(AQW 5162/11-15)

Mr Poots: Health and Social Care Trusts employ a range of mechanisms to gauge the views and assess the experience of kinship carers, the children in their care and those children who are subject to Care Orders. The full range of mechanisms has been in place over a long period of time; some were established under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.

Not all mechanisms were put in place simultaneously; rather they have evolved over time. Examples of how Trusts gauge the views and assess the experience of looked after children and kinship carers include: Assessment processes; Approvals Panels; Looked After Children (LAC) Reviews; Annual Foster Carers' Reviews; Link workers; Service User groups for Looked After Children; Fostering Network; 24 hr emergency helpline; the British Agency for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF); statutory monthly visits; Care Planning meetings; monthly meetings in Residential homes; Personal Advisors; Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) CASI Project and Advocacy Service; Complaints processes; attendance at staff meetings by young people age 16+; nominated social workers; Family Intervention and Placement Teams; Independent visitors and Text messaging. The list is not intended to be exhaustive.

Not all mechanisms are employed by all five Health and Social Care Trusts. Some are a statutory requirement, for example, assessment and review processes. Children, who are subject to Residence Orders and Supervision Orders are not looked after and, consequently, are not subject to statutory review processes; nor are children cared for in other kinship care arrangements, which sit outside of the looked after children framework.

Children in Care

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children who are currently subject to (i) Care Orders; (ii) Residence Orders; (iii) other kinship care arrangements; are (a) statemented; and (b) subject to Special Guardianship Orders that have been issued in another jurisdiction.

(AQW 5163/11-15)

Mr Poots: Figures are not available in the format requested. However, Table 1 below details the numbers of looked after children in kinship care placements by legal status in respect of Care Orders and 'Other' Legal Orders, subject to a statement of Special Educational Need and in care for twelve months or longer at 30 September 2010.

Residence Orders or Special Guardianship Orders issued in another jurisdiction do not confer 'looked after status' on a child, so children subject to these Orders could not be placed in any form of 'looked after' kinship care.

TABLE 1

Legal Status	Statement of Special Educational Need	
	Yes	No
Care Orders	31	277
'Other' Legal Status	11	93
Total	42	370

Source: Community Information Branch Return OC2 2009/10. 'Care Orders' includes Interim and Deemed Care Orders, and 'Other' Legal Status includes, 'Accommodated' under various Articles of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. The data detailed in Table 1 above are provisional.

Cardiac Patients at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the (i) target time; and (ii) average time between cardiac patients completing a treadmill test at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and their results being received by their General Practitioner.

(AQW 5166/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) There is no target specifically relating to the reporting time of results for the treadmill test.
- (ii) The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has informed me that the average

time between cardiac patients completing a treadmill test at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and their results being dispatched to the General Practitioner (based on patients referred during the quarter ending 30th September 2011), was 2.28 days for patients referred by the rapid access chest pain clinic or directly from their GP and 24.7 days for patients referred by a cardiac consultant.

Waiting Times for Dermatology Out-Patient Appointments

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average waiting time for an appointment with a consultant at the Dermatology Department at the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine; and how this compares to the last five years.

(AQW 5192/11-15)

Mr Poots: From the quarter ending June 2008 there were substantial changes in how data on waiting times for a first outpatient appointment were collected, with aggregate weekly time bands replacing a series of three monthly timebands. Therefore, to allow comparison, information is provided for the last four years.

While it is not possible to calculate an average waiting time from data collected in aggregate timebands, it is possible to calculate the median timeband, a similar statistical measure.

The median waiting times for an appointment with a consultant at the Dermatology Department at the Causeway Hospital, Coleraine at 30th September 2011, and for each of the three years previous, is shown in the table below.

	Median Waiting Time
30th Sep 2011	Greater than 13 weeks but waiting no longer than 21 weeks
30th Sep 2010	Greater than 9 weeks but waiting no longer than 13 weeks
30th Sep 2009	Waiting no longer than 6 weeks
30th Sep 2008	Waiting no longer than 6 weeks

Source: Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Departmental Return CH3

People in Residential Care

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of people, aged over 65, in full-time residential care in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area with (i) dementia; (ii) Alzheimers Disease; and (iii) learning disabilities.

(AQW 5218/11-15)

Mr Poots: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust indicated that, at 27th November 2011,:

- (i) there were 109 residents, aged over 65, in full-time statutory residential care with dementia in their Trust.
- (ii) the majority of their residents have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease. However, a manual review of medical assessments on file would be required in order to identify the number of people,

aged over 65, in full-time residential care with Alzheimer's disease and therefore it could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

- (iii) there were fewer than five residents, aged over 65, in full-time statutory residential care with learning disabilities in their Trust.

A Shared Future

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to outline the measures he has taken since coming into office, or plans to take, to promote a shared future; and (ii) whether he will consider implementing a policy appraisal whereby his Department will screen and policy-proof all policies and spending decisions for the impact on good relations and the creation of a shared future. **(AQW 5220/11-15)**

Mr Poots: My Department adheres to the principles of a shared future. A key part of this is the ongoing work tackling health inequalities which continues to be a priority issue and this, along with the approach to mainstreaming good relations considerations into policy development and resource allocation, will be considered as part of the development of the final Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

My Department is currently developing a new cross government public health strategic framework which will build on Investing for Health and contribute to a better shared future for everyone.

Residential Care Places

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail, at 25 November 2011, the number of places in residential care that were available for (i) people over the age of 65; (ii) people with dementia; (iii) people with Alzheimer's Disease; and (iv) people with adult learning difficulties. **(AQW 5259/11-15)**

Mr Poots: Figures are not available in the format requested and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, the tables below detail the average number of available places in residential accommodation for (1) elderly persons, (2) persons designated mentally ill and (3) persons with a learning disability during the year ending 31 March 2011.

TABLE 1: RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR ELDERLY PERSONS DURING YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

HSC Trust	Average Available Places				
	Statutory	Voluntary	Private	Dual Registered	Total
Belfast	311	430	258	87	1,086
Northern	436	0	*	*	436
South Eastern	275	207	385	54	921
Southern	120	41	130	146	437
Western	249	56	201	127	633
Northern Ireland	1,391	734	974	414	3,513

* The Northern HSC Trust could not provide figures for the average available places in private and dual registered homes.

Source: KEL1

TABLE 2: RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR PERSONS DESIGNATED MENTALLY ILL DURING YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

HSC Trust	Average Available Places				
	Statutory	Voluntary	Private	Dual Registered	Total
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	30	0	0	0	30
South Eastern	3	50	0	0	53
Southern	0	0	0	0	0
Western	111	140	22	0	273
Northern Ireland	144	190	22	0	356

Source: KMI1

TABLE 3: RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR PERSONS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY DURING YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

HSC Trust	Average Available Places				
	Statutory	Voluntary	Private	Dual Registered	Total
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	15	0	0	0	15
South Eastern	6	94	83	0	183
Southern	8	18	79	3	108
Western	51	109	73	0	233
Northern Ireland	80	221	235	3	539

Source: KMH1

The information presented in Tables 1-3 above does not include nursing homes. Also, data relating to dual registered homes includes residential places only.

This information is provisional and will be published in 'Adult Community Statistics for Northern Ireland' in January 2012.

Midwives Employed in Each Trust Area

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of midwives who are employed in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 5292/11-15)

Mr Poots: The information requested is provided in the table below.

NUMBER OF MIDWIVES EMPLOYED WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BY TRUST AT SEPTEMBER 2011

Trust	Headcount	WTE
Belfast	353	266.74

Trust	Headcount	WTE
Northern	230	181.36
South Eastern	243	186.56
Southern	285	212.24
Western	214	175.68

Source: Human Resources Management System

Notes:

- 1 WTE = Whole-time Equivalent.

Conferences, Seminars and Overseas Visits that are Sponsored by Pharmaceutical Companies

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the transparency that exists in the recording of conferences, seminars and overseas visits that are sponsored by Pharmaceutical companies and which may promote the use of specific drugs, and are attended by General Practitioners and other medical professionals.

(AQW 5297/11-15)

Mr Poots: The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), which represents the UK pharmaceutical industry, has developed a Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical industry to ensure ethical dealings between pharmaceutical companies and all those with whom they interact including General Practitioners and other health care professionals. This code is accepted by virtually all pharmaceutical companies operating in the UK and clearly stipulates the necessity for transparency in disclosure and recording of all relevant information by pharmaceutical companies when sponsoring conferences, seminars and overseas visits.

The code of practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry is available to view at the following link: <http://www.abpi.org.uk/our-work/library/guidelines/Pages/code-2011.aspx>

Furthermore, health care professions working in HSC Trusts and across primary care also have their own professional codes of ethics and guides, closely linked to the Pharmaceutical Industries code and DHSSPS guidance, which cover their own professional conduct in engagement with the pharmaceutical industry.

Complementary and Alternative Medicines Pilot

Mr Nesbitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for his assessment of the Complementary and Alternative Medicines Pilot Project carried out in May 2008 by Social and Market Research; and whether it is useful for victims and survivors of the Troubles; and (ii) what plans he has to build on the success of the pilot project.

(AQW 5301/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) I understand from the assessment carried out by Social and Market Research (SMR) into the Complementary and Alternate Medicines (CAM) Pilot Project funded by my Department in 2007/2008 that the patient experience was positively reported.

The pilot aimed to treat patients with acute or chronic conditions who were referred by their GP. The independent evaluation carried out by SMR on the pilot did not specifically ask a patient about the cause of their condition. It is not possible, therefore, using the information gathered for the evaluation, to say how useful treatments available through the pilot would be for victims or survivors of the Troubles.

- (ii) In the light of the constrained budgetary environment faced by my Department I need to focus my resources on sustaining existing frontline health and social care services. As a result it is not possible to allocate any funding for CAM services during the current spending period.

Qualified Psychologists and Trainee Psychologists

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current number of (i) qualified psychologists; and (ii) trainee psychologists, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 5358/11-15)

Mr Poots:

- (i) The information for qualified psychologists is given in the table below.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS EMPLOYED WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BY TRUST AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2011

Trust	Headcount	WTE
Belfast	74	66.60
Northern	40	33.91
South Eastern	43	38.46
Southern	29	26.23
Western	29	27.72
Total	215	192.92

Source: Human Resources Management System

Note: WTE = Whole-Time Equivalent.

- (ii) Trainee Psychologists are not employed directly by Trusts. They are employed by the Business Services Organisation and seconded to the Doctor of Clinical Psychology course at Queen's University, Belfast. Over the three year course they have five placements, the vast majority of which are within the five Trusts, although some are placed within voluntary bodies. With placements changing at least every six months, the numbers on placement in any Trust will vary considerably from year to year. As at 30 September 2011, there were 51 (50.06 whole-time equivalent) trainee psychologists employed within Northern Ireland Health and Social Care (**Source:** Human Resources Management System).

Department of Justice

Separated Prisoners in Roe House, Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail the cost of operating the facilities for separated prisoners in Roe House, Maghaberry Prison, including staffing costs, in the last twelve months.

(AQW 4438/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): It is not possible to provide the precise information requested as staff costs relating to separated prisoners are not costed separately and both Bush House and Roe House hold both separated and integrated prisoners.

The additional staff required for the two houses, because of separation, cost £1,408,354 in the last year.

Excluding staff costs, the budget for prisoners housed in separated conditions does not attract any additional resource funding, as their accommodation, food and amenities costs do not differ from the integrated population.

The total non-payroll cost of running Roe House in the last twelve months is £104,761.

Crimes Committed in Prison

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how many prisoners were (i) charged; (ii) prosecuted; and (iii) convicted of crimes carried out while they were in prison in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4574/11-15)

Mr Ford: The information requested is not readily available and can only be collated at a disproportionate cost to the public purse.

Prison Service: Contingency Accommodation

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice what contingency accommodation is being considered by the Prison Service as a result of the increasing prison population.

(AQW 4863/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service is giving consideration to contingency arrangements to deal with the rise in the prison population. These include the increased use of doubling in single cell accommodation, together with a range of options to provide additional capacity. Consideration is being given to the development of additional accommodation within the existing prison sites, together with the examination of other options, including the use of the former borstal at Millisle (Lisnevin). If, at the end of the review, the use of Lisnevin is considered worthwhile, NIPS will ensure that the process is a transparent one, including early discussions with local representatives.

In addition to developing contingency arrangements, NIPS is also currently developing a refreshed Prison Estates Strategy which will outline proposals focused on meeting the diverse needs of our growing prison population.

Body Searches of Prisoners at Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether the scanner which would remove the need for body searches of prisoners at Maghaberry Prison has been installed; and, if so, when it was installed and how much it cost.

(AQW 4893/11-15)

Mr Ford: The agreement of 12 August 2010 led to the installation of a separated prisoner search facility with the use of X ray specialist search equipment and the introduction of a BOSS Chair. This facility has been operational since November 2010 and has removed the requirement for routine Full Body Searches within Maghaberry. However there is still a requirement for Full Body Searches on entry and exit.

The cost of the specialist search equipment and Boss Chairs installed in Maghaberry was £35,768.

Small Claims Civil Processing Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice how many Information Missing Claims were returned by staff of the Small Claims Civil Processing Centre in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4920/11-15)

Mr Ford: Information is not available in the format sought. The table below details the number of small claims applications which were returned for query and the number which were returned for query more than once. Figures are also provided on the number of applications returned for query but which remain outstanding.

The majority of small claims applications are returned because of incorrect fees or missing information such as failure to specify the amount claimed, failure to include the full details of the parties or failure to date or sign the application.

Small Claims Applications	2008	2009	2010	Total
Cases lodged	13542	13902	13269	40713
Cases Returned for Query	2867	2196	1742	6805
Cases Returned for Query more than once	320	171	200	691
Cases Returned for Query which remain outstanding	203	122	115	440

I am satisfied that the current Small Claims Guide provides comprehensive and clear instructions on the process for submitting a small claims application. Given that the most recent revision of the Guide was carried out in July 2011, I have no plans to commission a further review at this time.

Guide to the Small Claims Court

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the clarity of the Guide to the Small Claims Court in Northern Ireland; and whether there are any plans to review or amend this guide. **(AQW 4923/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Information is not available in the format sought. The table below details the number of small claims applications which were returned for query and the number which were returned for query more than once. Figures are also provided on the number of applications returned for query but which remain outstanding.

The majority of small claims applications are returned because of incorrect fees or missing information such as failure to specify the amount claimed, failure to include the full details of the parties or failure to date or sign the application.

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Small Claims Civil Processing Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last three years, how many Information Missing Claims that were identified and returned by the Small Claims Civil Processing Centre were not returned to it with the relevant missing information. **(AQW 4926/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Information is not available in the format sought. The table below details the number of small claims applications which were returned for query and the number which were returned for query more than once. Figures are also provided on the number of applications returned for query but which remain outstanding.

The majority of small claims applications are returned because of incorrect fees or missing information such as failure to specify the amount claimed, failure to include the full details of the parties or failure to date or sign the application.

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Cases Returned for Query more than once	320	171	200	691
Cases Returned for Query which remain outstanding	203	122	115	440

I am satisfied that the current Small Claims Guide provides comprehensive and clear instructions on the process for submitting a small claims application. Given that the most recent revision of the Guide was carried out in July 2011, I have no plans to commission a further review at this time.

Historical Enquiries Team

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Justice, since its creation, how many enquiries by the Historical Enquiries Team have been carried out on behalf of families from the (i) Protestant community; and (ii) Catholic community.

(AQW 4942/11-15)

Mr Ford: I am advised by the HET that they do not record the information you have requested regarding the community background of families.

Damage Caused by Republican Separated Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4030/11-15, for a breakdown of the £1,007,000 cost of the damage caused by Republican separated prisoners.

(AQW 4966/11-15)

Mr Ford: A full breakdown of the £1,007,000 cost of the damage caused by republican separated prisoners, during the two separate periods of protest, is shown below:

First, in relation to damage caused during protests in 2010, the total cost incurred was £506,680, broken down as:

■ Damage to recreation room on 4 April 2010:	£ 17,000
■ Cell damage on 6 May 2010:	£ 13,500
■ Cleaning cost of protest:	£187,153
■ Refurbishment of Roe three and four landings following suspension of protest on 12 August 2010:	£141,317
■ Responding to the protest also resulted in additional staffing costs of:	£147,710

Second, in relation to damage caused as a result of the protests in 2011, disclosed in AQW 3777/11-15, the total cost is £500,320, broken down as:

■ Cell damage on 6 May 2011:	£ 8,800
■ Cell damage on 30 June 2011:	£ 5,600
■ Cell damage on 1 July 2011:	£ 6,400
■ Fire damage to recreation room on 1 July 2011:	£199,100

- Cleaning cost of ongoing protest in the financial year to date: £157,005
- Responding to the protest has also resulted in additional staffing costs of: £123,415

Crime Against Older and Vulnerable People

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the commitment in the draft Programme for Government to tackle crime against older and vulnerable people, for their assessment of mandatory sentences; and whether he anticipates their introduction.

(AQW 5050/11-15)

Mr Ford: Sentencing in the individual case is, and should remain, a matter for the judiciary. In making sentencing decisions, the judiciary are guided by sentencing guidelines, which indicate that courts should treat the age and vulnerability of the victim as an aggravating factor when assessing the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The Lord Chief Justice has recently announced a priority list of areas where sentencing guidance for the judiciary will be developed. The principles underlying sentencing, expressed in this guidance, will include attacks on the vulnerable, including older people, as an aggravating factor in sentencing decisions.

Under the Programme for Government my Department is committed to tackling crime and fear of crime against older and vulnerable people, which will be part of the Community Safety Strategy to be published in the New Year. Alongside this work, I am currently considering a range of potential mechanisms by which greater transparency, consistency and understanding of sentencing practice might be delivered in a manner that will promote public confidence. I hope to announce proposals on the way forward in the near future.

Republican Separated Prisoner Protest

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4025/11-15, whether he receives regular briefings on the on-going Republican separated prisoner protest; and whether he will ascertain why the protest is continuing despite the prisoners demands having been met.

(AQW 5059/11-15)

Mr Ford: I do receive regular briefings on the on-going republican separated prisoner protest.

Whilst much of the Agreement of 12 August 2010 has been implemented, including those elements relating to search arrangements, it is not correct that all prisoner demands have been met.

I would refer the member to the previous response; AQW 2902/11-15 issued on 20 October. That position remains unchanged.

Staff Mileage Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Justice to detail the cost to his Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 5104/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice came into existence on 12th April 2010. Details of expenditure before that date are a matter for the previous department.

In the 2010/11 financial year the Department, excluding agencies and non departmental public bodies, spend £59,758 on staff mileage claims.

Prison Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what precautions are in place to protect prison staff against infection and bacteria from the Republican separated prisoners who are refusing to wash, particularly when transferring them to and from court.

(AQW 5113/11-15)

Mr Ford: No separated prisoners are refusing to wash. All separated prisoners shower and change into clean clothes before leaving the residential landing. This mitigates the likelihood of any contamination, bacterial or otherwise, being spread to other areas.

Staff working in the relevant areas are provided with Personal Protective Equipment and the areas are regularly cleaned by appropriately trained industrial cleaners.

Regular inspections are carried out by an Environmental Health Consultant to ensure suitable hygiene standards are maintained.

Maghaberry Prison

Mr Irwin asked the Minister of Justice to explain his decision to (i) suspend visits to HMP Maghaberry on 25 and 26 November; and (ii) award all prisoners £5 in phone credit; and for an estimate of the cost that will be associated with the dissident republican protest due to be staged over the two dates.

(AQW 5123/11-15)

Mr Ford: Visits were suspended on 25 and 26 November as the Governor of Maghaberry Prison considered it would not be possible to guarantee that it could provide safe access to all visitors coming onto the prison estate, due to the protest by dissident republicans outside the prison.

All prisoners were given £5 phone credit in order to allow them to keep in touch with their families while visits were cancelled for the duration of the protest. The cost of phone credit provided was paid from the Prisoners' Amenity fund and not from public funds.

The estimated cost of the joint operation between NIPS and PSNI to deal with the protest is £222,866.

Remand Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many current remand prisoners were initially granted bail but have since had this revoked because of they breached their release conditions.

(AQW 5128/11-15)

Mr Ford: As at 28 November 2011, 76 defendants were on remand in custody as a result of bail revocation following a breach of bail conditions.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how much funding his Department has provided for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5131/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice came into being on the 12 April 2010, since that time my Department has provided £25,000 funding in each financial year towards the promotion and establishment of Neighbourhood Watch in Northern Ireland. It is worth noting the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Policing Board also provide funding for Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

At present funding for Neighbourhood Watch is available to Community Safety Partnerships, District Policing Partnerships and local Neighbourhood Policing Teams to enhance and promote Neighbourhood Watch at a local level.

Community Safety Warden Schemes

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice, given that older peoples' fear of crime is higher than the level of crime against them, for his assessment of whether the funding of Community Safety Warden schemes is a better option than increasing the funding for Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

(AQW 5132/11-15)

Mr Ford: The safety of older and vulnerable people, and ensuring that they can live free from the fear of crime, is a priority for my Department.

Crimes against older and vulnerable members of the community, whilst relatively rare, can have a disproportionate impact on the victim and wider community.

The forthcoming Community Safety Strategy will include proposals to address fear of crime amongst older and vulnerable people, and the draft Programme for Government, includes a commitment to tackle crime and fear of crime against older and vulnerable people by more effective and appropriate sentences and other measures.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are currently operated in residential areas and are run by volunteer co-ordinators. Community Safety Wardens schemes operate in targeted areas where crime and anti-social behaviour have been identified as problems and are staffed by paid employees.

Both Neighbourhood Watch and Community Safety Warden schemes have been demonstrated to improve feelings of safety within the communities in which they operate and, as such, both schemes have a different, but equally important, role to play in contributing to community safety and reducing the fear of crime.

At present I do not intend to change the funding available to either of these schemes.

Decision to Make Planters at Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4131/11-15, when the decision was taken to make the planters; and when the work began and was completed.

(AQW 5159/11-15)

Mr Ford: The decision to make planters was taken in July 2010 and work commenced within the same month. The work was completed in November 2011.

Electronic Tagging

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the effectiveness of electronic tagging; and whether there is evidence that it prevents reoffending.

(AQW 5169/11-15)

Mr Ford: Since April 2009 courts have had the ability to impose a curfew with an electronic monitoring requirement as a condition of bail, community sentence or post-custodial licence. An electronic tag monitors an individual's compliance with a curfew condition which, together with other conditions imposed by the court, is intended principally to enhance levels of public protection.

Whilst the wearing of an electronic tag cannot of course prevent a determined offender from committing further offences, it is a very useful tool in confirming their presence at a designated address during the curfew period and in identifying curfew breaches which might otherwise have gone undetected.

An electronic monitoring requirement is rarely the only condition imposed on an individual by the court, making it difficult to definitively assess its effectiveness in preventing reoffending in isolation from other bail, sentence or licence conditions aimed at achieving the same effect. However, it is an effective technology which has been embraced positively by the judiciary and criminal justice agencies and is helping to limit the potential for reoffending whilst the individual is subject to an electronic monitoring requirement.

People who Failed to Surrender to Custody

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured against people who failed to surrender to custody after being released on bail in each of the last two years, broken down by court division.

(AQW 5170/11-15)

Mr Ford: Failing to surrender to custody offences may be prosecuted under Article 5(2) Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

The table below gives the number convicted for the calendar years 2007 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVICTED FOR FAILING TO SURRENDER TO CUSTODY OFFENCES BY COURT DIVISION 2007-2008

Court division	2007	2008
Antrim	0	0
Ards	0	0
Armagh and South Down	1	1
Belfast	1	0
Craigavon and Lisburn	0	0
Fermanagh and Tyrone	2	0
Londonderry	0	0
Total	4	1

It is particularly important on this occasion to note that the Department's data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included. In practice, failing to surrender to custody is unlikely to be the principal offence charged.

Criminal Trials

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many criminal trials have been aborted in each of the last three years because of the admission of inadmissible evidence or another procedural irregularity; (ii) how many of these were the consequence of something said or done by (a) the prosecution; (b) the defence; or (c) the judge; and (iii) what was the total cost of these trials in each year.

(AQW 5181/11-15)

Mr Ford: The reasons recorded for an aborted trial do not always assign responsibility to a particular individual or organisation and therefore it is not possible to categorize the reasons as outlined in the question.

The number and reasons recorded for aborted¹ trials are set out in the table below:

Year	Total	Reason Recorded for Aborted Trial
2008	7	Jurors knew prosecution witnesses.
		Judge recused himself.
		Prejudicial information raised during Defence cross-examination of prosecution witness.

¹ Figures do not include cases where the defendants changed their plea to guilty or pleaded guilty to a lesser charge on the day of trial.

Year	Total	Reason Recorded for Aborted Trial
2008	7	Juror unavailability.
		Prejudicial information raised by Defence counsel during cross examination of prosecution witness.
		Juror knew father of injured party.
		Prejudicial evidence of prosecution witness during evidence in chief.
2009	10	Reliability of prosecution witness evidence.
		Prosecution witness indicated that his answer to a Defence counsel question during cross examination would prejudice the defendant's trial.
		Witness not available.
		Prejudicial evidence of prosecution witness during evidence in chief.
		A number of jurors indicated to Judge that they had outside knowledge of certain matters relating to the case.
		Further police investigation required.
		Prejudicial evidence against injured party raised by Defence counsel during cross examination.
		Insufficient jurors available.
		Juror knew legal representatives.
		Matter discussed in Chambers.
2010	6	Defence application for further disclosure from Police Ombudsman.
		Matter discussed in Chambers.
		Prosecution witness discussing case outside court precincts.
		Further police investigation required as new evidence raised.
		Insufficient jurors available.
		Juror knew defence witness.

It is not possible to provide the total costs of these trials without an extensive manual exercise which would incur disproportionate cost.

Temporary Release of Prisoners

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice what procedures are in place for the temporary release of prisoners who have experienced a family bereavement.

(AQW 5197/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Northern Ireland Prison Service's Compassionate Temporary Release (CTR) Scheme is operated under Rule 27 of The Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (NI) 1995, which allows for the Temporary Release of a prisoner for any special purpose, including for bereavement, subject to any conditions. Decisions on applications take full account of the European Convention on Human Rights Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life). Applications can be considered in the case of the death or critical illness of a member of the prisoner's immediate family.

In the case of the death of a member of the prisoner's immediate family, a period of temporary release up to a maximum of 72 hours may be granted.

In some cases, prisoners granted escorted CTR under the scheme to visit terminally ill relatives, may be subsequently refused permission to attend the funeral of that relative on the grounds of risk to the escorting staff; risk to the prisoner; or risks relating to the nature or location of the funeral service and/or interment. In such cases, an application to have a graveside visit at a later date will be considered. Such graveside visits will be risk assessed and if risks are identified they may be reduced by scheduling the visit on a date and time of the Prison Service's choosing and without prior notice to the prisoner.

Prison Officers Aged 60 Years Old and Over

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prison officers aged 60 years old and over who have not had regular medical examinations to establish their fitness for work.

(AQW 5198/11-15)

Mr Ford: There are currently 92 officers over age 60. Regular medical examinations are not required for prison officers aged 60 years old and over.

Prison Officers

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of prison officers aged 60 years old and over, broken down by age; and how many of these prison officers, in each age group, qualify for the enhanced pension and lump sum payment under the terms of the recently announced redundancy package.

(AQW 5199/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below details the 91 individuals aged 60 and over who are eligible for the staff exit package. None of these individuals qualify for pension enhancement under the terms of the redundancy package. They will however receive their pension and lump sum entitlement.

Age	Number of Eligible Staff
60	20
61	18
62	16
63	9
64	10
65+	18

Spend in West Belfast

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Justice to detail his Department's, and its arm's-length bodies', spend in the West Belfast constituency since May 2010; and the proposed spend for each year until 2015.

(AQW 5225/11-15)

Mr Ford: The Department of Justice, and its arm's length bodies, do not record expenditure or planned expenditure in a way that can be allocated to a specific constituency, such as West Belfast.

However, the following areas of the Department have identified specific expenditure in West Belfast for 2011/12, (figures are rounded):

- the State Pathologist Department, based on the Royal Victoria Hospital site (£2,300,000);
- projects run by the Youth Justice Agency (£50,000);
- maintenance and operation of interface structures (£50,000);
- Probation Board office on the Andersonstown Road (£500,000); and
- Probation Board community development funding (£120,000).

Prison Service Staff

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many Prison Service staff are currently suspended from duty as a result of the situation in the Prisoner Assessment Unit; and what are their job titles.

(AQW 5229/11-15)

Mr Ford: No prison service staff are currently suspended from duty as a result of the situation in the Prisoner Assessment Unit.

Republican Separated Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, given that the supporters of the Republican separated prisoners' protest have been quoted as glorifying the financial cost to the authorities of the protest, whether he will cut back on the expenditure on these prisoners, particularly when property is wilfully damaged.

(AQW 5230/11-15)

Mr Ford: The protest of 25-26 November will not impact on prisoner expenditure.

Republican Separated Prisoners

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for an estimate of the cost of providing additional staff cover, security and repairing of the damage caused during the Republican separated prisoners' protest from 25 to 27 November 2011.

(AQW 5231/11-15)

Mr Ford: The estimated cost associated with the protest held outside Maghaberry Prison on 25 and 26 November is £217,911. This was a joint operation between Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Proposed Bowling Green at Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4402/11-15, why cultivation work in preparation for a bowling green was carried out when authorisation for the green had not yet been given or a costing estimate sought.

(AQW 5232/11-15)

Mr Ford: Permission was given for cultivating the piece of ground as the work in question would have been necessary for any of the options being considered. The preparatory work was carried out by a prisoner work party, partially to provide additional outside vocational activity.

AccessNI Disclosures

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many times, in each year since the introduction of the scheme, have AccessNI disclosures been successfully challenged and reissued; and (ii) in the case of an incorrect disclosure being discovered, whether a new disclosure is sent out with an acknowledgement of the mistake or an apology to the person concerned.

(AQW 5246/11-15)

Mr Ford:

- (i) For the period 1 April 2009 – 31 October 2011 AccessNI received 347,948 applications for disclosure. In 678 cases, AccessNI has upheld disputes from applicants in respect of information contained within Disclosure Certificates and issued revised Certificates. The 678 cases can be categorised as follows:

	Number of disclosures processed	Total number of disputes upheld	Total number upheld against ANI	Total number upheld against Police Services
2009/10	146,885	298	217	81
2010/11	127,126	242	174	68
2011/12	73,937 (to end Oct 2011)	138	103	35

Information for 2008/09 is not available.

- (ii) A new disclosure certificate is issued with an acknowledgement of, and apology for, the error in respect of cases upheld against AccessNI (494 cases). Police Services are responsible for issuing letters in respect of any errors made specifically by them (184).

AccessNI has a number of systems to ensure that as far as possible the certificates that are issued are accurate. Staff receive appropriate training and this is refreshed at regular intervals. Work is checked on a random basis and any issues found are brought to the attention of staff.

Definition of Rural Crime

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department has any plans to reconsider the definition of rural crime, given that urban crime is defined as Greater Belfast and rural crime is defined as the rest of Northern Ireland.

(AQW 5253/11-15)

Mr Ford: The definition of rural and urban crime is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Police Station at Dungiven, Co. Londonderry

Mr Campbell asked the Minister of Justice on how many occasions the Police Station at Dungiven, Co. Londonderry has been open to members of the public in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5338/11-15)

Mr Ford: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Homophobic Attacks: Foyle

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of homophobic attacks in the Foyle area of G District in each year since 2007; and (ii) the number of convictions for such an offence.

(AQW 5366/11-15)

Mr Ford: The table below gives the number of homophobic motivated crimes recorded by the PSNI in the Foyle area of District G, for the financial years 2006/07 to 2010/11.

Recorded crime with a homophobic motivation for Foyle area of G District, 2006/07 to 2010/11.

Financial Year	Number of Homophobic Crimes Recorded
2006/07	7
2007/08	22
2008/09	8
2009/10	10
2010/11	16

It is not possible to provide conviction data on homophobic crime as conviction datasets do not distinguish homophobic offences from other violence against the person, property and other offences.

Attacks on Pensioners in the Foyle Area of G District

Mr Eastwood asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of attacks on pensioners in the Foyle area of G District in each year since 2007; and (ii) the number of convictions for such an offence. **(AQW 5367/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The table below gives the number of violent crimes against persons aged 65+ as recorded by the PSNI in the Foyle area of District G, for the years 2007 to 2011.

RECORDED CRIME WHERE THE VICTIM IS AGED 65+YEARS, FOYLE POLICING AREA

Year	Violent offences ¹
2007	26
2008	28
2009	38
2010	24
1st Jan-31st Oct 2011	23

Source: PSNI, Statistics Branch

1 Violent offences include violence against the person, sexual offences and robberies.

Please Note: Figures from 1st April 2011 are provisional and may be subject to change

It is not possible to provide conviction data on crimes against pensioners as conviction datasets do not hold information on victims and cannot distinguish them from other violence against the person and other offences.

Convictions for Blackmail and Demanding Money with Menaces

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions have been secured for (i) blackmail; and (ii) demanding money with menaces in each of the last three years, broken down by court division. **(AQW 5447/11-15)**

Mr Ford: Blackmail offences may be prosecuted under Section 20 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969.

The table below gives the number convicted for the calendar years 2006 to 2008 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONVICTED FOR BLACKMAIL BY COURT DIVISION 2006-2008

Court division	2006	2007	2008
Antrim			
Ards	3		3
Armagh and South Down		1	
Belfast	6	7	10
Craigavon and Lisburn		2	1
Fermanagh and Tyrone			1
Londonderry			1
Total	9	10	16

Conviction datasets cannot distinguish the act of demanding money with menaces as it would be prosecuted under the offences of robbery or blackmail.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

Data for 2006 should not be directly compared with data from 2007 to 2008 as the data sets are sourced from different systems.

Provision of TVs in Prison

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice (i) what is the current policy on the provision of a TV in prison cells, and whether this varies when a prisoner is on (a) an enhanced; (b) a standard; or (c) a basic regime; (ii) how this differs from the situation over the last five years; and (iii) if changes were made on the policy relating to TVs in cells, when, and why, this change took place.

(AQW 5452/11-15)

Mr Ford: With regard to televisions the current policy as detailed in the PREPS Corporate Framework published in June 2009 states: 'Prisoners on Standard and Enhanced regime level are eligible for access to in cell television. Access to televisions is a strong incentive to good behaviour and regime participation, and can aid good order and control by occupying prisoners' time and reducing boredom and tension. It also helps to maintain contact with the outside world and with current affairs.'

With regard to prisoners on the Basic regime the current PREPS Framework states; 'Prisoners on the Basic privilege level will not have access to an in cell television but will be allowed to have access to a radio or other suitable equipment.' In the past, Governors have occasionally exercised discretion granting a television to prisoners on basic regime, for example, at times when there were ongoing lockdowns with significantly reduced times out of cell.

At present there is an ongoing review of the PREPS Corporate Framework; an addendum was issued on 25 October 2011 in advance of publication, which provides Governors in charge with the discretion to provide televisions to prisoners on Basic Regime level. This has particular relevance to the management of Safer Custody issues, particularly for those prisoners who are indetified as vulnerable.

Where prisoners choose to have a television in their cell they pay a rental fee out of their prisoner earnings. Prisoners may also purchase a television from a range of approved and specified models through the establishment's tuck shop.

Prior to the introduction of the PREPS Corporate Framework in June 2009, televisions were issued to prisoners in accordance with local arrangements for each prison establishment.

Prison Staff: Notices of Threat

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice how many notices of threat have been issued to staff in each prison in each of the last five years to date.

(AQW 5453/11-15)

Mr Ford: In the last 5 years Northern Ireland Prison Headquarters, has issued the following number of threat notices:

2011	34
2010	40
2009	11
2008	7
2007	4

Prisoners: Mobile Phones

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Justice to outline the policy on prisoners having mobile phones.

(AQW 5455/11-15)

Mr Ford: Prisoners are not permitted to have or use mobile phones in prison other than in the following circumstances.

A mobile phone, belonging to a prisoner, may be held in the prisoner's property and accessed for use on pre-release home leave or on release as part of a pre-release scheme. Prisoners may also request the use a pre-programmed "restricted access" mobile phone or headset for the sole purpose of contacting the Samaritans. The headset or phone is withdrawn after use.

PSNI: Pay

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice whether the PSNI has delegated authority on pay.

(AQW 5484/11-15)

Mr Ford: Police officer pay is negotiated on a UK-wide basis.

The terms and conditions of police staff are in line with those of the NICS.

All changes to PSNI rates of pay are subject to the approval of the Minister for Finance and Personnel.

Department for Regional Development

Proposed Residents' Parking Schemes

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the proposed residents' parking schemes.

(AQW 4744/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): My Department's Roads Service has recently completed a reworking of the economic appraisal that was used to calculate the level of charge for the permit. Once the necessary approvals for the appraisal are received, work will recommence on a number of schemes already being considered. These are in the Lower Malone and Stranmillis Road Areas of Belfast, the Bogside area of Londonderry and the Massereene Street area of Antrim.

The resumption of work on these schemes will finalise the consultation with local residents and the individual scheme design which, in turn, will allow Roads Service to make the legislation required, to introduce such schemes.

Public Appointments

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

(AQW 4754/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The table below details the information requested in respect of public appointments made by Minister's for Regional Development since May 2007.

Public Body	Name	Position	Date Of Appointment
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr David Geoffrey Rodway	Member	06/08/2007
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Cllr David Hugh Browne	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Cllr Tom Hartley	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Noel Brady	Member	01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Peter Curistan	Member	01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Peter Dixon	Member	01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Ronald Moncrieff Foreman	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Alban Maginness	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Steven Pollard	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Samuel Ross Reed	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr David Geoffrey Rodway	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr David George Russell	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Ms Mary McMahon	Member	Reappointed 01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Dr Robert Trefor Campbell	Member	01/01/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Cllr James Patrick Convery	Member	22/07/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Cllr Daniel (Danny) Lavery	Member	22/07/2008
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Patrick (Cathal) Mullaghan	Member	22/07/2010
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	Mr Leonard (Len) John Patrick O'Hagan	Chairman	Reappointed 01/01/2011

Public Body	Name	Position	Date Of Appointment
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Mr Garvan Emmett O'Doherty	Chairman	Reappointed 08/02/2010
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Mr Robert (Roy) Gerard Devine	Member	Reappointed 08/02/2011
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Mr Joseph (Joe) McKeeever	Member	Reappointed 08/02/2011
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Mr Peter Sheridan	Member	08/02/2011
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Ms Dolores O'Reilly	Member	08/02/2011
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Cllr Eliza McLaughlin	Member	17/10/2011
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Ald Maurice Devenney	Member	17/10/2011
Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners	Ald Joe Millar	Member	17/10/2011
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Cllr William James Burns	Member	01/10/2007
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Cllr Michael James Ruane	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2007
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Kieran Campbell	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2007
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Gerard McGivern	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2007
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr James (Jim) Robert Stewart	Chairman	Reappointed 01/10/2007
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mrs Josephine O'Hare	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2007
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Seán Terence Hogan	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2008
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mrs Debonaire (Bonnie) Nora Needham Horsman	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2008
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Captain William (Bill) Luney	Member	Reappointed 01/10/2008
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Peter Desmond Fitzsimmons	Member	02/04/2010
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Brian Robert Reid	Member	01/10/2010
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Alan Bertram Stephens	Member	01/10/2010
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Cllr Michael Carr	Member	15/11/2010
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	Mr Peter Desmond Fitzsimmons	Chairman	01/10/2011
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr John Doran	Member	Reappointed 01/07/2008

Public Body	Name	Position	Date Of Appointment
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr Sean Terence Hogan	Member	01/07/2008
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr Gerry Lennon	Member	Reappointed 01/07/2008
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr Samuel (John) Trethowan	Member	01/07/2008
NI Transport Holding Company	Mrs Angela Philomena Coffey	Member	01/07/2008
NI Transport Holding Company	Mrs Ruth Laird	Member	Reappointed 01/07/2008
NI Transport Holding Company	Mrs Veronica Margaret Palmer	Chairman	Reappointed 01/07/2008
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr Samuel (John) Trethowan	Chairman	01/07/2011
NI Transport Holding Company	Mrs Angela Philomena Coffey	Member	Reappointed 01/07/2011
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr James Brown	Member	01/10/2011
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr Anthony Depledge	Member	01/10/2011
NI Transport Holding Company	Mr Francis (Frank) Anthony Hewitt	Member	01/10/2011
NI Transport Holding Company	Ms Sharon O'Connor	Member	01/10/2011
NI Water Ltd	Mr Declan Gormley	Member	08/07/2008
NI Water Ltd	Mr Donald (Don) Price	Member	08/07/2008
NI Water Ltd	Mr John Ballard	Member	Reappointed 01/04/2009
NI Water Ltd	Mr Chris Mellor	Chairman	Reappointed 01/04/2009
NI Water Ltd	Mrs Ruth Thompson	Member	Reappointed 01/04/2009
NI Water Ltd	Mr Peter Bunting	Member (Interim)	21/06/2010
NI Water Ltd	Mr Lawson McDonald	Member (Interim)	21/06/2010
NI Water Ltd	Mr Kevin Steele	Member (Interim)	21/06/2010
NI Water Ltd	Mr Máirtn Ó'Muilleoir	Member (Interim)	30/06/2010
NI Water Ltd	Mr Padraic White	Chairman (Interim)	09/08/2010
NI Water Ltd	Mr Sean Terence Hogan	Chairman	24/03/2011
NI Water Ltd	Mr Donald (Don) Price	Member	Reappointed 17/08/2011
NI Water Ltd	Mr John Rae	Member	17/08/2011

Public Body	Name	Position	Date Of Appointment
NI Water Ltd	Mr Deep Sagar	Member	17/08/2011
NI Water Ltd	Mr James (Jim) Robert Stewart	Member	17/08/2011
NI Water Ltd	Mr Kevin Steele	Member	17/08/2011

The Private Streets (NI) Order 1980

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development, with regard to The Private Streets (NI) Order 1980, (i) over the last five years, how many developers have had their bond invoked in order to ensure that road works within private estates were completed; (ii) how many requests Roads Service received from residents or companies during this period to invoke the bond of a developer; and (iii) to list the relevant housing estates.

(AQW 4776/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, over the last five years, 60 developers have had their bond invoked in order to ensure that road works within private estates were completed.

I am unable to provide information on how many requests Roads Service received from residents or companies during this period to invoke the bond of a developer, as this information is not held in a readily accessible format.

REGARDING RELEVANT HOUSING ESTATES, I CAN ADVISE THAT THESE ARE DETAILED IN THE TABLE BELOW.

List of Developments

- Bramblewood, Crumlin;
- Bushford, Antrim;
- Millmount, Randalstown;
- Kirk Gardens, Clough;
- Galdanagh Drive, Clough;
- Regents Park, Larne;
- Forthill, Ballycarry;
- Lindara, Larne;
- Craigstown Meadows, Magheramorne;
- Circular Road, Larne;
- The Brambles, Dervock;
- Moorfields, Ballybogey;
- Mill Cottages, Stranocum;
- Jubilee Court, Ballymoney;
- Agherton Hall, Portstewart;
- Knockbracken Drive, Coleraine;
- Glenara Woods, Castlerow;
- Hillmans Way, Coleraine;
- Ballywillan Crescent, Portrush;
- Sheperds Glen, Londonderry;
- Pine Trees, Londonderry;
- Upper Galliagh, Londonderry;
- Glenvale, Londonderry;
- Summer Meadows, Londonderry;
- Clarendon Manor, Londonderry;
- Willowbrook Park, Bangor;
- Gibsons Green, Bangor;
- Gobrana Lodge, Glenavy;
- Kestral Park, Bangor;
- Balmoral Square, Bangor;
- Mill Avenue/Wolfhill Manor, Belfast;
- Rodgers Bay, Carrickfergus;
- The Beeches, Hightown Road, Mallusk;
- Prospect Loanen, Carrickfergus;
- Laurel Hill, Ballycraig Road, Newtownabbey;
- Ballysessy Close, Glenavy;
- Town Parks, Woodburn Road, Carrickfergus (2); Edenvale Avenue/Copeland Road, Carrickfergus;
- Edenmore Court, Whiteabbey;

- Bashfordlands, Carrickfergus;
- Westlands, Portavogie;
- White Church Meadows, Ballywalter;
- Rock Hill, Donaghadee;
- The Brambles, Stump Road, Ballywalter;
- Seaview Court, Portavogie;
- Sycamore Court, Drumaness;
- Malone Heights, Downpatrick;
- Hunters Mill, Downpatrick;
- Tyrella View, Downpatrick;
- The Demesne, Downpatrick;
- Bunsliebhe, Mullaghbawn;
- Knockdarragh, Fullerton Road, Newry;
- Grange Road, Kilkeel;
- Edenkennedy Way Armagh;
- Brookvale Armagh;
- Mount Pleasant Court Armagh;
- Mowhan Meadows Armagh;
- Riverview Court Banbridge;
- Steps Road, Craigavon;
- Bridgeford Meadows, Craigavon;
- Broomhill, Craigavon;
- Selshion Grove, Craigavon;
- Oakfields, Craigavon;
- Keelmount Grange, Craigavon;
- Silverwood Leaves, Craigavon.

External Consultants on Road Projects

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost to his Department of using external consultants on road projects in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4807/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's expenditure on the use of external consultants on roads projects in each of the last three financial years is set out in the table below:

Financial Year	Expenditure £
2008-09	226,314
2009-10	140,860
2010-11	117,141

Salt and Grit Supplies

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development how much it cost his Department to obtain the salt and grit supplies for this coming winter.

(AQW 4808/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service purchases grit and road salt through a competitive tender process. For reasons of commercial sensitivity and in the interests of securing best value for money in future competitions, I am unable to disclose the cost of obtaining salt and grit supplies for this coming winter.

Upgrade of the A8 Road

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development what proportion of the 50 million euros from the Irish Government towards road improvements has been earmarked for the upgrade of the A8 road.

(AQW 4811/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As you are aware, the A5 and A8 dual carriageway schemes have been taken forward as a result of an agreement between the Executive and the Irish Government. The Irish Government's funding commitment of £400 million was to have been paid to the Northern Ireland consolidated fund,

based on progress against milestones on the A5, which had been agreed through the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC). Funding for the projects was allocated to the Department through the normal budgetary process.

At the NSMC Plenary Meeting held on Friday 18 November 2011, it was noted that provision of further funding by the Irish Government for progression of the A5 and A8 projects is being deferred and that, in this regard, the Irish Government will provide £25 million per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards the project.

The relevant Departments will now prepare a new funding and implementation plan for the projects, for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting, with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

I would anticipate that the funding arrangements will remain as outlined above.

NI Water: Plumbing Inspections

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the plumbing inspections that are being carried out by NI Water in new housing developments and domestic connections.

(AQW 4812/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (NI) 2009 are designed to protect consumers and the environment from poor water quality, unnecessary waste, misuse and the contamination of wholesome water supplies. All water systems must comply with the Regulations and can be subject to inspections. Water Regulation inspections, formerly known as Plumbing inspections, are carried out on a risk based approach determined by a property's water use and the potential risk of it contaminating the public water supply should any back flow or erroneous cross connections occur. There are five categories of risk from lowest to highest, and property types are allocated to a category based on national guidance. In line with the water companies in GB, NIW arranges water regulation inspections across all categories but places greater emphasis on the higher risk categories.

Domestic properties in new housing developments are normally classified in a low risk category and since January 2010 around 17% of all inspections were undertaken on this type of property to ensure that designers, developers, installers and owners of plumbing systems and fittings within properties comply with their legal obligations under the Regulations.

NIW publishes an annual return on its water regulations inspections, activities and findings in its Drinking Water Quality Report.

Water Contamination Incident in Ballymoney

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the recent water contamination incident in Ballymoney, (i) what was the contaminant; (ii) how did the contamination occur; (iii) whether there was more than one incident of contamination and, if so, how many; (iv) why it took so long to resolve the matter; (v) what compensation is anticipated for affected consumers; and (vi) when last had the contaminated supply pipe been subjected to a sterilisation test witnessed by an inspector, and had been issued a certificate of approval by NI Water.

(AQW 4814/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that a rigorous investigation was undertaken following the first indication of water quality problems in Ballymoney and (i) early indications are that soil and leaf material caused the contamination. (ii) Water main work was being undertaken in the area as part of the £90 million water main rehabilitation programme. During the course of the work a number of pipe connections had to be undertaken which coincided with very heavy rainfall and this may possibly have contributed to a small amount of excavated material entering the new water mains. (iii) There were no other water quality incidents in the Ballymoney area at the time. (iv) NIW must contact the Public Health Agency in all cases of water quality problems, and following discussions with them it was decided that, as a precautionary measure, customers in the area should be advised

to boil water for drinking and cooking purposes. Water quality was monitored daily until two consecutive days of clear samples was achieved. The problem took longer than expected to resolve because of the length and complexity of the local water distribution system which extends to over 55 miles in a mainly rural area. (v) NIW does not anticipate that compensation will be payable for this incident. (vi) All new mains are sterilised by chlorine addition and flushed through following installation. Samples are lifted from each pipe to ensure that there are no contamination issues. This was the case during the Ballymoney incident and all new pipework was sterilised and sampled until it was satisfactory. When the new pipework was joined up with the existing pipework in the area, the contamination occurred, as described, and quality control check samples failed.

NI Water: Plumbing Inspections

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development how many plumbing inspections for new housing developments, on supply pipes of less than 32mm diameter, have been carried out by NI Water in each NI Water region since 2007; and how this compares with the situation under the Water Service. **(AQW 4816/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that accurate electronic records of Water Regulation inspections (formerly known as plumbing inspections) are only available from January 2010, following the introduction of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (NI) 2009. Since then NIW has undertaken 165 inspections on supply pipes of less than 32 millimetre diameter in new housing developments.

Prior to this, no accurate records of inspection activity under former water fittings regulations were held by NIW or its predecessor Water Service, and NIW is therefore unable to provide the comparison requested.

NI Water: Pressure and Sterilisation Tests

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) whether pressure and sterilisation tests have been carried out and witnessed by an inspector on all supplies greater than 32mm in each NI Water region; (ii) how many certificates for approval have been issued by NI Water for supply pipes greater than 32mm by NI Water in each region since 2007; and (iii) for an assessment of how many connections have been made to the mains water supply in each region without these checks taking place. **(AQW 4818/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that since its establishment on 1 April 2007 (i) pressure and sterilisation tests have been carried out on two supply systems greater than 32 millimetre diameter. (ii) NIW has not issued certificates for any supply pipe connection. (iii) 312 connections for supplies greater than 32 millimetre diameter have been made to the public water supply system. It is the responsibility of customers to comply with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (NI) 2009, which provides guidance and recommendations for flushing and/or disinfection of private supply pipes. NIW seeks to ensure the integrity of the public water supply by installing double check valves on each connection over 32 millimetre diameter.

Grange Road, Ballymena

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development what works Roads Service (i) has carried out on; and (ii) has planned for, the Grange Road, Ballymena in 2011/12. **(AQW 4890/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: I would remind the Member that information on completed and proposed roads schemes for the current financial year can be found in Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from my Department's internet site at the following web address:

http://www.drndni.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.

Regional Development Strategy

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Regional Development, given that Enniskillen has been identified as a Sub-Regional Centre in the Regional Development Strategy, to outline his Department's vision and plans for the town.

(AQW 4896/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Regional Development Strategy provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. The purpose of identifying key centres is to provide strategic guidance to the public and private sector, including local government, when developing their plans and policies. It is not a bidding document nor a fixed blueprint or master plan for any particular settlement.

When responsibility for the preparation of local development plans and development schemes transfers from DOE to local councils; these plans must 'take account' of the Regional Development Strategy.

Staff Mileage Claims

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost to his Department of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 4898/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The cost of staff mileage claims in each of the last two financial years is provided below.

Year	Total Cost
2009 / 10	£ 2,258,143
2010 / 11	£ 2,093,327

The totals presented do not include overtime mileage, nor do they include mileage incurred by Roads Service industrial staff using their own vehicles. Overtime mileage and industrial staff mileage could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Craigantlet Reservoirs in North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the future of the Craigantlet reservoirs in North Down.

(AQW 4900/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the sale of the Craigantlet Reservoirs has not yet been initiated and they have not been placed on the list of assets that NIW proposes to dispose of in 2011/12 or 2012/13.

Lyndhurst Gardens, North Belfast: Gritting

Mr Humphrey asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will include Lyndhurst Gardens, North Belfast in the gritting schedule for this coming winter.

(AQW 4901/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: While my Department's Roads Service has no statutory obligation to salt roads, they do provide this service on the main traffic routes across Northern Ireland to assist the safe movement of traffic in wintry conditions. You will appreciate that it is simply not possible to salt all roads, given the many other demands placed on Roads Service's finite resources, much of them safety related. Salting the busiest roads forms the basis of its current policy which ensures that its finite resources are utilised to best effect for the benefit of the majority of road users.

Roads Service applies a set of criteria to determine the suitability of a road for inclusion onto the salting schedule. Unfortunately, Lyndhurst Gardens does not meet these criteria as there are alternative routes, which are already treated, that can be used, however, I understand that two salt boxes have been provided for use, on a self-help basis, at this location.

Traffic Calming Problems on the A43

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the traffic calming problems on the A43 in the villages of Cargan and Martinstown, whether he will review the Roads Service Policy and Procedure Guide.

(AQW 4902/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that its policy in relation to traffic calming, is set out in 'Road Safety Engineering Procedures'. This policy aims to manage vehicle speeds and driver behaviour, in order to reduce collisions, especially those involving vulnerable road users. While traffic calming may involve a variety of features, use of vertical measures will not normally be considered for A class roads, unless they represent the only effective solution.

As the latest version of this policy, Version 4, was issued in November 2010, there are at present no plans to carry out a further review.

Speed Limit on the A43

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he would consider reducing the speed limit on the A43 between the villages of Cargan and Martinstown from 60mph to 50mph.

(AQW 4903/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that its policy in relation to traffic calming, is set out in 'Road Safety Engineering Procedures'. This policy aims to manage vehicle speeds and driver behaviour, in order to reduce collisions, especially those involving vulnerable road users. While traffic calming may involve a variety of features, use of vertical measures will not normally be considered for A class roads, unless they represent the only effective solution.

As the latest version of this policy, Version 4, was issued in November 2010, there are at present no plans to carry out a further review.

Belfast to Dublin Enterprise Service

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development what provision has been made to replace engines and rolling stock on the Belfast to Dublin Enterprise Service; and for an update on the Permanent Way Design Framework.

(AQW 4943/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advises rolling stock and locomotives used on the Belfast to Dublin Enterprise service are currently between 14 and 18 years of age. These would not ordinarily be scheduled for replacement for a further 10 to 15 years. Nevertheless NI Railways and Iarnród Éireann have been reviewing a number of strategies for service expansion and service enhancements ranging from rolling stock overhaul to supplementing and/or replacing with new rolling stock.

Provisions have been made for rolling stock overhauls within the current Corporate Plan and no further funding is proposed for fleet expansion or fleet replacement at this time.

Translink does not plan to renew the Permanent Way Framework until 2012/13.

However, as part of the tendering process for the Coleraine - Londonderry Track Renewals project, Translink will have procured all major Permanent Way design requirements for the immediate future.

Any minor design works required before the new Framework is in place can be accommodated with 'in house' resources.

Dedicated Bus Lane on the M1 Motorway

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 4235/11-15, to list the 73 daily services that are using the bus lane on the M1 motorway.

(AQW 4964/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The 73 daily Translink Services using the dedicated bus lane on the M1 motorway are as follows:

BETWEEN 07:30 AND 09:30, MONDAY TO FRIDAY:

Service	Number of services per day
200/X2/BE001	3
238/238A	7
250/251	4
261/261B	5
273	4
650	6
651	6
10X	3
Totals	38

Between 15:00 and 18:30, Monday to Friday:

Service	Number of services per day
200/X2/BE001	6
238/238A	6
250/251	3
261/261B	4
270	1
273	4
650	4
651	7
Totals	35

The hours quoted are the operational times for the bus lane.

Grit from Depots

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development whether members of the public will be able to obtain grit from his Department's depots if there are heavy snowfalls in the coming winter.

(AQW 4971/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has considered allowing members of the public to obtain grit from Roads Service depots during heavy snowfalls. However, after careful deliberation it concluded that this would be unwise, mainly due to health and safety implications. I am

sure you will appreciate that during the winter period, depots are very busy places with large gritters and loading shovels manoeuvring and reversing.

Nevertheless, Roads Service does provide and maintain approximately 4,200 salt bins and over 40,000 grit piles, where they are needed. These are provided for public use, on a self help basis.

Belfast to Bangor Train Line

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the annual cost of maintaining the Belfast to Bangor train line.

(AQW 4972/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advises maintenance costs for the Belfast to Bangor railway service over the last 3 years are detailed in the following table:

	2008/09 £'000	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Track, signalling and station maintenance costs	230	188	253

The Belfast to Bangor railway service is part of a through service operating from Bangor - Belfast - Lisburn - Portadown and return and is operated by the Class 3000 fleet. There are 23 trains in the Class 3000 fleet of which 21 are available for service in any given day. The Class 3000 fleet operates throughout the NIR network and individual trains are not allocated to specific services. The through service Bangor-Belfast-Lisburn-Portadown is operated by 15 trains.

As individual trains are not allocated to specific services, it is not possible to provide details of fleet maintenance for the Belfast to Bangor service. However the cost of maintaining the entire Class 3000 fleet in the last 3 years was:

	2008/09 £'000	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Class 3000 fleet maintenance costs	3,845	4,242	4,880

Bangor to Belfast Train Line

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department has any plans to create a stop on the Bangor to Belfast train line at Ikea, Holywood Exchange.

(AQW 4973/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink do not have provision within their current Capital Plan to create a stop on the Bangor to Belfast train line at Ikea, Holywood Exchange. There are no current plans for such a halt to be developed within existing budgets as agreed at Executive level. Translink update capital plans on a regular basis and this is discussed with my Department regularly.

Sludge Disposal Incinerators in Duncrue Street, Belfast

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development what inspections are carried out on the sludge disposal incinerators in Duncrue Street, Belfast to ensure that there is a competent maintenance and investment scheme in place.

(AQW 4994/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the incinerators in Duncrue Street are owned and operated by a private sector operator, providing a service to NIW through a Public Private Partnership contract. The operator is contracted to adopt an industry standard approach to managing and operating these facilities. This involves establishing and maintaining a comprehensive asset register and a comparable asset investment programme for the lifetime of each asset.

The investment programme is updated on an annual basis, driven by the output of condition surveys on each asset. The contractor's planned maintenance management systems are driven by the same processes, along with information from the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system which also prompts planned and reactive maintenance.

The operator is commercially incentivised to maintain the assets in order to perform to both the stringent regulatory standards and the contract standards. As a minimum, NIW is also provided with the annual oversight of reviewing the contractor's asset register, asset management plans and investment programme. Problems that have limited reliable full incineration until September 2011 have evolved from inheriting legacy assets and different management systems from NIW, concurrent with the technical difficulties of bringing on line a complex new build incinerator.

Clearing of Ice and Snow from Footpaths

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the councils which have reached an agreement with the Roads Service on the clearing of ice and snow from footpaths in the coming winter. **(AQW 5002/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, to date, only five of the councils have actually reached an agreement with Roads Service on the clearing of ice and snow from footpath in the coming winter. These are:-

- Ballymena.
- Limavady.
- Belfast City.
- Lisburn.
- Carrickfergus.

However, five of the six councils in the Greater Belfast area, covering almost 40% of the population, have already either signed up to the original agreement or have indicated that they are likely to sign up to the new agreement.

In other areas, 10 Councils have either signed up to the original agreement or have indicated that they are likely to sign up to the new agreement with three other councils still considering their position.

Only eight Councils have indicated that they are unlikely to sign up at this stage but it is hoped that these can be brought on board in due course.

I am disappointed that more Councils have not signed up to date, given the events of last winter, as I believe this approach offers Roads Service and local government the opportunity to demonstrate a joined-up response in providing this valuable service to local ratepayers.

Journey Times on the Key Transport Corridors

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the journey times on the key transport corridors in 2003. **(AQW 5022/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: The Regional Transportation Strategy 2002-2012, a daughter document of the Regional Development Strategy, identified five Key Transport Corridors in Northern Ireland. Roads Service has commissioned studies, the purpose of which was to monitor the network and assess the journey time reliability on Northern Ireland's motorways and trunk road network. The average journey times in 2003, in both directions, for the am peak period on these corridors are shown in the table below:

Key Transport Corridor	Description	Average Time in 2003 (hours:mins)
KTC 1	Eastern Seaboard Corridor (Larne to Newry)	1:35
	Eastern Seaboard Corridor (Newry to Larne)	1:33
KTC 2	Belfast – Londonderry Corridor	1:37
	Londonderry – Belfast Corridor	1:41
KTC 3	Northern Corridor – (Moira to Londonderry)	1:54
	Northern Corridor – (Londonderry to Moira)	2:03
KTC 4	Western Corridor – (Londonderry to Aughnacloy)	1:25
	Western Corridor – (Aughnacloy to Londonderry)	1:33
KTC 5	South Western Corridor – (Belfast to Enniskillen)	2:05
	South Western Corridor – (Enniskillen to Belfast)	2:05

Sustainable Modes of Travel

Mr Agnew asked the Minister for Regional Development for a breakdown of how the £500m investment to promote sustainable modes of travel will be spent.

(AQW 5048/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Over the budget period 2011/12 to 2014/15 Capital Investment of £174m (this includes an additional £22m towards the Coleraine to Londonderry track relay) has been allocated for projects to improve the railways network with £17.6m allocated to bus related projects.

These projects include:

- The procurement of 20 new trains. A new train care facility is being built at Adelaide, Belfast and some of the platforms on the railways network are being extended to allow the trains to operate and deal with the expected increase in demand. The total cost of these projects over this budget period is £76m.
- The Coleraine to Londonderry Re-lay project has been brought forward to start in July 2012 and will be completed in three phases. The first two phases, costing in total £46m, will be funded during the budget period up to 2015.
- Other projects being taken forward include the redevelopment of Portadown Rail Station, refurbishment of Antrim Integrated Bus and Rail Station and other railway safety related projects.
- The bus capital will allow for the purchase of more buses to replace some of the older buses still in operation and improvements to the bus workshops and garages to ensure the buses are adequately maintained.
- The capital budget also includes small sums of seed funding for sustainable transport initiatives such as electric cars infrastructure.

The figure also includes in excess of £318m revenue funding which has been allocated for a range of public transport grants and subsidies over the budget period 2011/12 to 2014/15. This budget figure is for Public Transport only and excludes Ports. It is made up as follows:

- The largest single grant is for reimbursement of the concessionary fares scheme for senior citizens, school children and other specified groups. This accounts for over £125m over the budget period. Concessionary fares are an important part of the funding for Translink and the small Transport operators.

- The largest subsidy is Public Service Obligation or deficit funding for the Northern Ireland Railways network which is over £96m over the budget period.
- Fuel Duty Rebate or rebate on the duty paid on fuel for operating a stage carriage network of services is the next largest annual subsidy at around £43m for Translink and other bus operators.
- The fourth largest group of grants are those relating to delivery of transport services for people with disabilities and these will account for around £33.5m over the budget period.
- The remaining £20m plus revenue subsidies and grants relate to a wide range of transport services including Park and Ride Schemes, Public Transport Reform, Travelwise initiative and support for Translink pension costs.

Some of the public transport grants, notably concessionary fares, are paid on the basis of actual journeys so the actual expenditure may vary from the provision if in year funding is provided.

Speed Limit in England and Wales

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions he has had with the Department of Transport regarding its proposal to raise the speed limit in England and Wales.

(AQW 5073/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Department for Transport's proposal to increase speed limits on motorways to 80 mph will be subject to public consultation and, as originally proposed would only apply to motorways and high class dual carriageways in England and Wales. It is now understood that the consultation on raising speed limits will only apply to certain motorway routes and is no longer proposed for dual carriageways and two lane motorways.

In Northern Ireland, my Department has powers to set speed limits under Article 38 of Part IV of The Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and my Department's Roads Service has advised that while it has had no direct discussions with the Department for Transport, its officials are being kept informed of the proposals for England and Wales.

Railway Halt at City of Derry Airport

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has completed a feasibility study, in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, of the need for a railway halt at the City of Derry Airport in preparation for the City of Culture 2013.

(AQW 5079/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department continues to support preparations for the City of Culture 2013 in Londonderry. To date my Department or Arm's Length Bodies have not undertaken nor been involved in any discussions in relation to a feasibility study on the need for a railway halt at the City of Derry Airport. A feasibility study was undertaken in 2006 into the potential to provide a rail service to Belfast International Airport. That study concluded that such a link would only become economically viable if passenger numbers using the airport were to double from existing levels to approximately 10 million per annum. During 2010 approximately 338,000 passengers used City of Derry Airport. In that context I have no plans to carry out a feasibility study on the need for a rail halt, however, I will keep this area under review.

Maintenance of Water Hydrants

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the responsibility his Department has for the maintenance of water hydrants.

(AQW 5086/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department has no responsibility for the maintenance of fire hydrants. However, Northern Ireland Water has responsibility under the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland)

Order 2006 to keep every fire hydrant fixed on any of its water mains or other pipes in good working order and, for that purpose, to replace any such hydrant when necessary.

Water Hydrants

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the response time from receiving a complaint about a problem with a water hydrant to the hydrant being repaired.

(AQW 5087/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it aims to carry out emergency repairs within two working days and non-emergency repairs within thirty working days. These response times have been agreed with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

Water Hydrants

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the current backlog of work to be carried out on water hydrants.

(AQW 5088/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that there is no backlog of work to be carried out on water hydrants.

Door-2-Door Transport Scheme

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he will continue to provide funding for the Door-2-Door transport scheme, given that it provides a vital service to people with disabilities.

(AQW 5094/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Funding for the Door-2-Door scheme for all four years of the current budget cycle was secured and protected in the most recent spending review. Thus there is funding for the scheme in place to 2014/15.

As you may be aware there is an ongoing legal case around the awarding of the new contracts for this scheme. The scheme, however, continues to operate as normal.

Translink Passes

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 4291/11-15, how many journeys have been recorded on the passes of spouses, partners and dependants of Translink employees in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5098/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has informed me that the number of journeys recorded in each of the last three years against the Translink Employee Concessionary Travel Scheme for spouses, partners and dependent children up to 16 years is set out in the table below. This represents some 0.2% of total Translink passenger journeys.

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Spouse/Partner Uses	143,970	147,639	142,981
Dependant Uses	12,494	14,458	13,478
Total	156,464	162,097	156,459

The information collected by Translink records the journey as a "staff pass" and states the limit of travel but does not stipulate the actual extent of the individual journey or the subsequent costs attached to it. In 2010/11 this represented approximately 0.2% of total Translink passenger journeys.

There are 5 important considerations in relation to the Scheme. First, such travel concessions are common practice in the transport sector across the UK and Ireland. Second, these types of passes were introduced as a result of pay negotiations, when staff sacrificed a higher pay increase in favour of the concession scheme. Third, the Scheme operates at minimal cost to Translink. Fourth the information collected by Translink does not record the details of individual journeys so costs cannot be easily assigned to journeys.

Fifth, it cannot be assumed that the journeys recorded would all translate into fare-paying journeys in the absence of the Scheme.

Translink Employees

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development how many people are employed by Translink. **(AQW 5099/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: Translink advises the total number of employees as of 23 October 2011 is 3,905.

This may be broken down by subsidiary company as:

■ Ulsterbus	2,257
■ NI Railways	903
■ Metro	745

Translink Journey Cost

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development what was the average cost of a single journey on a Translink service last year.

(AQW 5100/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advises the average fare per journey for 2010/11 on Translink services was £2.04. This represents an average of Ulsterbus/Metro/NIR all ways single journeys.

The figure excludes school pupils' journeys as these represent a contracted sum and are not fares as such.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the relationship between his Department and the Department for Social Development on working together in Neighbourhood Renewal areas.

(AQW 5106/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Officials from my Department cooperate with the Department for Social Development in relation to work in Neighbourhood Renewal areas.

DSD has also been provided with the relevant contact details for both Roads Service Section Engineers and Translink Divisional Managers for each Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership. Roads Service and Translink staff can attend meetings of Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships when requested to resolve local issues.

I support this approach and believe it offers advantages to both Departments and the residents of these areas.

Water Supply in Ballymoney

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department has taken as a result of the recent disruption to the water supply in Ballymoney.

(AQW 5144/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that a rigorous investigation was undertaken following the first indication of water quality problems in the Ballymoney area and a comprehensive action plan was implemented to restore water quality to its normal high standard. Investigations centred on recent water main work in the area being undertaken as part of the £90 million water main rehabilitation programme. During the course of the work a number of pipe connections had to be undertaken which coincided with very heavy rainfall which may possibly have contributed to a small amount of excavated material entering the new water mains. Water quality testing is carried out routinely after rehabilitation work and there were indications that the water quality may have been affected by the excavated material. NIW must contact the Public Health Agency in all cases of water quality problems, and following discussions with them it was decided that, as a precautionary measure, customers in the area should be advised to boil water for drinking and cooking purposes. The action plan to restore the water quality in Ballymoney was successful and the boil water notice has now been removed for all customers in the area.

There is a well defined approach to work on the water main system taking into account stringent health and safety standards and water quality testing. The water main rehabilitation programme has been operating for two years with many hundreds of kilometres of new water mains laid, and it is very rare that water quality problems arise following the work.

Disruption to the Water Supply in Ballymoney

Mr Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development what compensation is available from his Department following the recent disruption to the water supply in Ballymoney.

(AQW 5145/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that while the precaution of boiling water before consumption (for food preparation, cooking and drinking) was both inconvenient and regrettable, the water supply was maintained to all properties and could be used for washing and sanitary purposes in the normal manner. The company liaised with the Public Health Agency and Ballymoney Borough Council and advised all customers in the area accordingly. There is no Departmental or NIW compensation scheme for disruption to water supplies.

New Train Routes

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department has any plans to introduce new train routes.

(AQW 5177/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My priority within the budget, as agreed at Executive level, is to maintain, and where appropriate, upgrade the existing railways network. Beyond the current budget period, there will be a continuing requirement to fund projects to maintain safety and reliability on the existing network. I have no plans to introduce new train routes.

Water Charges for Businesses

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development how much revenue has been raised from water charges for businesses in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 5179/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that its charging system does not identify Business customers as a separate category. The non-domestic category includes small, medium and large businesses; industrial users; farms; voluntary organisations; charities; public bodies and places of worship; as well as any property not intended for permanent household use.

The revenue raised from water charges for non-domestic properties in each of the last two financial years was £40 million in 2009/10 and £41 million in 2010/11.

Link Road from Lisburn to the Maze/Long Kesh Site

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions he has had with the Roads Service about the provision of a link road from Lisburn to the Maze/Long Kesh site, in preparation for the development of this site.

(AQW 5188/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has confirmed that a Programme Delivery Unit has been established by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) to develop proposals for the Maze site. A small section of the Knockmore Link road is required by the Maze regeneration site to help facilitate its development. The Programme Delivery Unit is currently considering options for access as part of a review of overall plans for the site. These options will be subject to scheme development and planning approval and the promoter of the site will be expected to provide the road infrastructure.

Roads Service will provide assistance to the Programme Delivery Unit in the development of these proposals.

Grit Boxes

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development how many additional grit boxes have been provided this winter compared with last winter, for motorists and residents at housing estate entrances and on minor roads.

(AQW 5201/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, since the start of last winter, it has provided an additional 436 grit/salt boxes at various locations throughout Northern Ireland.

Additional Language Signage on Public Transportation

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development, when assessing the need to put additional language signage on public transportation, particularly buses, what consideration is given to the safety of staff and passengers in areas where the new signage may be viewed as unwelcome.

(AQW 5202/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink has informed me that, in considering proposals to introduce additional language signage, any safety risks to staff and passengers are included among the assessments that are carried out. Consultation with trade unions and other key stakeholders is normally involved as part of the process.

Income Generated from Parking Fines

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the income generated from parking fines in each car park in the North Down constituency in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5238/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service does not maintain an analysis of income from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) on a constituency or regional basis. Details of PCN income for all of Northern Ireland since Decriminalised Parking Enforcement was introduced in October 2006 is provided in the table below:

Year	Income From PCNs
2006/07	£2M
2007/08	£6M
2008/09	£5.2M

Year	Income From PCNs
2009/10	£4.8M
2010/11	£4.5M

Roads Service has also advised that approximately 3.8% of the PCNs issued since October 2006 have been issued in Bangor and Holywood.

All revenue generated by the payment of PCNs, along with income from car-parking and other charges, is used to supplement the overall financing of Roads Service by Central Government.

Income Generated from Parking Fines

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the parking income generated by each car park in the North Down constituency in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5239/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As I advised the Member in my answer to his Assembly Question, AQW 5238/11-15, Decriminalised Parking Enforcement was introduced in Northern Ireland in October 2006. Since then, income from Roads Service's charged car-parks in Bangor and Holywood has been as follows:-

BANGOR

Car-Park	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Abbey St. East	£61,183	£60,782	£59,790	£61,019	£55,236
Bingham Lane	£57,704	£59,257	£59,013	£59,482	£56,927
Castle Street	£43,890	£41,992	£40,935	£47,133	£43,459
Clifton Road	£12,834	£12,359	£12,710	£14,137	£8,628
Holborn Ave.	£38,303	£43,679	£45,078	£46,901	£41,777
Mills Road	£24,351	£24,990	£25,466	£27,949	£24,542
The Vennel	£33,937	£29,614	£32,898	£30,912	£34,350

HOLYWOOD

Car-Park	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Church Road	£57,256	£61,547	£61,955	£72,320	£78,875
Hibernia St Nth.	£57,585	£59,447	£53,344	£61,097	£48,135
Hibernia St Sth.	£23,735	£17,984	£24,044	£23,694	£26,815

All revenue generated by the payment of parking charges, along with income from Penalty Charge Notices and other charges, is used to supplement the overall financing of Roads Service by Central Government.

Larne Railway Line

Mr Dickson asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Translink will introduce additional services to Great Victoria Street station from the Larne railway line.

(AQW 5258/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: Translink advises that at present the majority of Larne line trains terminate in Central Station. Following the delivery of New Trains (Class 4000) during 2011/12, Translink proposes to

introduce a revised timetable from circa mid-2012. The details of this timetable are currently being worked up to enable further discussion with the Translink Board and my department.

Noise Envelopes

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the proposal of 'noise envelopes' around airports; and whether he has considered such a scheme for the area around Belfast City Airport.

(AQW 5397/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The concept of a "noise envelope" for larger airports was put forward by the Department for Transport for comment in its scoping document for developing a sustainable framework for United Kingdom aviation due to be published for consultation early next year. In my response to the scoping document I said that I will be interested to see if it provides a practical way forward in balancing the economic and local environment impacts of airports such as George Best Belfast City Airport.

Adopted Pumping Stations: North Down

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development which pumping stations in the North Down constituency have been adopted in the last (i) twelve months; (ii) three years; and (iii) five years.

(AQW 5443/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that three pumping stations have been adopted in the North Down constituency in the past five years. These are The Coaches, Browns Brae, Holywood on 30 April 2008; Lord Wardens Wood, Rathgael Road, Bangor on 30 April 2008; and Shaftesbury Road, Bangor on 30 November 2008.

Information Service

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

(AQW 5534/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The DRD Press Office employs five staff at a cost of Salaries - £204,031 for the 2010/2011 financial year.

DRD: Programme for Government

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the implications of the draft Programme for Government for his Department.

(AQO 919/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I welcome the publication of the draft Programme for Government.

The key commitments of my Department include:

- progressing the upgrade of key road projects and improving the overall road network to reduce journey times;
- investing over £600 million in water and sewerage infrastructure to maintain a high quality of drinking water and improve compliance with waste water standards; and
- investing over £500 million to promote more sustainable modes of travel including the upgrade of the Coleraine to Londonderry railway line and creating the conditions to allow more primary school pupils to walk or cycle to school.

Roads: North Antrim

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development how many claims were made against his Department, because of accidents resulting from uneven roads surfaces in the North Antrim area in each of the last three years, and how much compensation was paid as a result of these claims.

(AQO 921/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not record information on claims for compensation on a constituency area basis.

However collectively, the Ballymoney and Moyle, and the Ballymena and Larne Roads Service Section Office areas cover the constituencies of North Antrim and a portion of East Antrim.

In 2010/11, 107 claims were received as a result of uneven road surfaces in this combined area and £7,412 compensation was paid.

In 2009/10, claims totalled 191, and £25,105 compensation was paid.

In 2008/2009, 175 claims were received, and £13,790 compensation was paid.

A26: Coleraine to Belfast

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his immediate plans for the maintenance or upgrade of the A26 road between Coleraine and Belfast.

(AQO 923/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As you are aware, at the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary Meeting held on Friday 18 November 2011, it was noted that provision of more funding by the Irish Government for progression of the A5 and A8 projects is being deferred and that, in this regard, the Irish Government will provide £25 million per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards this project.

The relevant Departments are now preparing a new funding and implementation plan for the projects, for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting, with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

This process will undoubtedly affect the funding available to Roads Service. When the funding is confirmed, I will review the spending priorities across the Department, including the impact on the Strategic Roads Programme. This will include the progression of schemes such as dualling of the A26 from Glarryford (at the end of the existing dual carriageway) to the A44, Ballycastle Fork and a further proposal to dual the A26 between Ballymoney (at the Portrush Roundabout) and Coleraine (at Windyhall).

In the meantime, development work on the Glarryford scheme will press ahead, with the aim of publishing the draft Orders and an Environmental Statement in 2012. The earliest possible start date for this scheme, assuming satisfactory progression through statutory procedures, the procurement process and the availability of finance, would be in the 2014/15 financial year.

With regard to maintenance, Roads Service has advised that a £170,000 Trunk Route carriageway resurfacing scheme was completed on the A26 Newbridge Road, Coleraine, in September 2011. A further £240,000 carriageway resurfacing scheme will be completed on the A26 Frosses Road, Ballymoney during this financial year.

Additional bids for funding to allow resurfacing to be undertaken on this route will be made, but these schemes will have to compete with others on Trunk Routes for the limited funding, which will be allocated on a priority basis.

A2: Belfast to Bangor

Mr Dunne asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline any proposals to upgrade the A2 Belfast to Bangor dual carriageway within the next four years.

(AQO 924/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: As the Member will be aware, the A5 and A8 dual carriageway schemes have been taken forward as a result of an agreement between the Executive and the Irish Government.

At the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) Plenary Meeting held on Friday 18 November 2011, it was noted that provision of further funding by the Irish Government, for progression of the A5 and A8 projects, is being deferred and that, in this regard, the Irish Government will provide £25 million per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards the project.

The relevant Departments are now preparing a new funding and implementation plan for the projects, for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting, with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

This process will undoubtedly affect the funding available to Roads Service. When the funding is confirmed, I will review the spending priorities across the Department, including the impact on the Strategic Roads Programme.

Included in this review will be a proposed scheme to widen the A2 Sydenham Bypass to three lanes in each direction. This project is unlikely to commence within the current budget period but is progressing towards Statutory Orders. Further advancement will be determined by the funding received in the subsequent budget period.

Green-Schools Travel Programme

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he has any plans to introduce the Green-Schools Travel programme, which is operating in 43 countries worldwide.

(AQO 925/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: The Green-Schools programme is part of an international Eco-Schools programme and fifty two countries are now signed up. It is called Eco-Schools in the UK (including Northern Ireland) and the Green Schools initiative in the Republic of Ireland. It deals with wider environmental issues than just the issue of travel to school – there are nine topics in total.

The programme is delivered by TIDY Northern Ireland, which is an environmental charity financed by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. My Department is a delivery partner to the Eco-Schools Programme through the travel / transport topic.

One of the ways in which my Department works with schools is in the delivery of the Safer Routes to School initiative. Since 2005 we have delivered Safer Routes to School to over 200 schools in Northern Ireland – including nine schools in the West Belfast constituency.

Snow Clearing

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the cooperation between Roads Service and local councils in relation to responsibilities for clearing snow from streets.

(AQO 926/11-15)

Mr Kennedy: I met with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) on this issue in June. This was followed up by my Department's Roads Service, who held a series of meetings with NILGA and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives representatives throughout the summer. The aim of these meetings was to establish a consensus on a number of points of principle that could be used as a basis for negotiations between Roads Service and the councils, for the removal of snow and ice from busy town centre footways, during prolonged periods of wintry weather.

It was the intention that these points would form the basis of a draft agreement which, could be amended at local level, to take account of local council preferences, relating to specific schedules of footways, call-out arrangements, or salt delivery arrangements.

Roads Service has now approached all councils with a view to developing local agreements that can take account of local council preferences. This is on the basis of Roads Service providing free salt, our normal indemnity, some of our staff, where possible, and our expertise in relation to the timing of salting operations.

I am advised that discussions are ongoing and that, to date, the reaction from councils is as follows:

- Five of the six councils in the Greater Belfast area (covering almost two-fifths of the population) have already either signed up to the original agreement, or have indicated that they are likely to sign up to the new agreement.
- Outside the Greater Belfast area, a further 10 Councils have either signed up to the original agreement, or have indicated that they are likely to sign up to the new agreement with 3 other councils still considering their position.
- Only 8 Councils have indicated that they are unlikely to sign up at this stage but it is hoped that they can be brought on board in due course.

I am disappointed that not all Councils have signed up to date, given the events of last winter, as I believe this approach offers Roads Service and local government the opportunity to demonstrate a joined-up response in providing this valuable service to local ratepayers. I would therefore like to make a further appeal to the remaining councils, to sign the agreement with Roads Service.

Glen Road, Belfast

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the volume of traffic using the Glen Road in west Belfast, and if more lay-bys can be created to allow traffic to flow more freely. **(AQO 927/11-15)**

Mr Kennedy: My Department's Roads Service carried out a traffic count on the Glen Road in West Belfast from 7 to 13 April 2011. Analysis of this traffic count shows that the average daily traffic volume for this period was 17,822.

As with many other routes in the Greater Belfast area, Glen Road is busy during the morning and afternoon peak periods. Traffic congestion was evident at school starting and finishing times, due to the number of schools in the vicinity.

Roads Service considers that, in view of the overall traffic volumes on Glen Road at these times, it is unlikely that the provision of parking lay-bys would significantly improve traffic flow or reduce congestion.

Department for Social Development

Disability Living Allowance Appeals

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of Disability Living Allowance appeals held in each of the last three years. **(AQW 3774/11-15)**

Mr McCausland (The Minister for Social Development): The number of Disability Living Allowance appeals held in each of the last three years is set out below:

Financial Year	Total Appeals Held
2008-09	8,185
2009-10	7,348
2010-11	6,715

Insulating and Energy Efficiency Schemes

Ms Lewis asked the Minister for Social Development what schemes are available to assist people in insulating their homes and ensuring energy efficiencies. **(AQW 4287/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: My department's primary tool in tackling fuel poverty and improving household energy efficiency is the Warm Homes Scheme. This scheme offers a range of insulating and heating measures to owner occupiers and privately rented households who receive a qualifying benefit. The pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme also offers assistance to other owner occupiers and privately rented households who do not qualify for the Warm Homes Scheme. In addition, the Housing Executive administers an annual Heating Replacement Scheme for their tenants. The draft Programme for Government includes a commitment that by March 2012 the Housing Executive will also bring forward a strategy to improve the thermal efficiency of its housing stock including a programme aimed at providing full double glazing by 2014/15. A range of other energy efficiency improvement schemes are available and are funded through the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP). The Energy Savings Trust, freephone number 0800 512 012, can advise on grant availability in Northern Ireland.

Illegally Dumped Tyres

Mr Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how many times tyres have been illegally dumped on Housing Executive property in each of the last five years, broken down by Housing Executive District Office area.

(AQW 4495/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not specifically record when tyres are illegally dumped on its land.

Appeals

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the (i) target; and (ii) average timescale from a submission of an appeal to his Department until an Appeals Service hearing for (i) Employment Support Allowance; (ii) Disability Living Allowance; (iii) Incapacity Benefit; and (iv) Income Support.

(AQW 4589/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There are separate appeals handling targets and means of measurement in the Social Security Agency and The Appeals Service. The Agency's targets for processing appeals are called average actual clearance times, which measure the average number of working days taken to process a benefit appeal from the date of receipt in the Agency until the submission is forwarded to The Appeals Service. The Appeals Service has processing targets from date of receipt of the submission until date of first hearing for each appeal type. The respective targets and current performance against each of them in the current financial year are detailed in the table below:

SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY TARGETS (AVERAGE ACTUAL CLEARANCE TIMES)

	Target (days)	Performance Year To Date @ 30 September 2011 (days)
Employment Support Allowance	45	46.7
Disability Living Allowance	35	31.9
Income Support	40	24.1
Incapacity Benefits	40	24.1

THE APPEALS SERVICE TARGETS FOR FIRST HEARING DATE & PERFORMANCE

	Target (weeks)	Performance Year To Date @ 30 September 2011 (weeks)
Employment Support Allowance	8	9.2

	Target (weeks)	Performance Year To Date @ 30 September 2011 (weeks)
Disability Living Allowance	9	11.2
Income Support	8	9.8
Incapacity Benefits	8	7.7

Rehousing of People with Learning Difficulties or Mental Health Problems

Mr Easton asked the Minister for Social Development what plans his Department has, in conjunction with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to help with the rehousing of people with learning difficulties or mental health problems.

(AQW 4672/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The resettlement of people with a learning disability back into more appropriate community based housing is a key priority for DHSSPS as well as my Department.

During this Comprehensive Spending Review, £93.93m capital and £34.2m Supporting People revenue funding has been ring fenced to provide supported housing within the community for 850 vulnerable people including those with a learning disability who need to be resettled from long stay hospitals back into the community.

However I have recently become aware that issues in the commissioning of these new units is impeding delivery and the potential for an under spend of these ring fenced resources now exists. This is unacceptable and I will not accept it. Moving some of the most vulnerable in our society out of institutions into the community in supported housing is key to helping individuals and giving them a better quality of life in society. I have tasked officials to immediately establish a task force to get these much needed housing projects developed and delivered as soon as possible.

Derelict Buildings and Incomplete Brownfield Sites

Mr Frew asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of derelict buildings and incomplete brownfield sites which have become eyesores and which could potentially become (i) areas for fly-tipping; or (ii) adventure playgrounds for children.

(AQW 4732/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is aware of the potential hazards presented by derelict buildings and incomplete brownfield sites. We are working closely with other organisations such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive who are also taking forward work on empty homes in order to both reduce the consequences of blight and increase housing supply particularly in the private sector, local councils and the respective property owners to ensure all steps are taken to minimise such risks. My Department's Development Offices monitor the situation in this respect very closely and are proactive in introducing appropriate barriers to deter any such activity. However, it should be borne in mind that fly tipping is an issue which is dealt with at a local council level.

Panel of Benefit Appeal Tribunals

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the process for selecting panel members for benefit appeal tribunals; and who is responsible for authorising the members' payments and expenses.

(AQW 4756/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The President of Appeal Tribunals has statutory responsibility for the selection of tribunal members. He delegates this responsibility to the Appeals Service which selects panels in accordance with his directions. Tribunal members are required to undertake a minimum number of

sessions and attend regular training. As they are appointed on a part-time fee paid basis, selection after initial appointment is based on training in the relevant benefit, the member's availability, and travel considerations. The Appeals Service is responsible for authorising the payment of fees and expenses for panel members.

Double Glazing: North Antrim

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development how many homes in the North Antrim constituency might benefit from the installation of double glazing as a result of the Draft Programme for Government, broken down by (i) council area; and (ii) ward.

(AQW 4777/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

There are currently two schemes, totalling 331 dwellings, due to start within the next quarter in the Housing Executive's Ballymoney District Office area that will have window replacement included in the planned works. Additionally, a scheme with 22 dwellings has been identified for window replacement in the same area and a further two schemes, totalling 265 dwellings in the Ballymena District Office area will also have window replacement included in the planned works. These schemes are expected to start within the next nine months.

Housing Executive Properties: Double Glazing

Mr McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the Draft Programme for Government and the commitment to install double glazing windows in Housing Executive homes (i) to detail any attempts that have been made to identify key Housing Executive stock in the Newtownabbey District Council area that are fitted with single glazing windows; and to provide a breakdown of any information collected; and (ii) to detail the level of funds allocated to the Housing Executive to fit double glazing windows to properties in the Newtownabbey District Council area.

(AQW 4780/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the Draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

I can advise however that three External Cyclical Maintenance schemes are due to commence this financial year in the Newtownabbey area at an estimated cost of £2.3m and where necessary these schemes will include window replacement.

Affordable Housing

Ms Ritchie asked the Minister for Social Development what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Westminster in relation to the financial investment package for affordable housing announced on 21 November 2011; and whether the provisions of such a package will be extended to Northern Ireland.

(AQW 4851/11-15)

Mr McCausland: We are not, as yet, aware of any Barnett consequential arising out of the Coalition Government's publication, 'Laying Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England'.

I recognise the difficulties facing those seeking an affordable home. That is why I have committed to investing at least £103.25 million in affordable housing between 2011/12 and 2014/15. Investment in Co-Ownership Housing will total over £28 million this year enabling up to 700 affordable homes to be purchased.

My Department is developing a new Housing Strategy which will outline my priorities for investment in housing. I will consider new initiatives being proposed in England and other devolved administrations, to determine if they will be suitable policies for Northern Ireland.

Housing Executive Properties: Double Glazing

Mr I McCreá asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the areas in Cookstown where the Housing Executive plans to carry out PVC window replacement schemes in the (i) 2011/12; and (ii) 2012/13 financial years.

(AQW 4872/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

The Housing Executive currently installs double glazing as part of its External Cyclical Maintenance programme. Extra funding secured through the monitoring round has enabled an increase in this activity. The Housing Executive is working to identify those additional properties which still require double glazing. Once this information is available, as required in the draft Programme for Government, by March 2012 it will prepare a programme for the installation of glazing to all Housing Executive homes by the end of 2015.

A window replacement scheme for a total of 61 properties at Blackhill, Fountain Road, Killymoon Road, Killymoon Street, Mourneview, Riverside Drive, Union Place and Union Street, Cookstown is due to start this financial year in Cookstown. Additionally, an External Cyclical Maintenance scheme commenced in Cookstown during the current financial year which included window replacement where required to a total of 211 dwellings at Beechway, Coagh Crescent, Coagh Street, Fountain Road, Greenvale Drive, Ratheen Avenue and Sullenboy Park, Cookstown.

Public Appointments

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

(AQW 4909/11-15)

Mr McCausland: There have been 50 appointments of which 34 were reappointments (R) made to DSD public bodies since May 2007, as shown in the table below. The number of reappointments to the NIHE Board reflects the annual statutory nominations from the Housing Council. In relation to the Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board, the reappointments were made pending the abolition of the Board.

Name	Public Body
Mr M Butler (Chairman) (R) Mr D Morrice (Chairman) Mr D Morrice (R) Mr P Keers Mrs P Wilson Mr D Haslett Ms J Sloan	Charities Advisory Committee
Mr T McGrath Mr P Sloan Mr W Rader Ms A Chada Ms R Connelly Mr P McDonagh Mr P Cavanagh	Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
Mr K Murnaghan (R)	Vaughan's Charity Trust
Mr B Rowntree (Chairman) (R) Ms A Henderson(R) Mr E O'Neill(R) x 3 Mr J Speers(R) x 3 s J Palmer(R) x 3 Mr B Curran(R) x 3 Ms M Wilson(R) Ms E Dunbar Ms A Coffey Mr K Millar Mr S Begley	Northern Ireland Housing Executive Board
Mr S Millar (R) Dr M Curran(R) x 2 Ms H Fair(R) x 2 Dr A Jones(R) x 2 Ms M Kane(R) x 3 Dr N Stratton(R) x 2 Dr R Tubman(R) x 2 Dr EM Whitehead(R) x 2	Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board for NI

Housing Executive Properties: Double Glazing

Mr Irwin asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive homes in the Newry and Armagh constituency might benefit from the installation of double glazing as a result of the Programme for Government.

(AQW 4983/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The information is not available in the format requested as a number of double glazing schemes were carried out prior to the introduction of computerised recording systems and therefore the Housing Executive's records on the level of double glazing in its stock is incomplete. However, it is estimated that approximately 50% of the stock already has some degree of double glazing.

Following the consultation period and in anticipation of agreement to the draft Programme for Government, an extensive survey programme will be initiated to establish the number of Housing Executive dwellings that require double glazing. The Housing Executive will then draft a programme to ensure that double glazing is installed in all homes by the end of 2015.

In Armagh a window replacement scheme has already commenced for 85 properties and a second scheme is due to commence later this financial year for 161 properties; and in Newry a window replacement scheme is also due to commence this financial year for 144 properties.

Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the level of funding his Department has allocated to the Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) electoral ward; and (ii) geographical area.

(AQW 4999/11-15)

Mr McCausland: A funding breakdown is not readily available in the format requested but the table below details funding allocated by the Department for Social Development to Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area in the last three years.

	Allocation 2009/10	Allocation 2010/11	Allocation 2011/12
Neighbourhood Renewal (Revenue)	£ 881,698.98	£937,037.17	£930,768.58
Neighbourhood Renewal (Capital)	£0.00	£1,065,000.00	£3,699,267.00
Physical Regeneration	£2,174,819.00	£1,723,770.00	£88,866.00
Total	£3,056,517.98	£3,725,807.17	£4,718,901.58

Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the groups which have submitted bids to provide services within the Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area in each of the last three years, broken down by those bids which were (i) successful ; and (ii) unsuccessful.

(AQW 5000/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In each of last three years DSD received applications for Neighbourhood Renewal funding from the Inner East Belfast groups/organisations listed below, each of these bids was successful.

- Ashfield Boys School
- Ballymac Friendship Trust
- Bridge Community Association
- Community Drug Awareness (up to 4 September 2011)
- East Belfast Community Education Centre (up to 31 March 2010)
- East Belfast Community Development Agency
- East Belfast Partnership
- Inner East Youth Project
- Newtownards Road Women's Group
- Oasis – Caring in Action
- Short Strand Community Forum
- Short Strand Community Partnership
- Walkway Community Association

In the last three years Neighbourhood Renewal funding has been continuation or transitional in nature. This has given groups and organisations the opportunity to develop innovative, collaborative solutions to address need in neighbourhood renewal areas.

EXIT Group, East Belfast

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail all correspondence and meetings his Department has had with the EXIT Group, East Belfast.

(AQW 5004/11-15)

Mr McCausland: DSD staff involved in delivering Neighbourhood Renewal met with the EXIT Group on one occasion to discuss Neighbourhood Renewal within Inner East Belfast and the priorities identified within the local Neighbourhood Action Plan. This was followed up by an email response to clarify questions posed by the group.

Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail how his Department determines the individual needs of residents in the Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

(AQW 5005/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Area is identified as a priority area for intervention to address deprivation and disadvantage. The Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership (IENP) which consists of Community, Statutory and Political representatives has drawn up an Action Plan for Inner East based on local feedback from the Partnership members and also on statistical information from Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS). The Northern Ireland Housing Executive works closely with my Department's Belfast Regeneration Office and the IENP in relation to housing issues. Plans drawn up by the IENP are therefore developed in partnership with government and in consultation with local residents.

Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development to detail how his Department informs residents of new initiatives and projects in the Inner East Belfast Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

(AQW 5006/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Inner East Belfast has been identified as a Neighbourhood Renewal Area. The East Belfast Area Partnership Board, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership, local groups and umbrella organisations such as East Belfast Community Development Agency are all used by my Department to promote Neighbourhood Renewal programmes/projects within Inner East Belfast. There will shortly be a review of Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership structures, membership, capacity on the ground and funding arrangements. In addition, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, through its Housing Community Network communicates regularly with around 400 groups across Northern Ireland.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Mr Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development whether he will reconsider introducing legislation in relation to houses in multiple occupation to ensure that houses with fewer than four bedrooms are exempt.

(AQW 5010/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The number of bedrooms in a property is only one of the factors which contribute to the level of risk associated with houses in multiple occupation, others such as the number of occupants in the house, the age of occupants and the standard of management must all be considered. The Department has begun a fundamental review of the policy and legislation governing the regulation of houses in multiple occupation and the outcome of this review together with proposals for change will be subject to public consultation during 2012. The issue of smaller houses will be addressed in this consultation, although it is too early to say what the outcome will be.

Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister for Social Development what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of funding drawn down by the Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership.

(AQW 5114/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is working closely with the community, voluntary and statutory sectors involved in the Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership to deliver the projects which have been identified as priorities for the Enniskillen NRA. There are currently 8 projects requiring total funding of

£921,500 from DSD being rolled out across the Enniskillen Neighbourhood Renewal Area and a further 9 projects requiring an estimated £1.04 million of DSD funding are being developed.

Social Housing: Armed Forces

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development how he ensures that existing and former members of the armed forces are not disadvantaged in accessing social housing.[R]

(AQW 5141/11-15)

Mr McCausland: Officials from my Department and the Housing Executive are currently carrying out an examination of the Housing Selection Scheme to ensure that the Scheme remains fit for purpose. The work to date has identified an aspect of the Scheme that has the potential to prevent existing and former members

of the armed forces who are, or have been, based in Northern Ireland from applying for social housing here. I have asked my officials to ensure that any such barriers in the Scheme are removed.

Redevelopment of Holywood Town Centre

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the redevelopment of Holywood town centre.

(AQW 5187/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department is working with a developer to take forward a regeneration scheme in Holywood, known as the Front within the next 2 years. The Department also plans to take forward a major public realm scheme in Holywood during 2014/15, subject to funding being available and all approvals.

Customer Information System

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Social Development why the computer programmes, under the aegis of the Customer Information System, that govern addressing correspondence within his Department, provide for the use of County Derry, rather than County Londonderry, and whether he will undertake to correct this.

(AQW 5193/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Customer Information System is one of a suite of computer systems provided by the Department for Work and Pensions to the Social Security Agency to enable the processing of claims to welfare benefits. Customer addresses within these system(s) are entered manually by Social Security Agency staff based on information provided by the customer.

- If a customer provides their address as Co. Derry then this will be recorded within the system(s); and,
- If the customer provides their address as Co. Londonderry then this will be recorded within the system(s).

If the address held within the system(s) for an individual customer is incorrect, then they should contact their relevant benefit office to have it amended.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr Cree asked the Minister for Social Development how many people who have had a ventriculoperitoneal shunting procedure have been granted Disability Living Allowance in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5273/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department does not record information on medical procedures for customers who have been granted Disability Living Allowance.

Redevelopment of Newtownards Town Centre

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the redevelopment of Newtownards town centre.

(AQW 5307/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In July 2010 DSD published a masterplan for Newtownards Town Centre. My Department is represented on the Implementation Board that Ards Borough Council established to take forward the actions proposed in the masterplan. One of the key recommendations was to revitalise Conway Square. A public realm scheme in this area will commence in January 2012. This scheme represents the first step of the outworking of the DSD funded Masterplan for Newtownards and will play an important role as a catalyst for the revitalisation of the town centre

Benefits for People who have had a Ventriculoperitoneal Shunting Procedure

Mr Cree asked the Minister for Social Development, excluding Disability Living Allowance, which benefits have been granted to people who have had a ventriculoperitoneal shunting procedure in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5313/11-15)

Mr McCausland: It is not possible to provide the information as my department does not record information on medical procedures for customers.

Social and Affordable Housing

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Social Development when the Social and Affordable Housing Programme will be published, given that it is due to commence in 2012/13 as part of the draft Programme for Government,

(AQW 5370/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Social Housing Development Programme is currently being finalised by the Housing Executive. I expect to receive it by February next year and it will be published thereafter once approved.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of whether the Work Capability Assessment is unfair to those individuals with fluctuating illnesses and ailments which are difficult to assess without the aid of their General Practitioner; and if he intends to amend the Work Capability Assessment in order to fairly assess those people with mental and fluctuating illnesses.

(AQW 5384/11-15)

Mr McCausland: All Employment and Support Allowance customers are subject to the Work Capability Assessment process which includes completing a limited capability for work medical questionnaire and in most cases attending a medical examination. The Work Capability Assessment was developed in consultation with medical experts and a range of other customer representative groups to ensure that it is an accurate assessment of an individual's capability for work. The assessment looks at the functional effects of an individual's condition, rather than the condition itself. It is worth noting that Employment and Support Allowance has 10 mental health descriptors and 11 physical descriptors.

The role of the examining healthcare professional is to prepare a report for Employment and Support Allowance based on their independent and impartial medical assessment of the customer's ability to perform activities within each of the functional areas, by identifying the descriptors that they consider appropriate. This is based on their clinical assessment of the customer, which may include a relevant physical examination, interview and observation. The approved healthcare professional will also consider the effects of the condition on the claimant for the majority of the time, so that the opinion will not be based on a snapshot of their condition on the day of the medical assessment. A Social Security Agency Decision Maker will consider any evidence provided by the healthcare professional as well as

the information provided in the limited capability for work medical questionnaire to determine if the Work Capability Assessment has been satisfied.

The approved healthcare professional's task of considering the effects of a condition is different from that of a GP needing to make a diagnosis and plan treatment. The interview and assessment may therefore be different from that which a claimant might expect from their GP. Any evidence provided by a customer's GP or consultant is very important and fully considered, and processes are in place to ensure it can be requested when it will help provide advice on benefit entitlement. However, although the claimant's health condition or the GP/Consultant's diagnosis is not being disputed, GPs are unlikely to have the knowledge of the benefit system or disability analysis to provide the decision-maker with comprehensive information about the functional effects in relation to work capability.

My Department will continue to review the Work Capability Assessment and to make changes where necessary to ensure that our high standards of support continue.

Social and Affordable Homes

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the proposed annual breakdown of the delivery of 8,000 social and affordable homes, divided into each classification, as stated within the draft Programme for Government.

(AQO 943/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The Programme for Government contains a commitment to deliver 8,000 new social and affordable homes over the next four years. A specific programme to deliver both the social and affordable homes is now being developed. For example, the Housing Executive are currently finalising the Social Housing Development Programme for 2012 -2015 and I expect it to be with me for consideration by February or March next year.

Welfare Reform

Mr Hussey asked the Minister for Social Development how he is presenting, to the Department for Work and Pensions, the unique difficulties that Northern Ireland will face by maintaining strict parity with Great Britain on welfare reform.

(AQO 949/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As Minister for Social development I would endorse the need to reform our existing welfare system to ensure it is fit for purpose into the future. The welfare reform agenda currently being pursued by the Westminster coalition Government is both wide ranging and complex, seeking to simplify the benefits' regime, to incentivise individuals to take up work and to ensure that work always pays. These are laudable aspirations but there is no doubt they represent significant challenges to implement here in Northern Ireland where we have some particular difficulties as a consequence of geographical remoteness and the fact that we are somewhat lagging behind the rest of the UK in terms of recovery from the recent economic downturn.

Officials from my Department have regular and ongoing communication with the Department for Work and Pensions. I would be surprised if there was not contact at some level on a daily basis. DSD / SSA are represented at a wide range of meetings and workshops at all levels with the Department for Work and Pensions to inform the introduction of Welfare Reform. Departmental officials, along with representatives from the Social Security Agency have also held a number of meetings with Social Development Committee and others have been scheduled over the next two months specifically to brief them on key elements of the upcoming Welfare Reform Bill. Communication is not however restricted to official level, as Minister for Social Development I have had discussions with Whitehall counterparts on a number of occasions around different aspects of welfare reform and I will continue to make representations on behalf of Northern Ireland as the reform agenda is progressed.

The principle of 'parity' dictates that an individual here in Northern Ireland will receive the same by way of benefits, and be subject to the same conditions of entitlement, as an individual elsewhere in the UK. It must however be remembered that if we are to depart from the 'parity' arrangements then Northern

Ireland would be expected to meet any associated costs and this money would inevitably have to be found from within our block grant. In addition there would be logistical and operational constraints arising given our dependence on the Department for Work and Pensions IT systems which are utilised to deliver benefits here.

Pensioners: Benefit Uptake

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the advice that is given to pensioners to aid benefit uptake.

(AQO 945/11-15)

Mr McCausland: My Department, through the Social Security Agency, provides a wide range of services to make people aware of their entitlement to benefit. These include outreach services, the production of specific publications, participation in local community level promotional activity, use of the NI Direct website, an online Benefits Adviser Service and general assistance and information available through the network of local and centralised benefits offices.

Since 2005, specific actions have been undertaken annually as part of the Benefit Uptake Programme, to reach existing and potential new customers who may have unclaimed entitlement. The focus of this work in recent years has been on older people, those living with disability and their carers.

Benefit Uptake activities include on an ongoing basis:

- information and awareness
- use of existing data to identify those already receiving benefits who may be entitled to more
- direct invitations to existing customers offering a full and confidential benefits assessments to help identify additional entitlement
- involvement of the independent advice sector
- assistance with making a claim, including home visits to vulnerable customers to help with the completion of forms
- A Freephone Benefits Advice Line specifically aimed at all those aged 60 and over to encourage them to check their entitlement.

This work has generated an additional £27.1m in unclaimed benefit for older people since it began in 2005.

The 2011/12 Benefit Uptake Programme consists of four separate but complementary strands of work:

- Writing directly to 25,000 existing customers, the majority of which are over 60, who may have additional benefit entitlement, to offer them a full and confidential benefits assessment. The assessment is provided by the independent advice sector.
- A promotional Outreach to Older People approach which works with trusted local council and community level partners including community groups, specific Older People's Groups, General Practitioners, pharmacies, libraries, churches and other faith based groups, to promote a Freephone Benefits Advice Line to encourage Older People to check that they are getting all that they are entitled to.
- The "Make the Call" advertising campaign is new to the 2011/12 Benefit Uptake Programme. The campaign was developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in improving the lives of older people. It uses television, radio, newspaper advertising and outdoor promotion to encourage those aged 60 and over to "Make the Call" to the Freephone Benefits Advice Line to see if they are missing out on benefits and other services and support.
- The Social Security Agency is also working with community and voluntary sector partners in order to test new ways of reaching those harder to engage who could have additional benefit entitlement. £375,000 from the Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake was recently allocated to 7 projects focusing on a range of customer groupings, such as older people in

supported accommodation, those living with disability, those affected by cancer and their carers. These projects will run for twelve months and evaluation will inform future benefit uptake approaches by my Department.

All benefit assessments carried out, whether by independent sector partners funded by the Department or the Social Security Agency's team of expert benefits advice staff, explores potential entitlement to all social security benefits, but also Housing Benefit, Rates Relief, the Warm Homes Scheme and other services and support which may have the potential to improve the income and wellbeing of older people.

The Make the Call campaign has had an encouraging start. It began on 14 November and the first two weeks of operation have seen over 3,000 calls to the Freephone line and over 2,500 callers having availed of a full benefit assessment.

I am particularly encouraged to report that more than 40% of those calling the Freephone number have had potential additional entitlement to benefits (social security and wider) services and support identified.

Social Housing

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of social housing properties that will be built in the next 12 months, broken down by constituency

(AQW 5555/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The current Social Housing Development Programme is already available on the Housing Executive website. It shows a total of 1'973 units in the gross programme from which we would expect to deliver 1'400 units subject to planning approvals etc.

The programme for 2012/13 and beyond is currently being developed by the Housing Executive and will not be available until Spring next year.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the Neighbourhood Renewal funding arrangements, and whether the next contracts that are awarded will be for a three-year period.

(AQO 952/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As Minister for the Department for Social Development I have become increasingly concerned about the effectiveness of our investment in the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. It was intended to be a cross cutting programme but 7 years on, some Departments still fail to engage effectively with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Boards to make a real impact on the lives of those living in areas of disadvantage. I have as you are aware instigated strategic reviews of those areas of the Department that are not working as effectively as they might, for example in Housing and Fuel Poverty and I will be adopting the same approach to Neighbourhood Renewal. I will look at what works well for example Early Intervention strategies, and how lessons can be shared across the 36 Partnership Boards to maximise the impact of available Neighbourhood Renewal resources. This will include looking at Partnership structures, membership, capacity on the ground and funding arrangements.

Educational Underachievement

Mr D McIlveen asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department has any plans to engage with other Departments to address the negative impact social deprivation has on educational early-years child care provision and subsequent academic success.

(AQO 953/11-15)

Mr McCausland: As the Department with responsibility for bringing forward Neighbourhood Renewal – the Executive's strategy for tackling social deprivation in urban areas, my Department has in the past,

does now and will continue to work with all departments to address the range of social deprivation issues which affect a young persons life chances.

This includes working with the Department for Education on all its early years initiatives. I have met with Minister O'Dowd and discussed a number of issues around pre school education and other initiatives. We are supportive of a range of initiatives within the health family including nurture groups, family nurse partnerships and initiatives that address attachment issues. This will see a greater proportion of the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund used for Early Interventions with a number of tried and tested programmes introduced across many areas. This work will see greater collaboration between all the agencies and departments delivering services in these areas.

I am personally committed to encouraging early interventions – they yield the most return in terms of influencing the life chances of young people, they address the causes rather than managing the symptoms. I am particularly committed to developing childcare initiatives and would be happy to chair a cross Departmental group on this issue – should this prove helpful.

I want to see more Neighbourhood Renewal funding committed to early interventions. Officials are currently working with all other Departments to see how this can best happen. Already a number of Neighbourhood Renewal partnerships have introduced this approach, for example Colin Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership has refocused its approach to tackling social deprivation by making Colin an 'Early Interventions Community'

Whilst childcare is not specifically a matter for the Department for Social Development, my Department contributes to the provision of childcare places through the Voluntary and Community Unit Women's Childcare Fund and Neighbourhood Renewal funding. These childcare places are primarily focussed on disadvantaged areas and may therefore assist those in poverty in gaining employment or accessing education and training.

Social Housing

Mr Givan asked the Minister for Social Development what potential exists to rationalise the functions exercised by his Department, the Housing Executive and Housing Associations, to ensure maximum effectiveness in meeting social housing needs.

(AQO 954/11-15)

Mr McCausland: I believe that we currently have a real opportunity to make substantial change and there is considerable potential to rationalise the effectiveness in meeting social housing need. I am awaiting the final report from PWC on the fundamental Review of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and I will duly consider it. I have not yet decided on my preferred direction of travel for the future of the Housing Executive but whatever route I choose will also affect the administration of housing within my Department. It would be remiss of me not to consider the other main social housing providers in the Housing Association movement and I will be considering how best to review and reinvigorate this important sector. The decisions I take now will ensure that social housing providers are fit to discharge their housing responsibilities for the next two decades.

Fuel Poverty

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the assistance his Department provides to people in fuel poverty.

(AQO 955/11-15)

Mr McCausland: In April of this year, my Department launched its new fuel poverty strategy 'Warmer Healthier Homes'. This strategy sets out our vision for the future as 'a society in which people live in a warm, comfortable home and need not worry about the effect of the cold on their health'. The strategy places significant emphasis on the partnership approach required to tackle fuel poverty. The strategy takes forward a range of initiatives including energy brokering and introducing a pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme.

The Housing Executive is confident they will have an energy brokering scheme in place to market test by the end of March 2012. In June 2011 I launched a pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme and £2 million has been made available to replace approximately 1,330 boilers. My Department continues to deliver the Warm Homes Scheme

As part of its 2011/12 Benefit Uptake Programme, the Social Security Agency is writing directly to 25,000 existing customers who may have additional benefit entitlement, to offer them a full and confidential assessment. This assessment, provided by the Independent Advice Sector partner, Advice NI, will explore potential entitlement to all social security benefits. It will also provide advice about Housing Benefit, Rates Relief and the Warm Homes Scheme.

The Social Security Agency's Outreach to Older People Campaign promotes a Freephone Benefits Advice Line. Anyone who contacts the number will receive a full benefits assessment which includes information on Warm Homes. They will also be offered help with making a claim should it be required.

The Advice Line is currently being heavily promoted through a province-wide advertising campaign using television, radio, press and outdoor locations. The "Make the Call" campaign began on 14 November and will run to March 2012. To date there have been over 3,000 calls received.

The Social Security Agency is also working with community and voluntary sector partners in order to test new ways of reaching those harder to engage who could have additional benefit entitlement. £375,000 from the Innovation Fund for Increasing Benefit Uptake was recently allocated to seven projects focusing on a range of customer groupings, such as older people in supported accommodation, low income families, those living with disability, those affected by cancer and their careers, young people not in education, training or employment. Projects will run for twelve months and evaluation will inform future benefit uptake approaches.

I have recently announced an exciting and innovative Pay as You Go option for oil heating for vulnerable households. A pilot scheme will begin early in the New Year and the technology could see significant savings for those using drums rather than having oil delivered in larger quantities. I have met with representatives from Kingspan Environmental and Carillion Energy Services who will be taking the pilot forward. This pilot will allow us to road test a unique technology which will allow oil from tanks to be released to boilers as needed, helping those most in need to budget and benefit from the savings gained by those buying oil in larger quantities.

Fuel Poverty: Programme for Government

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister for Social Development why the draft Programme for Government does not include detailed initiatives to tackle fuel poverty.

(AQO 956/11-15)

Mr McCausland: The draft Programme for Government does include initiatives to tackle fuel poverty. One of the key commitments within the Programme for Government is to ensure that all Housing Executive properties have double glazing installed by 2014/15. Not only will this improve the thermal comfort of Housing Executive properties but it will also provide a boost to the construction industry.

The Programme for Government also gives a commitment to introduce and support a range of initiatives aimed at reducing fuel poverty. Fuel poverty is complex and the solutions cut across organisational boundaries throughout government and beyond. However, there are three main factors that contribute to a household being in fuel poverty, namely income, fuel prices and energy efficiency. While improvements to the energy efficiency of homes help to reduce the risk of fuel poverty, it is important to acknowledge that low income and high fuel prices are the main contributors to fuel poverty.

These initiatives will be developed following the completion of research by Professor Liddell which will help identify areas where there is a high prevalence of fuel poverty. I am hopeful that a pilot scheme will be operational during the next financial year; however, I do not want to preclude the outcome.

Fuel Poverty: Regulation of Oil Industry

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development for his assessment of the impact that the absence of regulation of the oil industry in Northern Ireland is having on the levels of fuel poverty. **(AQO 957/11-15)**

Mr McCausland: I have asked my officials to look at the oil sector and examine the transparency of home heating oil pricing.

A pilot Pay as You Go option for oil will commence in the New Year and the technology could see significant savings for those using drums rather than having oil delivered in larger quantities. I have met with representatives from Kingspan Environmental and Carillion Energy Services who will be taking the pilot forward. This pilot will allow us to road test a unique technology which will allow oil from tanks to be released to boilers as needed, helping those most in need to budget and benefit from the savings gained by those buying oil in larger quantities.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee

Mr Allister asked the Assembly Commission what plans are being made to mark and celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

(AQW 4764/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The role of the Assembly Commission is to provide the property, staff and services required for the Assembly's purposes. As such the Assembly Commission does not host such events. Official events and functions on behalf of the Assembly are normally hosted by the Speaker. I understand the Speaker is considering a number of events during 2012.

Members' Childcare Requirements

Mr Flanagan asked the Assembly Commission (i) what provision is made to meet Members' childcare requirements; (ii) for its assessment of the adequacy of this provision; and (iii) what improvements are planned to encourage more parents, and particularly women, to become MLAs.

(AQW 5171/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission):

- (i) Provision for support for Members' childcare is contained in the Northern Ireland Assembly (Members Expenditure) Determination 2010. This can be found at http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/members/Members_Expenditure_Determination.pdf.

http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/members/Members_Expenditure_Determination.pdf.

The Determination provides financial support to help meet the cost of childcare while a qualifying Member is at work.

Payments under the childcare provisions of the Determination are subject to personal income tax and National Insurance contributions. The childcare provider must be aged 16 and over and be permitted by law to look after children. The amounts that can be paid to a qualifying Member are shown below.

- Child below 5 and has not started school £37.93 per week
- Child above 5 or has started school and is less than 14 £18.96 per week

Childcare support is only payable where the actual cost of childcare meets or exceeds the amounts shown.

- (ii) The provision for support for Members' childcare is contained in a Determination of the Assembly which cannot be altered or amended by the Commission. In addition, all aspects of financial

support for Members now fall to the Independent Financial Review Panel (IFRP). Therefore, the Commission is not in a position to assess the adequacy of the existing childcare support.

- (iii) The Assembly Commission is committed both to equality of opportunity and to supporting the Assembly in being open and accessible. It is subject to and complies with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. However, it would not be appropriate for the Commission to seek to encourage candidacy for the Assembly from any particular sector of society as that appears to the Commission to be a political matter. The Commission strives at all times to be impartial in serving the Assembly and its Members.

Web Browsers: Proceedings of the Assembly

Mr Craig asked the Assembly Commission what action it is taking to ensure that users of web browsers, other than Internet Explorer, can view the live and recorded proceedings of the Assembly over the internet.

(AQW 5211/11-15)

Mr McElduff (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The current live streaming service is based on Windows Media technology and as such, non-Internet Explorer users require Windows Media player software in order to access the proceedings. The Assembly website provides instructions for users to download the free Windows Media player software. For computers with operating systems other than Microsoft Windows, a link has been provided to download a free media player which will allow the video content to be played. The Communications Office intends to tender for a new video streaming contract in 2012 and this will address the issues of browser compatibility that exist at present.

Employer's Pension Contribution

Mr Nesbitt asked the Assembly Commission whether employer's pension contribution is made to Sinn Féin Members at the rate of the industrial wage or at the full Assembly wage rate.

(AQW 5504/11-15)

Mr Weir (The Representative of the Assembly Commission): The Assembly Commission makes pensions contributions to the Pension Fund in respect of all active scheme members. The contribution paid is a percentage rate of the Members' total salary (i.e. £43,101 plus any office holder element)

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 9 December 2011

(AQW 4721/11-15)

I had previously provided you with an answer to this question on the 29th November 2011, I now wish to revise that answer as below.

We are now in a good position to eradicate Brucellosis within the timeframe of the draft Programme for Government.

I am also committed to the eradication of TB and I will continue to work towards this end, but eradication will not be achievable within the timeframe of the draft Programme for Government.

We have a rigorous programme for TB eradication in place and considerable progress has been made in reducing TB incidence in cattle here. The annual herd incidence has almost halved from nearly 10% in 2002 to 5.15% at 30 September 2011. The herd incidence rates for the year 2010 as submitted to the EU in the relevant Eradication Plans are 5.07% in the north, 8.72% in England, 6.58% in Wales and 4.65% in the south. Our TB eradication programme is approved by the EU Commission, which is vital to safeguard our annual £1,000 million plus export-dependent livestock and livestock products industry.

While the progress made in reducing the incidence of TB is encouraging, we continue to seek more effective and efficient ways of reducing transmission of bovine TB from cattle to cattle and between wildlife and cattle. TB is a very complex, multi-factorial and challenging disease that is difficult to eradicate and science still does not know with certainty how the disease is spread between cattle and between wildlife and cattle and what can be done to prevent its spread. There is no simple, cost-effective, solution or 'quick-fix'. If there had been an easy solution, TB would have been eradicated before now.

Additional funding of around £4 million has been allocated in my Department's budget to conduct TB and wildlife research and studies to help ensure we have well informed and evidence based strategies to address the issue of cattle to cattle spread as well as the wildlife issue. We are engaging with industry and wider stakeholders to help us identify and refine our TB evidence needs and priorities.

(AQW 4799/11-15)

I had previously provided you with an answer to this question on the 29th November 2011, I now wish to revise that answer as below.

We are now in a good position to eradicate Brucellosis within the timeframe of the draft Programme for Government.

I am also committed to the eradication of TB and I will continue to work towards this end, but eradication will not be achievable within the timeframe of the draft Programme for Government.

We have a rigorous programme for TB eradication in place and considerable progress has been made in reducing TB incidence in cattle here. The annual herd incidence has almost halved from nearly 10% in 2002 to 5.15% at 30 September 2011. The herd incidence rates for the year 2010 as submitted to the EU in the relevant Eradication Plans are 5.07% in the north, 8.72% in England, 6.58% in Wales and 4.65% in the south. Our TB eradication programme is approved by the EU Commission, which is vital to safeguard our annual £1,000 million plus export-dependent livestock and livestock products industry.

While the progress made in reducing the incidence of TB is encouraging, we continue to seek more effective and efficient ways of reducing transmission of bovine TB from cattle to cattle and between wildlife and cattle. TB is a very complex, multi-factorial and challenging disease that is difficult to eradicate and science still does not know with certainty how the disease is spread between cattle and between wildlife and cattle and what can be done to prevent its spread. There is no simple, cost-

effective, solution or 'quick-fix'. If there had been an easy solution, TB would have been eradicated before now.

Additional funding of around £4 million has been allocated in my Department's budget to conduct TB and wildlife research and studies to help ensure we have well informed and evidence based strategies to address the issue of cattle to cattle spread as well as the wildlife issue. We are engaging with industry and wider stakeholders to help us identify and refine our TB evidence needs and priorities.

(AQW 4806/11-15)

I had previously provided you with an answer to this question on the 29th November 2011, I now wish to revise that answer as below.

We have a rigorous programme for TB eradication in place. We have achieved EU Commission approval for this programme for 2010 and 2011 and formal approval for our 2012 programme is expected in the near future. This eradication programme is vital in safeguarding our annual £1,000 million plus export-dependent livestock and livestock products industry. Having EU Commission approval also enables DARD to draw down €5 million co-funding from Europe for 2010 and €4 million co-funding for 2011 to offset a proportion of the costs of the programme.

I am pleased that considerable progress has been made in reducing TB incidence in cattle here. The annual herd incidence has almost halved from nearly 10% in 2002 to 5.15% at 30 September 2011. The herd incidence rates for the year 2010 as submitted to the EU in the relevant Eradication Plans are 5.07% in the north, 8.72% in England, 6.58% in Wales and 4.65% in the south. My aim is to reduce and ultimately eradicate TB in cattle here and I will continue to work towards this end.

Considerable work has been undertaken to enhance the TB eradication programme in recent years. We now remove as reactors those animals that give an inconclusive result to a second consecutive TB test rather than after a third test as before. We have improved communications with Private Veterinary Practitioners and strengthened the supervision process. We have improved DARD's own delivery of TB testing through monitoring Key Performance Indicators. We also use DNA identity tags on reactors to help reduce reactor identity queries, substitution fraud and associated disease risks.

While the progress made in reducing the incidence of TB is encouraging, we continue to seek more effective and efficient ways of reducing transmission of bovine TB from cattle to cattle and between wildlife and cattle. TB is a very complex, multi-factorial and challenging disease that is difficult to eradicate and science still does not know with certainty how the disease is spread between cattle and between wildlife and cattle and what can be done to prevent its spread. There is no simple, cost-effective, solution or 'quick-fix'. If there had been an easy solution, TB would have been eradicated before now.

Additional funding of around £4 million has been allocated in my Department's budget to conduct TB and wildlife research and studies to help ensure we have well informed and evidence based strategies to address the issue of cattle to cattle spread as well as the wildlife issue. We are engaging with industry and wider stakeholders to help us identify and refine our TB evidence needs and priorities.

(AQW 4105/11-15)

The Department does not hold this information and therefore contacted the five Education and Library Boards and CCMS to provide the information which is detailed in the table below. A breakdown by board area is not appropriate due to the small numbers involved and the sensitive nature of the data.

All Board Areas	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011
Teachers on medical suspension	16	18	20
Returned to post	13	14	13
Redeployed	0	0	0
Retired on Incapacity Pension	1	2	1
Dismissed	0	0	0

(AQW 4827/11-15)

There was an error contained in my answer of 29 November 2011.

The answer stated that I made 29 public appointments, but this should have read 31 as my response did not include the appointment of two Parole Commissioners, which are now listed in the amended table below.



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