
OFFICIAL REPORT

(HANSARD)

CONTENTS

Written Answers to Questions	
Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	[p1]
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	[p4]
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	[p8]
Department of Education	[p25]
Department for Employment and Learning	[p40]
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	[p44]
Department of the Environment	[p50]
Department of Finance and Personnel	[p53]
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	[p56]
Department for Regional Development	[p66]
Department for Social Development	[p83]
Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	[p92]
Written Answers	[p103]

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NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Friday 27 November 2009

Written Answers to Questions

OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

Refusal of Executive Ministers to attend Functions in Religious Buildings

Mr P J Bradley asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the refusal of Executive Ministers to attend functions in buildings owned by religious communities, citing religious or political reasons. (AQW 1121/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness): We have made no such assessment.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr A Easton asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on resolving the Presbyterian Mutual Society financial situation. (AQW 2473/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We are taking a very active and close interest in the work which is ongoing to find a solution to the difficulties of the Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS). We know that this is a matter which is of great concern to the members of PMS and the wider community.

We met with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the 14th of October to discuss progress on PMS matters. We are now awaiting the full report on final considerations and options from officials.

The financial and commercial sensitivities surrounding this matter are such that we need to preserve a certain level of confidentiality around the details of options until a viable resolution has been identified and agreed. However, we can assure you that we are working to secure the best outcome we can for PMS savers.

MP's Hotline

Ms A Lo asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they are aware of recent changes to Home Office policy which states that Members of any other legislative assembly cannot avail of the MP's hotline; and what action will they take on this matter. (AQW 2548/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We are aware that the UK Border Agency has recently clarified its stance on the handling of enquiries from Members of the devolved administrations, which is that enquiries on individual cases should be made by MPs given that immigration is an excepted matter.

However, we have written to the Home Secretary to ask him to consider alternative ways in which Members of the Legislative Assembly might be enabled to make representations on behalf of individual constituents, in recognition of their position as elected representatives.

Appointment of a Commissioner for Older People

Mr A McQuillan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why they are not holding a meeting in the Coleraine area to canvas public opinion on the appointment of a Commissioner for Older People. (AQW 2609/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The proposals to establish a Commissioner for Older People are a priority for the Executive, given its commitment to provide a “strong independent voice for older people”. We want the consultation process to be as inclusive as possible.

As part of the consultation process, which continues until 7 January 2010, there will be nine public meetings, facilitated by the Older People’s Advocate, Dame Joan Harbison, in the weeks commencing 16 and 23 November. The locations were chosen based on advice from Dame Joan and following consultation with the Age Sector Platform and Age Concern/Help the Aged. In line with this advice there will be at least one event in each county and two in Belfast. As far as possible, events are located within a 30-mile radius of main towns/cities. In identifying suitable locations, consideration was given to geographical spread, age profile and accessibility.

Although Coleraine has not been included in the programme of public meetings, it is hoped that people in the area will contribute to the consultation by attending their nearest event in Ballymena or any other location or by submitting a response in writing, by e-mail, telephone or textphone.

We should advise that the Department intends to reimburse attendees for reasonable travel costs incurred, including, where appropriate, bus or coach hire for groups.

Executive Sub-committee on Poverty and Social Exclusion

Mrs M Bradley asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many times the Executive sub-committee on Poverty and Social Exclusion has met in the last year; and to outline the workplan of the sub-committee. (AQW 2705/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In agreeing, on 20th November 2008, to formally adopt the broad architecture and principles of Lifetime Opportunities as the basis of its strategy to tackle poverty and social exclusion and patterns of deprivation based on social need, the Executive further agreed to the establishment of an Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion.

This Executive Sub-Committee is responsible for agreeing, the priorities and key Executive actions for tackling poverty and social inclusion here and also agreeing the monitoring and reporting mechanisms associated with the ‘Lifetime Opportunities’ anti-poverty strategy.

To date the Executive Sub-Committee has met on two occasions, the most recent meeting taking place on 21 May 2009.

During the course of its first two meetings the Sub-Committee has;

- agreed its Terms of Reference;
- been informed as to the extent of poverty in Northern Ireland;
- agreed that work should be undertaken to identify the key co-ordinated priority actions that are needed to benefit those areas, groups and individuals and particularly those families and children in greatest objective need;
- considered and agreed initial proposals in respect of a monitoring and reporting framework for the ‘Lifetime Opportunities’ Strategy ; and
- agreed to an early re-establishment of the Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum.

The third meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee is scheduled to take place on 2nd December 2009. At this meeting, Ministers will consider further proposals with regard to priority action areas and the monitoring and reporting framework for ‘Lifetime Opportunities’. As a follow on to this meeting it is then our intention to convene, very early next year, the first meeting of the re-established Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum.

The Executive Sub-Committee has already agreed the terms of reference, under which the Stakeholder Forum was originally constituted in March 2007, when it met for the first and to date only occasion.

Lifetime Opportunities Strategy

Mrs M Bradley asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the Lifetime Opportunities strategy. (AQW 2706/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In agreeing, on 20th November 2008, to formally adopt the broad architecture and principles of Lifetime Opportunities as the basis of its strategy to tackle poverty and social exclusion and patterns of deprivation based on social need, the Executive further agreed to the establishment of an Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion.

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The Executive Sub-Committee has already agreed the terms of reference, under which the Stakeholder Forum was originally constituted in March 2007, when it met for the first and to date only occasion.

Establishment of the Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum

Mrs M Bradley asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the establishment of the poverty and social inclusion stakeholder forum; and the development of its terms of reference. (AQW 2708/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In agreeing, on 20th November 2008, to formally adopt the broad architecture and principles of Lifetime Opportunities as the basis of its strategy to tackle poverty and social exclusion and patterns of deprivation based on social need, the Executive further agreed to the establishment of an Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion.

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The Executive Sub-Committee has already agreed the terms of reference, under which the Stakeholder Forum was originally constituted in March 2007, when it met for the first and to date only occasion.

Financial Inclusion Strategy

Mr J Dallat asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what plans she has to introduce a financial inclusion strategy to help people gain skills in financial management and give them access to affordable financial products. (AQW 2759/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Financial Inclusion is a key aspect of the work of the Executive in tackling poverty and social exclusion and underpins much of the work that is ongoing around vulnerable groups such as Low Income Families, Children in Poverty, Lone Parents, people with disabilities etc. In all of this work, affording people the knowledge and financial skills relevant to their particular circumstances, and access to appropriate, affordable financial products is vital. In times of economic stringencies such as we are currently experiencing, this is even more important.

Work on financial capability in Northern Ireland is being driven forward by the NI Financial Capability Partnership headed up jointly by the General Consumer Council for NI (GCC) and the Financial Services Agency (FSA). The Financial Capability Partnership is a strategic coalition of organisations who are committed to financial capability in Northern Ireland and brings together representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors to act as a strategic focus for financial capability work being undertaken.

A key element of the work of the NI Financial Capability Partnership is 'mapping' existing provision across Government and "together creating more financially capable people in Northern Ireland." Further information on the work of the Partnership can be found at the web address below.

<http://www.consumercouncil.org.uk/education/financial-capability/ni-financial-capability-partnership/>

Staff Employed in OFMDFM

Mr T Elliott asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many staff were employed in their Department on (i) 1 November 2002; (ii) 1 November 2007; and (iii) 1 November 2009. (AQW 2810/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We do not have detailed staffing information for November 2002; however at 1 September 2002 there were 417 staff employed in the Department. At 1 November 2007 there were 407 staff and at 1 November 2009, there were 394 staff.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ICAS

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps she is taking to address the problems faced by farmers who were checked for ICAS and now find they owe money, following advice from DARD officials to include all their land acreage on the original application forms. (AQW 2530/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew): In 2005 farmers were provided with pre-printed information, reflecting field areas as shown on the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) map, to

assist them when completing their applications for Single Farm Payment (SFP). The guidance booklet advised farmers that, for each field entered, they had to decide whether they wanted to use it to establish Entitlements. They were also advised that areas used to establish Entitlements would be classified as eligible land for the purposes of the SFP scheme and that areas of non-agricultural use, such as ponds, footpaths and wide field margins, must be deducted.

The Guidance on this issue was clear. The onus was on the farmer to decide what land he entered for SFP purposes and to make sure that this was correct. If we now find that a farmer has claimed an incorrect area or ineligible land, we have to adjust his claim for the current claim year and in many cases for previous years. My Department has no choice but to make these adjustments.

Flooding in Newry

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans she has to address the flooding problems in farmlands adjoining Derrylecka Bog, Newry that have occurred since it was designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest. (AQW 2618/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: As the Derryleckagh Bog has been designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest there are a number of environmental considerations that must be taken into account when planning possible works on the outlet of the bog, known as the Derryleckagh-Ballyholland Drain, to reduce the risk of flooding to adjoining lands. DARD Rivers Agency have held a number of meetings with local residents, elected representatives and other interested parties on this matter and are continuing discussions with the NI Environment Agency to consider the best way to proceed. At the present time the plans in place are those minor works that can be carried out with the minimal disruption to the protected area.

Grants for Forests or Parklands

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what grants are available to local councils to develop or create forests or parklands on land under their control. (AQW 2698/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Forest Service (an agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) offers advice and grant assistance up to £1850 per hectare under the Woodland Grant Scheme, for the creation of new woodland. In addition the Community Woodland Supplement, currently £1000 per hectare is also available to contribute towards the creation of woodland close to towns and villages especially designed for public access.

Forest Service also offers Forest Environments grants to develop existing woodland, currently up to 50% of agreed cost, or a maximum of £3000 for projects which contribute towards the management and maintenance of existing woodland for biodiversity or public access objectives.

All of these forestry grants are currently available to councils.

In relation to parkland, if a local council has a farm business identification number, the organisation may be eligible to apply for the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS). There is an option in the CMS which provides funding for the maintenance or restoration of lost or degraded parkland.

Grants for Forests or Parklands

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what grants are available to (i) schools; (ii) hospitals; and (iii) community groups to develop, or create, forests or parklands on land under their control. (AQW 2699/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Forest Service (an agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) offers advice and grant assistance up to £1850 per hectare under the Woodland Grant Scheme, for the creation of new woodland. In addition the Community Woodland Supplement, currently £1000 per hectare is also available to contribute towards the creation of woodland close to towns and villages especially designed for public access.

Forest Service also offers Forest Environments grants to develop existing woodland, currently up to 50% of agreed cost, or a maximum of £3000 for projects which contribute towards the management and maintenance of existing woodland for biodiversity or public access objectives.

All of these forestry grants are currently available to schools, hospitals and community groups.

In relation to parkland, if a school, hospital or community group has a farm business identification number, the organisation may be eligible to apply for the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS). There is an option in the CMS which provides funding for the maintenance or restoration of lost or degraded parkland.

Woodland Grant Scheme

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she will widen the scope of the current Woodland Grant scheme. (AQW 2701/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Woodland Grant Scheme is already available to a wide range of landowners and has already been taken up by full, part-time and retired farmers, private non-farming landowners, local councils and community groups, local businesses, NGOs, schools, health trusts, charitable and voluntary organisations, churches and sports clubs. The objectives of these landowners can also be wide-ranging and include woodland for timber production, biodiversity or recreation.

As well as offering grant aid for the establishment of new woodland, the scheme encompasses grants for the effective management of existing woodland and the re-establishment of woodland cover in existing woodland areas.

Given the current breadth and coverage of the Woodland Grant Scheme, I do not see any need for its scope to be widened further.

Dairy Farming

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if the EU considers Northern Ireland to be a 'sensitive region' in the context of dairy farming. (AQW 2818/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I understand that the reference to a sensitive region was in connection with the possibility to use additional compulsory modulation monies generated by the CAP Health Check to assist dairy farmers via rural development programmes. There is no legal definition of sensitive regions as such. This phraseology was used in an explanation of the CAP Health Check outcome and the reference to sensitive regions was to illustrate in what type of regions Member States were likely to use these funds to assist dairy farmers.

In relation to the north of Ireland, the outcome of the CAP Health Check saw no change in our total modulation rate. As EU compulsory modulation increases, our voluntary modulation rate is being reduced accordingly. Consequently there are no additional modulation funds arising from the CAP Health Check outcome.

Slurry Tanks

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what contingency measures are in place to allow farmers and livestock owners to empty slurry tanks that overflow with rain water during the closed season. (AQW 2940/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Under the Nitrates Action Programme (NI) Regulations 2006 organic manures, excluding farmyard manure and dirty water, must not be applied between 16 October and 31 January (inclusive). Under certain exceptional circumstances, beyond the control and not foreseeable by the farmer, a defence can be made for non-compliance with the Regulations.

Rainfall entering slurry tanks would not normally satisfy the criteria for exceptional circumstances since farmers must take account of rainwater that enters into slurry tanks when providing the minimum livestock storage capacity of 26 weeks for pig and poultry enterprises and 22 weeks for all other livestock.

In the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil, DARD provides advice to farmers on steps that can be taken to prevent dirty water and rainwater from entering slurry storage systems to maximise storage capacity.

Inspection and enforcement of these Regulations is carried out by NI Environment Agency, an agency of the Department of the Environment.

A5 Dual Carriageway

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what discussions she has had with the Minister for Regional Development about the impact that new road schemes, in particular the proposed A5 route, will have on the farming and wider rural communities. (AQO 428/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I have had discussions with the Minister for Regional Development on the A5 scheme in the margins of a meeting in Fermanagh on the 28th July 09.

In October 2007 I wrote to Conor Murphy and to the then Finance Minister Peter Robinson, regarding the A6 Dualling from Randalstown to Toome in which I raised a number of concerns that had been voiced to me by farmers and landowners during a visit to the area. These included the need for open and clear communication with those affected, the provision of appropriate levels of compensation and the need for Rural Proofing.

In his response Mr Murphy confirmed that the Department of Regional Development are required to carry out impact assessments and widespread public consultation as part of their appraisal process and that this would address the concerns raised. He assured me that there was regular communication with the land owners involved and that the information provided to them would be in a form that could be easily understood.

Both Mr Murphy and Mr Robinson in their responses confirmed the process for land valuation and compensation. Mr Robinson highlighted the factors taken into account in calculating compensation such as severance, depreciation of other owned land and the impact on the business itself. And that the payment of compensation is governed by legislation and case law.

Following our recent discussions in Fermanagh were I raised the concerns of farmers I am reassured that those concerns are being satisfactorily dealt with as part of the process.

Renewable Energy

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what opportunities exist for farmers as a result of the increased demand for renewable energy. (AQO 430/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: In 2007 my department published a Departmental Renewable Energy Action Plan. This Plan acknowledged the opportunities presented by the sustainable development of renewable energy for the agri-food and forestry sectors and wider rural economy.

In 2008 I established the Agricultural Stakeholder Forum on Renewable Energy to review the Action Plan to ensure that my department's activities remain appropriate given the dynamic nature of the operating environment and advances in technology. The Forum submitted its report to me last month and I am considering the recommendations. A new Action Plan will be developed by early next year.

I am keen to ensure that the land based sector can exploit the opportunities presented by the generation of renewable energy, such as biomass feedstock to produce heat and anaerobic digestion of agricultural materials.

Departmental activities to support this exploitation include:-

Secured funding to establish the excellent research and demonstration facilities commissioned at AFBI Hillsborough at the Environment and Renewable Energy Centre of Excellence along with a dedicated programme of research.

Additionally my Department has developed and commissioned a technology transfer programme delivered at the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise. This programme has successfully raised awareness and delivered training on renewable energy and energy efficiency to over 1500 members of the farming community.

- The NI Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) also contains a number of measures to support the generation of renewable energy in the land based sector particularly funding the establishment of SRC Willow.

My Department also works closely with other departments, particularly DETI to ensure the interests of the farming community are represented and opportunities realised in relation to the increased demand for renewable energy and to support the achievement of renewable energy targets.

Davagh Forest Park

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide an update on discussions between her Department and Cookstown District Council regarding the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to Davagh Forest Park. (AQO 431/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My officials have met officials from Cookstown District Council to assess their outline plans and initial project proposals for recreational developments on Forest Service land within the Cookstown District Council geographical area.

Both sides are now working to develop a management agreement which would permit any such projects to progress. The first step is to clarify roles and responsibilities at a strategic level by setting down the key principles of any partnership arrangements in terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

To maximise the value of this type of arrangement, we have asked Cookstown District Council to consider and send us the key criteria, objectives and requirements they would like to see emanating from such an agreement. When these are received my officials in Forest Service will formulate our requirements prior to moving to the next step which will obviously require input from our respective legal advisers in working up a final partnership arrangement.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

National Museum

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what assessment he has made of the impact on public accessibility and staff morale of the decision to close National Museum sites on Mondays. (AQW 2582/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr N McCausland): National Museums Northern Ireland's decision to close its sites on Mondays (with the exception of Bank and Public holidays) to facilitate longer opening hours at the weekend was taken following extensive visitor research and consultation with all relevant bodies and NMNI employees. Public accessibility was one of the key factors in deciding to extend our weekend opening hours as only 3% of visitors interviewed said they would visit a museum on a Monday whilst over 70% of people interviewed preferred to visit a museum on a Saturday or a Sunday. The decision to offer extended opening hours at the weekend has been welcomed by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. The changes to opening hours has also meant that, for the first time ever, the Ulster American Folk Park is open at weekends across the autumn and winter months, while weekend opening hours at the Ulster Museum have doubled as a result of this decision.

Furthermore, in October 2009, National Museums Northern Ireland saw visitor numbers to its museums increase by 43% compared to visitor figures in October 2005 – a clear indication that more people than ever are accessing National Museums Northern Ireland's sites.

Employees and their representatives were consulted at length before any decisions were reached on Monday closure. It is worth noting that staff have been particularly encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the public since the Ulster Museum's recent reopening.

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many EU Directives his Department received and implemented in each of the last three years. (AQW 2616/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: My Department has not received or implemented any EU Directives in the last three years.

Sport Governing Bodies

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to list all sport governing bodies currently operating on an all Ireland basis. (AQW 2617/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The following is a list of all Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) recognised sports governing bodies that currently operate on an all-Ireland basis:

Sport	Governing Body
Angling (Coarse)	National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland
Angling (Sea)	Irish Federation of Sea Anglers
Badminton	Badminton Union Of Ireland
Basketball	Basketball Ireland
Bowling (Indoors – Women)	Irish Women’s Indoor Bowling Association
Bowling (Outdoors – Men)	Irish Bowling Association
Bowling (Outdoors – Women)	Irish Women’s Bowling Association
Bowling (Short mat)	Irish Indoor Bowling Association
Boxing	Irish Amateur Boxing Association
Camogie	Camogie Council of Ireland
Caving	Speleological Union of Ireland
Cricket	Cricket Ireland
Cycling	Cycling Ireland
Equestrian	The Show Jumping Association of Ireland
Equestrian	Carriage Driving Ireland
Equestrian	Irish Long Distance Riding Association
Equestrian	Irish Pony Society
Equestrian	Eventing Ireland
Equestrian	Dressage Ireland
Gaelic Games	Gaelic Athletic Association
Golf	Irish Ladies Golf Union
Golf	Golfing Union of Ireland
Hockey	Irish Hockey Union
Motor Sports	Motor Cycle Union of Ireland Ltd
Motor Sports	Motorcycle Racing Association
Mountaineering	Mountaineering Council of Ireland
Racquetball	Racquetball Association of Ireland
Rowing	Irish Amateur Rowing Union
Rugby Union	Irish Rugby Football Union
Squash	Irish Squash
Surfing	Irish Surfing Association
Swimming	Swim Ireland
Table Tennis	Irish Table Tennis Association
Tennis	Tennis Ireland
Triathlon	Triathlon Ireland
Water Polo	Swim Ireland
Water Skiing	Irish Water Skiing Federation

Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why his Department did not consult with the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in preparation for the Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. (AQW 2626/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In compiling the Northern Ireland input to the UK's Third Periodical Report on the Charter, DCAL, through the Interdepartmental Charter Implementation Group, sought input from other Departments and their Arms Length Bodies. Input was not sought from Non-Governmental Organisations, including the NI Human Rights Commission (NIHRC).

Having reviewed the process the Department now considers that the NIHRC should have been consulted during the process.

My predecessor wrote to the Chief Commissioner on 30 March 2009 confirming that the NIHRC will be afforded the opportunity to input to the Northern Ireland Report at an early stage in the next reporting cycle.

Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure why information on the Irish language was not included in the Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. (AQW 2627/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Northern Ireland input to the UK's Third Periodical Report on Regional or Minority Languages has not yet been agreed. It is being considered by the Deputy First Minister and the input cannot proceed to an Executive Meeting until agreement is in place.

Departmental officials and I met with representatives from the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts (Comex) during their visit to Northern Ireland on 21 and 22 September 2009 to discuss the current position of Ulster-Scots and Irish.

These meetings were positive and constructive. Comex will now produce a report on their findings, which is expected to be published in December 2009 or January 2010.

Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when his Department will provide the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission with the necessary information to complete the supplementary report to the Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages. (AQW 2628/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Northern Ireland input to the UK's Third Periodical Report on Regional or Minority Languages has not yet been agreed. It is being considered by the Deputy First Minister and the input cannot proceed to an Executive Meeting until agreement is in place.

My Department intends to provide the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission with a copy of the Northern Ireland input to the UK's Third Periodical Report on the Charter once it has been agreed and cleared the Executive process.

Future Department of Justice

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) what steps his Department intends to take to engage with a future devolved Department of Justice on cross-cutting matters; and (ii) what contribution his Department can make to cross-cutting justice and community safety issues such as reducing levels of offending. (AQW 2696/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:

- (i) Post devolution, my Department will collaborate with the Department of Justice on relevant cross-cutting issues. For example:
- DCAL is currently assisting the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) to develop legislation governing spectator behaviour at sports grounds in order to complement my Department's safety at Sports Grounds initiative; and
 - DCAL is also, at the NIO's request, arranging to undertake a consultation with sports bodies on the extension of trust provisions, set out under the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, to sports coaches.
- (ii) In June of this year Minister of State Paul Goggins MP launched a new Community Fund for Northern Ireland which will direct assets seized from criminality back to communities most affected by organised crime. The funding will be provided to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and the Department of Social Development.

My Department will distribute its portion of the Fund, initially £87,500, through its associated arms length bodies in areas and communities most affected by crime or where there is a clear need for crime reduction.

Ulster Scots and Irish Language Events

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) how many invitations he has received to attend (a) Ulster Scots events; and (b) Irish language events; and (ii) how many (a) Ulster Scots events; and (b) Irish language events, he has attended, since he came to office. (AQW 2716/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Since taking up office on 1st July I have received 9 invitations to attend Ulster-Scots related events and 5 invitations to attend Irish Language events.

I have attended 2 Ulster-Scots language events, 5 Ulster-Scots cultural events and 1 Irish language event.

Funding of Bands

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the bands that have received funding through (i) the Ulster-Scots Agency; and (ii) the Arts Council, since May 2007. (AQW 2717/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I have detailed in Annex A (attached) the list of all bands and the amount of funding awarded to them for musical tuition by the Ulster-Scots Agency over the last five years. Details of Ulster-Scots Agency's grants are available on their website at www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/

Arts Council funding for bands from May 2007 to date is summarised in Annex B (attached). Individual awards are also listed in the attached document. Details of Arts Council's grants are available on their website at www.artscouncil-ni.org/funding.

ANNEX A**FUNDING FOR BANDS FROM ULSTER-SCOTS AGENCY**

2007	
Millar Memorial Flute Band	£250.00
Belvoir Parish Drum Majors	£250.00
East Antrim (Killyglen) Accordion Band	£2,422.50
Dunloy Accordion Band	£2,250.00
Dunloy Accordion Band	£7,200.00
Dunloy Accordion Band	£1,190.00
Dunloy Accordion Band	£2,250.00

2007	
Seymour Hill, Conway Network & Queensway Flute Band	£250.00
Sir George White Memorial Flute Band	£1,800.00
Killycoogan Accordion Band	£2,250.00
East Antrim Elementary Accordion Orchestra	£562.50
Tamlaght O'Crilly Pipe Band	£2,400.00
Maghera Sons of William Flute Band	£1,400.00
Ballymoughan Flute Band	£1,600.00
Knockloughrim Accordion Band	£1,800.00
Moneymore Accordion Band	£1,800.00
Cowan Memorial Flute Band	£1,800.00
Salterstown Flute Band	£900.00
Salterstown Flute Band	£900.00
Curlough Accordion Band	£1,725.00
Drumquin Pipe Band	£1,305.00
Drumquin Pipe Band	£2,662.50
Ardress Accordion Band	£1,672.50
Tamlaght Pipe Band	£2,400.00
Lisnaskea Accordion Band	£1,600.00
Magheraboy Flute Band	£1,800.00
Aughintober Pipe Band	£1,725.00
Aughintober Pipe Band	£2,925.00
Anktel Moutray Memorial Pipe Band	£1,800.00
Battlehill Pipe Band	£1,827.00
Donemana Pipe Band	£1,800.00
Carnagh Accordion Band	£1,312.50
Kilcluney Volunteers Flute Band	£825.00
Markethill Pipe Band	£937.50
Markethill Pipe Band	£1,875.00
Grallagh Part Flute Band	£1,912.50
Banbridge Pipe Band	£3,075.00
Schomberg Folk Orchestra	£2,025.00
Schomberg Folk Orchestra	£250.00
Upper Crossgar Pipe Band	£3,000.00
Upper Crossgar Pipe Band	£3,500.00
Upper Crossgar Pipe Band	£3,000.00
Corbet Accordion Band	£2,400.00
Mourne Young Defenders Flute Band	£1,200.00
Doohat Accordion Band	£250.00
Mourne Young Defenders	£3,500.00

2007	
Cullybackey Pipe Band	£3,500.00
Waringsford Pipe Band	£2,550.00
Ballymartin Pipe Band	£2,325.00
Carryduff & District Drum Majors	£1,087.50
O'Neill Pipe Band	£3,225.00
Closkelt Pipe Band	£1,800.00
Inver Flute Band	£1,830.00
Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	£2,400.00
Drum Accordion Band	880 Euros
Derryogue Flute Band	£2,850.00
Crossgar Young Defenders	£2,955.00
Lisbeg Pipe Band	£1,320.00
Goldsprings TBFB	£2,100.00
Lisnaskea Accordion Band	£3,060.00
Bellanaleck Pipe Band	£1,200.00
Brookeborough Flute Band	£2,100.00
Roden Accordion Band	£2,100.00
Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	£2,365.00
Tullywhisker Pipe Band	£2,100.00
Ballindarragh Accordion Band	£750.00
Trillick Pipe Band	£1,065.00
Newtownbutler Flute Band	£1,100.00
Omagh True Blues	£1,575.00
Kilcluney Volunteers Flute Band	£825.00
Drum Accordion Band	1400 Euros

2008	
Cullybackey Pipe Band	£300.00
Aghavilly Accordion Band	£1,312.50
Aughintober Pipe Band	£2,925.00
Ballinacross Accordion Band	£1,200.00
Ballinamallard Accordion Band	£0.00
Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	£2,400.00
Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	£1,600.00
Ballymartin Pipe Band	£2,325.00
Ballymoughan Flute Band	£1,200.00
Ballyrea Boyne Defenders Flute Band	£800.00
Benwarden Flute Band	£1,350.00
Bready Ulster Scots Pipe Band	£1,800.00
Brunswick Accordion Band	£2,100.00

2008	
Churchill Flute Band	£1,500.00
Clabby Pipe Band	£2,520.00
Co Armagh Drum Majors Group	£2,475.00
Craiganeer Accordion Band	£1,125.00
Craiganeer Accordion Band	£250.00
Craiganeer Accordion Band	£1,237.50
Crossgar Young Defenders	£2,955.00
Crossgar Young Defenders	£3,037.50
Cullybackey Pipe Band	£1,000.00
Cullybackey Pipe Band	£2,160.00
Cullybackey Pipe Band	£3,710.00
Curran Flute Band	£1,600.00
Desertmartin Accordion Band	£1,200.00
Desertmartin Accordion Band	£1,200.00
Dollingstown Star of the North Flute Band	£3,030.00
Drum Accordion Band	880 Euros
Drumderg Flute Band	£2,850.00
Drumquin Pipe Band	£2,665.00
Drumquin Pipe Band	£1,512.00
Dunaghy Flute Band	£1,920.00
Eden Accordion Band	£1,600.00
Eden Accordion Band	£1,600.00
George A Dummigan Memorial Accordion Band	£1,200.00
Hounds of Ulster	£2,700.00
Hunter Memorial Flute Band	£3,750.00
Killyglen Accordion Band	£2,722.50
Kilrea Pipe Band	£1,098.00
Lack Pipe Band	£1,500.00
Legananny Accordion Band	£2,175.00
Lisbeg Pipe Band	£1,320.00
Lisburn Fusiliers Flute Band	£1,692.00
Lisnamulligan Pipe Band	£3,022.50
Lisnaskea Accordion Band	£1,875.00
Lower Woodstock Ulster Scots Flute Band	£2,100.00
Maghera Sons of William Flute Band	£1,200.00
Magheraboy Flute Band	£1,200.00
Magheragall Pipe Band	£2,250.00
Markethill Pipe Band	£1,875.00
Marlaco Pipe Band	£2,540.00

2008	
Mourne Young Defenders FB	2400
Movilla Young Conquerors	£0.00
Mulnahorn Pipe Band	£1,080.00
Pioneer Flute Band	£1,800.00
Portaferry Accordion Band	£2,100.00
Pride of Lagan Valley Flute Band	£2,100.00
Raphoe Pipe Band	220 Euros
Riada Concert Group	£2,280.63
Roden Accordion Band	£2,100.00
Roden Accordion Band	250
Salterstown Flute Band	£1,800.00
Sandholes Accordion Band	£1,672.50
Schomberg Fife & Drum	£1,275.00
Schomberg Fife & Drum	£700.00
Schomberg Fife & Drum	£850.00
Sir George White Memorial Flute Band	£2,250.00
Tobermore Loyal Flute Band	£1,400.00
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	£2,830.00
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	£3,500.00
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	£250.00
William Kerr Memorial Pipe Band	£1,500.00
William Savage Memorial Flute Band	£2,100.00
William Beattie Memorial Accordion Band	£412.50
William Strain & William Lightbody Memorial Flute Band	£2,100.00

2009	
Aughafatten Coronation Accordion Band	£2,250.00
Aughlisnafin Accordion Band	£2,512.50
Ballyhalbert Flute Band	£2,475.00
Ballykeel Loyal Sons of Ulster Flute Band	£1,600.00
Ballylone Concert Flute Band	£2,080.00
Ballywillan Flute Band	£2,250.00
Burnside Accordion Band	£1,800.00
Burnside Accordion Band	£2,355.00
Cahard Flute Band	£3,220.00
Cahard Flute Band	£1,787.50
Castlegore Amateur Flute Band	£2,100.00
Clontibret Pipe Band	£3,000.00
Commons Silver Band	£1,425.00
Craiganeer Accordion Band	£693.00

2009	
Crown Defenders Flute Band	£720.00
Curlough Accordion Band	£2,025.00
Donaghadee Flute Band	£2,100.00
Donaghmore Accordion Band	£1,950.00
Drum Accordian Band	£1,080.00
Drumlough Pipe Band	£2,202.75
Drumlough Pipe Band	£3,855.00
Dungiven Flute Band	£2,100.00
Dunloy Accordion Band	£2,250.00
Dunloy Accordion Band	£2,390.00
East Antrim (killyglen) Accordion Orchestra	£2,722.00
Flutes of Mourne	£2,175.00
Freeman Flute Band	£3,600.00
Garryduff Flute Band	£1,200.00
Gertrude Star Flute Band	£3,600.00
Girtaclare Pipe Band	£400.00
Howard Memorial Pipe Band	£2,625.00
Hunter Moore Memorial Flute Band	£4,050.00
John Hunter Accordion Band	£1,440.00
Kilkeel Silver Band	£1,800.00
Killyfargue Pipe Band	£3,000.00
Lisburn Fusiliers Flute Band	£2,496.20
Lisnagaver Flute Band	£1,252.00
Lord Londonderrys own CLB Flute Band	£2,100.00
Magheraboy Flute Band	£1,125.00
Magheragall Pipe Band	£2,400.00
Magheragall Pipe Band	£2,250.00
Marlaco Pipe Band	£2,940.00
Mourne Young Defenders Flute Band	£3,840.00
Mullabrack Accordion Band	£405.00
Newtownards Melody Flute Band	£2,100.00
Pride of Ballinran Flute Band	£2,080.00
Pride of the Park Flute Band	£1,200.00
Queensway Flute Band	£1,575.00
SeaPatrick Flute Band	£1,063.36
Sir Edward Carson True Blues Flute Band	£3,000.00
Sir Edward Carson True Blues Flute Band	£1,080.00
Sir George White Memorial Flute Band	£2,250.00
Sir George White Memorial Flute Band	£2,250.00

2009	
Skeogh Flute Band	£2,400.00
Skeogh Flute Band	£2,600.00
South Down Defenders Flute Band	£1,650.00
South Down Defenders Flute Band	£3,590.00
Star of The Roe Flute Band	£1,575.00
The Geoghegan Memorial Pipe Band	£3,632.25
Thiepval Memorial Pipe Band	£720.00
Tullyvallen Silver Band	£1,120.00
Tyrone Ditches Pipe Band	£2,850.00
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	£3,078.60
Vow Accordion Band	£1,800.00

ANNEX B**ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING FOR BANDS**

2009-2010 to Date	Grant
Pride of the Orange and Blue Flute Band	10,000
Armagh Old Boys Silver Band	4,000
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	2,250
Upper Falls Protestant Boys	2,500
Schomberg Fife and Drum Band	2,741
Closkelt Highland Pipe Band	3,663
Ulster Grenadiers Flute Band	4,266
Garvary Flute Band	5,000
Tobermore Loyal Flute Band	3,735
South Down Defenders Flute Band	5,000
Megargy Accordion Band	4,866
Ballykeel Conservative Flute Band	4,845
Upper Falls Protestant Boys	4,658
Fifes and Drums Historical and Musical Society	4,878
Omagh Protestant Boys (Melody) Flute Band	5,000
Blackhill Flute Band	2,477
Crossmaglen Youth Band	5,000
Ulster Volunteer Flute Band	4,583
Ballylesson Old Boys' Flute Band	4,889
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	5,000
Magheraglass Flute Band	4,557
Loughinsholin Cultural Music Group	4,984
Lisbellaw Accordion Band	5,000
Eden Accordion Band & Concert Music Society	5,000

2009-2010 to Date	Grant
Wattlebridge Accordion Band	5,000
Glenavy Accordion Band	4,680
Castlegore Amateur Flute Band	5,000

2008-2009	
Ballinacross Accordion Band	4,995
Ballymartin Pipe Band	4,999
Ballymena and Harryville Young Conqueror	5,000
Ballyreagh Silver Band	4,923
Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	3,472
Cappagh Pipe Band	5,000
Castlerock Pipe Band	5,000
Clogher Youth & Music Club	3,750
Coleraine Fife & Drum Band	4,492
Drumaheagles Young Defenders Flute Band	5,000
First Old Boys Association Silver Band	4,900
Killymuck Accordion Band	5,000
Kilnaslee Pipe Band	3,789
Lisnaskea Accordion Band	5,000
Montober Flute Band	4,958
Moybrone Pipe Band	4,657
Moygashel Sons of Ulster	4,183
Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	4,999
Mulnagore Coronation Accordion Band	4,862
Murley Concert Band (Junior band of Murley Silver Band)	5,000
Pomeroy Flute Band	4,736
Pride of the Derg Flute Band	4,713
Raffrey Pipe Band	4,999
Roses Lane Ends Temperance Flute Band	3,750
Sgt White Memorial Flute Band	4,255
Skeogh Flute Band	5,000
Tamlaght Pipe Band	5,000
Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	4,005
Tempo Accordion Band	4,191
Tubrid Pipe Band	4,688
W.J. Armstrong Memorial Pipe Band	4,995
William Strain William Lightbody Memorial Flute Band	5,000
The Hamilton Flute Band	800
Letterbreen Silver Band	4,000
Ballindarragh Accordion Band	1,850

2008-2009	
Trillick Pipe Band	3,650
Magheraboy Flute Band	3,520
Holy Cross Accordion Band Atticall	2,200

2007 -2008	
Ballymacall True Blues Flute Band	4,300
Ballymaconnelly Sons of Conquerors	4,525
Ballymoughan Flute Band	2,280
Blaris Accordion Band	4,688
Burntollet Sons of Ulster	5,000
Carnagh Accordion Band	2,295
Coalisland Jubilee Accordion Band	4,688
Crumlin Young Loyalist Flute Band	3,963
Cullybackey Pipe Band	5,000
Curran Flute Band	5,000
Dromara Highland Pipe Band	5,000
Drumconvis Young Defenders Flute Band	3,795
Drumnaglough Flute Band	3,775
Dyan Pipe Band	4,594
George A Dummigan Accordion Band	4,000
Gilnahirk Pipe Band	3,438
Gortagilly Musical Society	5,000
Grallagh Unionist Flute Band	5,000
Hounds of Ulster	5,000
Killycoogan Accordion Band	5,000
Kilrea Pipe Band	4,999
Knockloughrim Accordion Band	5,000
Lisnaskea Silver Band	5,000
Maghera Sons of William	2,730
Magheraboy Flute Band	3,723
Muckamore Cultural Music Society	5,000
Newmills Silver Band	5,000
Pride of Ardoyne	4,605
Pride of the Maine	3,690
Pride of The Park Flute Band Armoy	4,013
Saint Patrick's Pipe Band, Drumquin	4,901
St Eugene's Band Omagh	5,000
Tullywhisker Pipe Band	5,000
Tyrone Ditches Pipe Band	5,000
Moneymore Accordion Band	2,880

2007 -2008	
Letterbreen Silver Band	5,795
Magheraboy Flute Band	3,600
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	5,000
Bawn Silver Band	5,500
Ardboe Central Youth Band	5,000
Aghavilly Accordion Band	500
Ballycoan Pipe Band	5,970

Motor Sports Project

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the £2 million motor sports project; and to outline where this money will be spent. (AQW 2754/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Earlier this year, my Department earmarked up to £2 million over the next two years to help motorsport improve health and safety at motorsport venues across Northern Ireland. Sport Northern Ireland together with the umbrella body for motorsports here, the 2&4 Wheel Motorsport Steering Group Limited, are working together on the development of a business case for this funding which they hope to submit to DCAL before the end of December.

It is currently envisaged that the funding will be used to make health and safety improvements at a large number of circuits across all motorsport disciplines.

Sports Grounds

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to list for each of the last three years (i) sports grounds that have been used to hold commemorative events; (ii) political parties that have used sports grounds to hold events; (iii) Orange Order Lodges that have used sports grounds to hold events; and (iv) republican and loyalist organisations that have used sports grounds to hold events. (AQW 2773/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Neither my Department nor Sport Northern Ireland retains information on these matters.

Financial Problems of Soccer Clubs

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of Irish League premiership soccer clubs that have had financial difficulties; (ii) the number of soccer clubs in the Irish League first division that have had financial difficulties; and (iii) what steps his Department took to address the financial problems of soccer clubs in both divisions, in each of the last five years. (AQW 2775/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Responsibility for assessing the financial position of Irish League premiership soccer clubs, and addressing any financial problems they may have, rests with the clubs themselves. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) does not therefore routinely gather or hold information on the financial position of such clubs. However, Sport Northern Ireland (SNI), which is responsible for the development of sport including the distribution of funding, applies, under its Stadia Safety Programme, financial solvency criteria to help it assess public investment risks. Over the past 5 financial years, SNI deemed two Irish Premier League soccer clubs to be ineligible for grant under the Stadia Safety Programme based on their annual accounts/balance sheets. To assist these clubs SNI provided recommendations to improve their financial policies and procedures.

The Future of BBC Radio Foyle

Mr D McClarty asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what discussions his Department has had with the BBC regarding the future of BBC Radio Foyle and the BBC studio in Coleraine. (AQW 2794/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: My Department has not been in discussions with the BBC regarding the future of BBC Radio Foyle and the BBC studio in Coleraine.

I am aware that BBC Northern Ireland is considering efficiency savings and reinvestment proposals for 2010/11, however, DCAL has no involvement at this time.

Funding for Derry City FC

Mr D McClarty asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding Derry City FC has received from his Department or any associated body, such as Sports NI, in each of the last five years. (AQW 2795/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland including the distribution of funding. During the last five financial years Derry City FC has made one application to SNI for exchequer funding. In August 2004, the club received £1,360 from SNI through its Safety Management programme.

Eels

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of eels captured and transported to date, around the hydro station in Ballyshannon from the Erne catchment area; (ii) the number of fishermen involved in this process; and (iii) the estimated cost of the programme during its first year of operation. (AQW 2809/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The objective of the trap and truck operation is to catch an estimated 22.5 tonnes of eels during 2009. Approximately 6 tonnes of eels have been caught and transported to date.

There are currently four fishermen involved in the process of catching and transporting the eels around the hydro power station.

The hydro station at Ballyshannon is operated by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and all costs relating to the capture and transportation of eels around the power station are borne by ESB. ESB Fisheries are working in conjunction with the Northern Regional Fisheries Board and DCAL to implement their responsibilities as set out in the transboundary North West, Eel Management Plan (EMP). The costs incurred by DCAL relate only to monitoring and fishery protection duties, which the Department is responsible for under the 1966 Fisheries Act.

Capital Spend on Sporting and Cultural Projects

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the projected total capital spend by his Department on (i) sporting projects; and (ii) cultural projects for the 2010/11 financial year. (AQW 2831/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The total projected capital spend for the financial year 2010/11 on Sporting and Cultural Projects is £78,336k, this can be broken down into:

- (i) Sporting Projects – £36,294k
- (ii) Cultural Projects – £42,042k

The department also intends to spend £3,054k on Inland Waterways and Inland Fisheries projects. This amount is not included above.

Capital Spend on Sporting and Cultural Projects

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total capital spend by his Department on (i) sporting projects; and (ii) cultural projects for this financial year, broken down by constituency. (AQW 2833/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The forecast capital spend for the current financial year on Sporting and Cultural Projects is £64,543k. This can be broken down into:

(iii) Sporting Projects - £23,382k

(iv) Cultural Projects - £41,161k

The department also intends to spend £1,850k on Inland Waterways and Inland Fisheries projects.

An analysis of this proposed spend across constituencies is tabled as Annex 1.

You will note that certain amounts have been described as unallocated. There are a number of reasons for this: funds may not yet have been allocated to specific recipients; successful applications may not yet have been announced; and spend or proposed spend may cover a number of constituencies or be in the nature of central administration cost (eg IT equipment) and be impossible to allocate between them.

I would caution that while these forecasts have been carefully prepared, they are subject to a range of factors and are therefore subject to change.

ANNEX 1

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, CULTURE AND LEISURE FORECAST CAPITAL SPEND IN 2009/10 ANALYSED BY CONSTITUENCY

Capital Spend for 2009/10 by Constituency				
Constituency	Cultural £000's	Sports £000's	IWIF £000's	Total £000's
North Down	2,324	1,545	27	3,896
Strangford	19	796	12	827
Lagan Valley	8	1,248		1,256
North Antrim	14	1,449	283	1,746
South Antrim	1,663	1,514	18	3,195
East Antrim	394	1,222	12	1,628
Upper Bann	0	1,409	32	1,441
East Londonderry	782	783	44	1,609
Belfast North	1,527	1,080	10	2,617
Belfast East	16,689	100	12	16,801
Belfast West	67	28	25	120
Belfast South	7,907	615	8	8,530
Foyle	781	1,166		1,947
South Down	23	963	522	1,508
Fermanagh, South Tyrone	2,940	793	748	4,481
Mid Ulster	16	972	27	1,015
West Tyrone	304	202	10	516
Newry and Armagh	410	5,980	18	6,408
Unable to allocate	5,293	1,517	42	6,852
Total (Based On December proposed monitoring)	41,161	23,382	1,850	66,393

Travel Expenses for Board Members of Sport NI

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the cost of travel expenses for (i) the Chairman; (ii) the Vice-chairman; and (iii) board members of Sport NI for each of the last three years.

(AQW 2837/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: For the last three financial years the cost of travel expenses for the Chairman, Vice-chairman and board members of Sport NI are as shown in the table below:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Chairman	£15,533.73	£9,742.11	£6,948.00
Vice-Chairman	£261.00	£374.00	nil
Board Members	£3,689.00	£2,942.75	£3,929.00

Places for Sport Programme

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many GAA clubs applied for funding under the Places for Sport programme; and how many clubs, which met the criteria, were denied funding.

(AQW 3036/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Places for Sport Programme was developed and is administered by Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) which is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland including the distribution of funding. To date, SNI has run two phases of the Places for Sport Programme. A total of 59 applications were received from GAA clubs and venue operators across the two phases. SNI applied a scoring procedure to enable it to assess and prioritise applications received. The number of applications received by SNI for both phases of the Places for Sport Programme exceeded the quantum of monies available. Consequently, 12 GAA applications, which met the criteria, were turned down by SNI for this reason using its scoring procedure.

Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he will acknowledge the contribution made by the Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society to the local community.

(AQO 437/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I would, of course, be pleased to acknowledge the contribution which Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society has made to the local community.

The Society, which has a junior academy membership of 160 and an adult membership of 70, provides a range of valuable arts activities for all sections of the local community to enjoy. These activities include: adult drama groups, a youth academy, summer schools, special needs creative arts, older people's creative arts and education programmes.

Belvoir Players is a key strategic partner in assisting the Arts Council to increase attendance and participation levels in the arts, particularly in areas of social and economic deprivation.

The Society's ticket pricing policy provides access to the arts for low income families when affordability at other venues would be a deterrent.

It plays a vital role in the development of creative skills for members of its local and surrounding communities and is widely regarded by the amateur dramatic sector, and indeed professional drama sector, as being a leading force in community drama provision in Northern Ireland.

Maritime Heritage

Mr S Neeson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what his Department is doing to develop maritime heritage.

(AQO 438/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Report of the Assembly's Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee Inquiry into the need for a Museums Policy for Northern Ireland included a recommendation that the policy address the issue of how the maritime museum sector can be developed.

We are currently developing a policy which will address the Committee's recommendations including consideration of the development of the maritime sector. I expect the draft policy to be with me by December for agreement and for further consultation with the CAL Committee early in the New Year.

The Department will continue dialogue with National Museums on options for the future of the maritime and industrial heritage collections.

Re-imaging Communities

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for his assessment of the Re-Imaging Communities Initiative; and what further steps he intends to take regarding the removal of paramilitary murals. (AQO 441/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: An independent interim evaluation of the Re-Imaging Communities programme was completed in December 2008 and the findings indicate that the programme has been a success. A survey of 2,000 participants in 10 areas, in which projects have been completed, showed that the majority believed that the project had been of high-quality, had improved the appearance of the areas and had been generally beneficial.

Current funding for the Re-Imaging Communities programme will finish at the end of March 2010. I am aware that the Arts Council is working with various stakeholders to explore potential funding streams in order to extend the programme.

Given the success of the programme to date and the continued demand from communities, as evidenced by the significant number of project proposals at various stages of development, I am supportive in principle of the continuation of the programme. The Re-Imaging Communities programme has a proven track record of dealing with the sensitivities of replacing displays of paramilitary symbolism and I consider it is best placed to continue this process.

Funding of Bands

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline the eligibility criteria for bands seeking financial assistance from bodies supported by his Department. (AQO 442/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: All this information is available on the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland websites.

The website addresses are: www.ulsterscotsagency.org and www.artscouncil-ni.org.

Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the 'Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation in Northern Ireland 2007-2017'. (AQO 443/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), in partnership with Sport Northern Ireland (SNI), has prepared a final version of a planned new Northern Ireland Sports Strategy now entitled "Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009-2019". The final version of this strategy has been forwarded to the Northern Ireland Executive for consideration at a future meeting. I have been pressing and will continue to press for this to be considered and agreed by the Executive as soon as possible.

Lyric Theatre

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if his Department has considered the impact that the new Lyric Theatre will have on parking and traffic congestion in the surrounding area. (AQO 444/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Full consultations were undertaken with statutory bodies and local residents through the planning process. Conditions associated with planning permission require the Lyric to provide certain facilities to encourage travel by alternative means to private car. This includes the provision of facilities for cyclists, a staff travel scheme to encourage the use of public transport and information on bus and taxi services in the area for patrons.

In addition, the new theatre will have a second entrance leading directly to an existing walkway on Stranmillis Embankment and nearby car park on Stranmillis Road. Belfast City Council has confirmed that this car park will be available for use by Lyric patrons.

Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what input his Department had into the Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. (AQO 445/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In compiling the Northern Ireland input to the UK's Third Periodical Report on the Charter, DCAL, through the Interdepartmental Charter Implementation Group, sought input from other Departments and their Arms Length Bodies to add to its contribution on progress made with Ulster-Scots and Irish.

This composite Northern Ireland input to the UK's Third Periodical Report on Regional or Minority Languages has not yet been agreed. It is being considered by the Deputy First Minister and the input cannot proceed to an Executive Meeting until agreement is in place.

I met with representatives from the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts (Comex) during their visit to Northern Ireland on 21 and 22 September 2009 to discuss the current position of Ulster-Scots and Irish.

These meetings were positive and constructive. Comex will now produce a report on their findings, which is expected to be published in December 2009 or January 2010.

Chess

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what support his Department has given to the promotion of chess. (AQO 446/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland including the distribution of funding. Chess is not currently recognised by SNI as a sporting activity and is not therefore eligible for financial assistance from SNI.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Viability Criteria

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education what is the viability criteria for the establishment of (i) a post-primary Irish medium school; and (ii) a post-primary grant aided school. (AQW 2194/10)

Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane): The department of education is obliged to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education.

I recognise that there are gaps in provision of post primary education in the Irish medium sector.

Recommendation 9 of the Irish Medium Review sets out that 'New post-primary provision, which can be delivered through a range of school structures, should be developed at the optimal geographical location within local Area-Based Plans to draw on feeder primaries and integrate with other services, such as transport. Development should be preceded by a protocol setting out how the provision will operate, including how it will relate to other Irish-medium provision.'

Leagtar amach sa Pholasáí do Scoileanna Inbhuanaithe, a foilsíodh i mí Eanáir 2009, na sé chritéar a úsáidtear le hinmharthanacht scoileanna a athbhreithniú mar a leanas:-

- Eispéireas Oideachasúil d'Ardchaighdeán
- Treochtaí Seasta Rollaithe
- Staid Airgeadais Fhónta
- Ceannaireacht agus Bainistíocht Láidir
- Inrochtaineacht
- Naisc Láidre leis an Phobal.

The Sustainable Schools Policy, published in January 2009, sets out six criteria for use in assessing the educational viability of schools, as follows:-

- Quality Educational Experience
- Stable Enrolment Trends
- Sound Financial Position
- Strong Leadership and Management
- Accessibility
- Strong Links with the Community

Other relevant factors from both policies will form part of the consideration in the development proposal process.

For newly established schools, the minimum intake to qualify initially for recurrent funding is 50, increasing to 80 and 100 in the second and third years.

These criteria apply to the establishment of all grant-aided post-primary schools, including Irish-medium, but Irish-medium post-primary education can also develop through units or streams. In such cases, units would be expected to achieve a minimum intake of 12 pupils in year 8 but the combined Irish-medium and host school enrolment should be 100 per year group for an 11-16 school, and 100 for a sixth form.

Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Mrs C Hanna asked the Minister of Education if parents will have a right to request a statutory assessment of their child's needs under the proposals outlined in her Department's consultation document 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion'. (AQW 2347/10)

Minister of Education: Rinne an Roinn Oideachais athbhreithniú polasaí ar Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais agus Chuimsiú, agus d'eisigh sí doiciméad, le haghaidh comhairlithe, i mí Lúnasa 2009 a leag amach ardleibhéal moltaí le haghaidh breathnaithe poiblí. Mairfidh an tréimhse comhairlithe fhoirmiúil go dtí 30 Samhain 2009 agus, i ndiaidh an dáta seo, déanfaidh an Roinn breithniú iomlán ar na freagairtí atá faighte.

The Department of Education has undertaken a policy review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and inclusion and issued for consultation, in August 2009, a document setting out high level proposals for public consideration. The formal consultation period will run to 30 November 2009, after which the Department will fully consider the responses received. One of a range of proposals is to introduce a Coordinated Support Plan for children and young people with complex or multiple needs and a Personal Learning Plan for all other SEN children to focus on setting and monitoring outcomes for children, a process which it is considered is not adequately captured in the current system. After all responses to the policy proposals have been fully considered and decisions made on the proposals that are to be taken forward, the necessary lower level detail of the policy will be developed. One option that will be fully explored in the development of the detailed outworkings is the level of statutory assessment, by the Education and Skills Authority, that may be required.

Parents of children and young people with SEN will continued to be able to request a statutory assessment of need, within the existing SEN framework, until any new policy is implemented.

Department of Education Posts

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Education to detail the number, the location, the grade and the posts (i) within her Department; and (ii) within the Western Education and Library Board, currently located in (a) the Omagh District; and (b) the Strabane District; and to outline her Department's plans to retain and increase the number of such posts in West Tyrone. (AQW 2439/10)

Minister of Education: Níl aon phoist ag mo Roinn i limistéir na hÓmaí agus an tSraitha Báin. Thug Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Iarthair eolas dom ar an líon, ar shuíomh, ar ghrád agus ar na poist atá suite i limistéir na hÓmaí agus an tSraitha Báin agus shocraigh mé an t-eolas seo a chur i Leabharlann an Tionóil.

My Department has no posts in the Omagh and Strabane Districts. I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the Western Education & Library Board of the number, location, grade and posts, currently located in the Omagh and Strabane districts and have arranged for this information to be placed in the Assembly Library.

I fully appreciate the contribution which public-service jobs can make to the economic and social development of local communities. The retention or increase of WELB posts however in West Tyrone is a matter for the Board at this time. As part of the establishment of ESA, decisions on location will be subject to equality screening, and an Equality Impact Assessment and consultation where appropriate. Decisions will be taken in line with the guiding principles for RPA location. This process will allow Ministers to look at all the location decisions on the many sectors affected by the RPA at one time.

Department of Education: Capital Works

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education when any new capital works scheduled for the North Down area are due to commence. (AQW 2441/10)

Minister of Education: It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. At the heart of this is Every School a Good School, Sustainable Schools, the Revised Curriculum and the Entitlement Framework. As area based planning develops, these policies will drive the reshaping of our estate and the consequential investment plans.

As Minister for Education, I need to ensure that the substantial resources we are now investing produce the best outcomes for children and value for the taxpayer. On 15 October 2009, I announced that I have commissioned a review of current projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term.

Minor works are still progressing. The following table details minor works schemes currently being progressed for the North Down area.

School	Details of Project	Estimated Start Date
Sullivan Upper	Disabled Access	Work commenced 26/10/09
Sullivan Upper	Fire Risk Assessment work	Work commenced 26/10/09
Rathmore PS	Improvements to toilets	December 2009
Crawfordsburn PS	Staff and pupil toilet refurbishment	December 2009

Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Education whether additional staff will be employed in schools to meet the greater responsibility for special educational needs as outlined in her Department's consultation document 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion'. (AQW 2491/10)

Minister of Education: Maidir le trí cheist scríofa seo an Tionóil, dhíreoinn aird an Chomhalta ar na freagraí a thug mé do Chomhalta Bhéal Feirste Theas, Carmel Hanna, agus a foilsíodh sa Tuairisc Oifigiúil ar 13 Samhain 2009, ar cheisteanna (AQW 2491) AQW 2349/10; (AQW 2493) AQW 2346/10 and (AQW 2494) AQW 2348/10.

With regard to the three Assembly Written Questions, I would refer the Member to my replies respectively (AQW 2491) AQW 2349/10; (AQW 2493) AQW 2346/10 and (AQW 2494) AQW 2348/10 tabled by the Member for Belfast South, Carmel Hanna and published in the Official Report on 13th November 2009.

Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Education whether parents will have a right to request a statutory assessment of their children's needs under the proposals outlined in her Department's consultation document 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion'. (AQW 2492/10)

Minister of Education: Rinne an Roinn Oideachais athbhreithniú polasaí ar Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais agus Chuimsiú, agus d'eisigh sí doiciméad, le haghaidh comhairlithe, i mí Lúnasa 2009 a leag amach ardleibhéal moltaí le haghaidh breathnaithe poiblí. Mairfidh an tréimhse comhairlithe fhoirmiúil go dtí 30 Samhain 2009 agus, i ndiaidh an dáta seo, déanfaidh an Roinn breithniú iomlán ar na freagairtí atá faighte.

The Department of Education has undertaken a policy review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and inclusion and issued for consultation, in August 2009, a document setting out high level proposals for public consideration. The formal consultation period will run to 30 November 2009, after which the Department will fully consider the responses received. One of a range of proposals is to introduce a Coordinated Support Plan for children and young people with complex or multiple needs and a Personal Learning Plan for all other SEN children to focus on setting and monitoring outcomes for children, a process which it is considered is not adequately captured in the current system. After all responses to the policy proposals have been fully considered and decisions made on the proposals that are to be taken forward, the necessary lower level detail of the policy will be developed. One option that will be fully explored in the development of the detailed outworking is the level of statutory assessment, by the Education and Skills Authority, which may be required.

Parents of children and young people with SEN will continued to be able to request a statutory assessment of need, within the existing SEN framework, until any new policy is implemented.

Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Education whether fewer classroom assistants will be employed in schools under the proposals outlined in her Department's consultation document 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion'. (AQW 2493/10)

Minister of Education: Maidir le trí cheist scríofa seo an Tionóil, dhíreoinn aird an Chomhalta ar na freagraí a thug mé do Chomhalta Bhéal Feirste Theas, Carmel Hanna, agus a foilsíodh sa Tuairisc Oifigiúil ar 13 Samhain 2009, ar cheisteanna (AQW 2491) AQW 2349/10; (AQW 2493) AQW 2346/10 and (AQW 2494) AQW 2348/10.

With regard to the three Assembly Written Questions, I would refer the Member to my replies respectively (AQW 2491) AQW 2349/10; (AQW 2493) AQW 2346/10 and (AQW 2494) AQW 2348/10 tabled by the Member for Belfast South, Carmel Hanna and published in the Official Report on 13th November 2009.

Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Education what assurance can be given that a higher level of multi-disciplinary support will be provided by health professionals under the proposals outlined in her Department's consultation document 'Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion'. (AQW 2494/10)

Minister of Education: Maidir le trí cheist scríofa seo an Tionóil, dhíreoinn aird an Chomhalta ar na freagraí a thug mé do Chomhalta Bhéal Feirste Theas, Carmel Hanna, agus a foilsíodh sa Tuairisc Oifigiúil ar 13 Samhain 2009, ar cheisteanna (AQW 2491) AQW 2349/10; (AQW 2493) AQW 2346/10 and (AQW 2494) AQW 2348/10.

With regard to the three Assembly Written Questions, I would refer the Member to my replies respectively (AQW 2491) AQW 2349/10; (AQW 2493) AQW 2346/10 and (AQW 2494) AQW 2348/10 tabled by the Member for Belfast South, Carmel Hanna and published in the Official Report on 13th November 2009.

Ministerial Sub-committee on Children and Young People

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Education to detail her contribution, to date, to the Ministerial Sub Committee on Children and Young People. (AQW 2517/10)

Minister of Education: Tháinig an Fochoiste le chéile ar 7 ócáid go dtí seo. D'fhreastal mé ar 6 cruinniú. Tá mo Roinn i gceannas ar an obair a dhéanann 2 foghrúpa de na sé fhoghrúpaí a bhunaigh an Coiste, eadhon "Luathbhlianta" agus "Soláthar do Pháistí le Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais".

The Sub Committee has met on 7 occasions to date. I have attended 6 meetings.

My Department leads on the work of 2 of the six sub-groups established by the Committee, namely "Early Years" and "Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs".

Pupils Deemed to be 'gifted and talented'

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Education if her Department has a policy on pupils who have abilities which are deemed to be 'gifted and talented', and if not, are there any plans to introduce such a policy. (AQW 2544/10)

Minister of Education: Ba mhaith liom a chinntiú go bhfuil teacht ag gach páiste ar sholáthar oideachais ar chaidhdeán ard a bhaineann a riachtanais, a suimeanna agus a mianaidhmeanna amach, agus a chumasaíonn dóibh a gcumas iomlán a bhaint amach. Chun an fhís seo a bhaint amach, tá mé ag tabhairt réimse beartas idircheangáilte isteach atá tacaíthe ag an infheistiú san eastát oideachais, mar Gach Scoil ina Scoil Mhaith, an creat teidlíochta, an t-athbhreithniú ar riachtanais speisialta oideachais agus chuimsiú, agus an curaclam athbhreithnithe.

I want to ensure that every child has access to high quality provision that meets their needs, interests and aspirations and enables them to fulfil their potential. To achieve this vision, I am introducing a range of interconnected policies, such as Every School a Good School, the entitlement framework, the special educational needs and inclusion review and the revised curriculum, all supported by investment in the educational estate.

The revised curriculum provides greater flexibility for teachers to tailor provision to best suit the needs of their pupils. The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment have developed guidelines for the education of gifted and talented learners. In order to draw upon the most recent research and good practice in this area, a comprehensive literature review was compiled in 2006 and is available on the CCEA website and known as "Gifted and talented children in (and out of) the classroom". Guidelines for teachers were produced in 2007 and are also available on the CCEA website.

The Department's review of special education needs and inclusion has considered the broader range of reasons which create barriers to learning including those experienced by gifted or talented children. Consultation on the policy proposals which emerged from the review is currently open and will run until 30 November 2009. The aim of the proposals is to put in place a more robust and accountable support framework which will identify and support the needs of all children and young people who face barriers to learning.

Department of Education: Funding Audits

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Education how many funding related audits of (i) charities; (ii) community groups; and (iii) voluntary groups have been carried out by (a) her Department; and (b) its Agencies in each of the last 5 years; and how many times an audit was carried out on more than one occasion by different sections of her Department or its Agencies relating to the same funding. (AQW 2579/10)

Minister of Education: In accordance with EU Regulations, the Department conducts Article 4 and Article 10 checks on the eligibility of all EU expenditure, including that incurred by community groups and voluntary groups funded through the EU programme. No EU funding has been provided by the Department to charities. An Article 4 check is carried out on each project while an Article 10 check is carried out on approximately 5% of each year's expenditure. Therefore any project on which an Article 10 check was conducted will have had 2 financial verification visits conducted during the life of the project (both an Article 4 and an Article 10). The table below summarises the Article 4 and Article 10 checks conducted on EU expenditure in each of the last 5 calendar years.

Type of Check	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (to date)
EU Article 4	5	2	0	0	0
EU Article 10	5	0	0	0	0

Soláthraíonn an Roinn cistiú deontais do roinnt grúpaí deonacha, grúpaí pobail agus carthanachtaí atá faoi réir iniúchóireacht fíoraithe airgeadais. Achoimríonn an tábla thíos na hiniúchóireachtaí a seoladh de réir earnála i ngach bliain de na cúid bliana airgeadais a chuaigh thart. Seoltar na hiniúchóireachtaí ar bhonn bhliantúil nó go tráthrialta agus ní sheoltar gach eagraíocht ach ag rannóg amháin den Roinn.

The Department also provides grant funding to a number of voluntary groups, community groups and charities which are subject to financial verification audit. The table below summarises the audits conducted by sector in each of the last 5 financial years. The audits are conducted either annually or periodically and each organisation is audited by only one section of the Department. Where periodic audits are carried out, different periods of expenditure are examined during each audit.

Type of Organisation	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (to date)
Voluntary Groups	4	5	53	53	26
Community Groups	0	0	4	4	2
Charities	114	137	62	61	26

The Department does not have any Executive Agencies.

Teaching Induction Year

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education if she will introduce a teaching induction year for newly qualified teachers, as agreed in an Assembly motion two years ago, to ensure that they can gain the necessary experience to enable them to apply for a permanent, full-time teaching post. (AQW 2615/10)

Minister of Education: The costs associated with the introduction of a guaranteed induction year for newly qualified teachers here are substantial. It is estimated that a guarantee to students graduating after 2009 would cost over £12 million in the first year and over £20 million in subsequent years. The Department does not currently have the available resources to take this forward.

However, the Department has exhorted employers to give preference to newly qualified teachers (NQTs) and experienced non-retired teachers when vacancies in teaching posts arise. The Department has also advised employers that retired teachers should only be re-employed to provide short-term cover where NQTs or experienced non-retired teachers are unavailable.

Ina theannta sin, tá uasteorannú na leibhéal lár-aisíocaíochta ar chostais a bhaineann le clúdach ionadaithe ina spreagadh do scoileanna chun múinteoirí nua-cháilithe a fhostú mar ionadaithe.

In addition the capping of the levels of the central reimbursement of the costs of substitute cover also provides an incentive for schools to employ NQTs as substitutes.

Educational Underachievement

Mr D Simpson asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 1575/10, to list the main factors she associates with educational underachievement; and how these factors impact on Protestant working class areas. (AQW 2643/10)

Minister of Education: Liostaigh mé na príomhthosca a bhaineann le tearcghnóthachtáil oideachais mar fhreagra ar AQW 1575/10, dar liom (Tuairisc Oifigiúil, 23 Deireadh Fómhair 2009). Luaigh mé, fosta, go bhfuil sé mar aidhm agam caighdeán a ardú do gach duine agus dul i ngleic le tearcghnóthachtáil oideachais beag beann ar an áit ina bhfuil sí.

I listed the factors I associate with educational underachievement in response to AQW 1575/10 (Official Report, 23 October 2009). I also stated that my focus is on raising standards for all and tackling educational underachievement wherever it exists.

I recognise that the challenge is greater for those schools serving disadvantaged communities, and in communities where the value placed on education may not be as high as it might be. However, disadvantage, poverty of aspiration, or any other barrier to learning must not be allowed to affect the achievement of our young people.

There is evidence that the right combination of support, of leadership, of aspirations and expectations, can and does help our schools to improve. These are key elements of 'Every School a Good School – a policy for school improvement', my flagship policy for tackling underachievement and raising standards for all our young people.

Future Department of Justice

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Education (i) what steps her Department intends to take to engage with a future devolved Department of Justice on cross-cutting matters; and (ii) what contribution can her Department make to address cross-cutting justice and community safety issues, such as reducing levels of offending.

(AQW 2680/10)

Minister of Education: My Department has a long standing practice of working co-operatively with other Departments on matters which affect the interests of children and young people or where the expertise of the education sector has a contribution to make to policy or service development. This co-operative working can be with a single Department or with several depending on the matter in hand. I envisage no change in this approach when there is a devolved Department of Justice.

Maidir le saincheisteanna a bheadh faoi chúram na Roinne déabhlóidithe Dlí agus Cirt, tá socruithe oibre comhoibríochá i bhfeidhm cheana féin i réimsí amhail an Scéim nua um Ghrinnfhiosrúchán agus Urchosc agus Socruithe Cosanta Poiblí.

With regard to matters which may come within the remit of a devolved Department of Justice, co-operative working arrangements are already in place in areas such as the new Vetting and Barring Scheme and Public Protection Arrangements.

My Department is represented on the NIO led Community Safety Forum and has contributed to the development of the Community Safety Strategy and its Action Plan. My Department also participated fully in the Intra-Departmental Knife Awareness Working Group and contributed to the Knife Awareness Media Campaign and the PSNI's Knife Amnesty by funding an education programme to raise awareness of this issue in 11-18 year olds.

My Department is represented on the NIO led Learning and Skills Forum which is exploring ways of improving prisoners' educational attainments as part of the broader 'Reducing Offending' agenda.

Relationships and Sexuality Education

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Education what material the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has available for (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools for use in teaching Relationships and Sexuality Education.

(AQW 2714/10)

Minister of Education: Tá sé tugtha le fios dom ag an Chomhairle don Churaclam, Scrúduithe agus Measúnacht go bhfuil na hábhair seo a leanas le fáil:

I am advised by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) that the following materials are available:

Primary Schools

- The NI Curriculum: Primary (2007). The relevant key stage sections on Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) set out the statutory requirements and additional guidance which relate to Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE).
- Relationships and Sexuality Education: Guidance for Primary Schools (2001).
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding for Key Stages 1&2 (2007) provides guidance for Principals, Senior Managers, teaching staff and Governors.
- The Living Learning Together series for Years 1-7 includes a range of activities which address the statutory requirements for RSE within the PDMU programme.

Post-Primary Schools

- Learning for Life and Work for Key Stage 3 (2007).
- Personal Development at Key Stage 3: Guidance for Principals, Senior Managers and Governors.
- Personal Development: Key Stage 3 Non Statutory Guidance (2007).
- Personal Development: Guidance for Key Stage 4.
- The Insync series for Years 8-10 - includes RSE resources.
- Knowing and Growing - A Learning for Life and Work Thematic Unit- has been developed for post-primary age pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties.
- Love Matters - a CD-ROM produced for schools in 2005.

School Visits in the Mid-Ulster constituency

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Education to list the schools she has visited in the Mid-Ulster constituency since taking up office. (AQW 2761/10)

Minister of Education: Thug mé cuairt ar 6 scoil i dtoghcheantar Lár Uladh ó ceapadh mar Aire Oideachais mé. Féach an liosta thíos, le do thoil.

I have visited 6 schools in the Mid-Ulster constituency since taking up office, please see list below.

- Anahorish Primary School
- Gaelscoil Uí Neill
- New Row Primary School
- Primate Dixon Primary School
- St Colm's High School
- St John Bosco Primary School

Balmoral High School Private Finance Initiative / Public Private Partnership Project

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Education to provide an update on the Post Project Evaluation Report into the Balmoral High School Private Finance Initiative / Public Private Partnership Project. (AQW 2771/10)

Minister of Education: Níor cuireadh an **obair mheasúnaithe** ar an tionscadal seo i gcrích go fóill. D'iarr mé go gcríochnófar é roimh dheireadh na bliana airgeadais seo.

The evaluation work on this project has yet to be completed. I have asked that it be completed before the end of this financial year.

Pupil Absentee Rate

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education to detail the pupil absentee rate in primary schools in the East Antrim constituency in each of the last five years. (AQW 2781/10)

Minister of Education: The Department does not hold all of the information sought.

Since September 2006, a new standardised system of recording absences has been used in schools, following an update of the attendance module of the Classroom 2000 (C2K) system. This enables schools to record pupils' absences, the reasons for the absence and whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Bailíodh sonraí do na scoilbhlianta 2006/07 agus 2007/08 mar chuid de chleachtadh daonáirimh scoile i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2008 agus tá ráta neamhláithreachta na ndaltaí i mbunscoileanna de chuid thoghcheantar Oirthear Aontroma sna dá bhliain seo ar fáil sa tábla thíos.

Data for the 2006/07 and 2007/08 school years was collected as part of the school census exercise in October 2008 and the pupil absentee rate in primary schools in the East Antrim constituency for these two school years is shown in the table below.

OVERALL ABSENCE RATES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE EAST ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY

School ref no	School Name	Overall absence rate 2006/07	Overall absence rate 2007/08
3010470	Carnalbanagh PS	3.4	3.0
3010486	Larne And Inver PS	4.2	4.1
3010553	Carrickfergus Model PS	4.4	4.8
3010646	Olderfleet PS	2.9	3.2
3010696	Woodburn PS	4.5	3.9
3010760	Mullaghdubh PS	5.2	7.4
3010785	Eden PS	4.6	4.2
3010808	Glynn PS	3.8	4.1
3010809	Ballycarry PS	5.7	4.8
3010817	Greenisland PS	3.3	3.0
3010841	Carrickfergus Central PS	7.0	7.1
3010846	Whiteabbey PS	3.6	3.5
3010850	Upper Ballyboley PS	2.7	2.9
3010860	Sunnylands PS	6.0	7.2
3010870	Moyle PS	5.9	5.9
3010874	Whitehead PS	5.4	4.5
3010880	King's Park PS	4.4	5.3
3010883	Linn PS	4.4	4.7
3013330	Victoria PS	4.4	4.1
3013332	Toreagh PS	2.7	2.7
3016005	Silverstream PS	6.3	7.2
3016038	Hollybank PS	5.5	6.2
3016225	Woodlawn PS	5.7	6.1
3016257	Oakfield PS	6.2	5.2
3016269	Cairncastle PS	3.7	3.5
3030899	Seaview PS	3.8	4.1
3030900	St Anthony's PS	4.8	4.3
3033317	St John's PS	4.6	4.7
3036093	Lourdes PS	3.6	3.8
3036100	St James' Ps	3.7	5.7
3036563	St Nicholas' PS	7.5	5.4
3036575	St Macnissi's PS	5.1	5.2
3040451	Kilcoan PS	3.6	3.6
3050519	Carnlough Integrated PS	7.0	5.9
3066561	Corran Integrated PS	4.1	5.4
3066568	Acorn Integrated PS	4.5	4.0

Notes:

1. Data includes pupils in Year 1-7 only.
2. In 2006/07, attendance information was not available for 49 primary schools, which accounts for 5.5% of the total primary schools and 1.9% of all primary school pupils in Years 1 to 7 in 2006/07. Of the 49 schools, 17 closed just prior to the information being collected and the remaining 32 either did not have access to the electronic schools management information system or did not yet use it to record pupil attendance.
3. In 2007/08, attendance information was not available for 32 primary schools, which accounts for 3.6% of the total primary schools and 1.0% of all primary school pupils in Years 1 to 7 in 2007/08. Of the 32 schools, 17 closed just prior to the information being collected and the remaining 15 either did not have access to the electronic schools management information system or did not yet use it to record pupil attendance.

Detailed information on pupil attendance for the 2008/09 school year was collected from schools as part of the recent school census exercise in October. These detailed statistics are undergoing analysis and will be published in the new year.

Pupil Absentee Rate

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education to detail the pupil absentee rate in post-primary schools in the East Antrim constituency in each of the last five years. (AQW 2782/10)

Minister of Education: The Department does not hold all of the information sought.

Since September 2006, a new standardised system of recording absences has been used in schools, following an update of the attendance module of the Classroom 2000 (C2K) system. This enables schools to record pupils' absences, the reasons for the absence and whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Bailíodh sonraí do na scoilbhlianta 2006/07 agus 2007/08 mar chuid de chleachtadh daonáirimh scoile i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2008 agus tá ráta neamhláithreachta na ndaltaí in iarbhunscoileanna de chuid thoghcheantar Oirthear Aontroma sna dá bhliain seo ar fáil sa tábla thíos.

Data for the 2006/07 and 2007/08 school years was collected as part of the school census exercise in October 2008 and the pupil absentee rate in post-primary schools in the East Antrim constituency for these two school years is shown in the table below.

OVERALL ABSENCE RATES FOR POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE EAST ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY

School ref no	School name	Overall absence rate 2006/07	Overall absence rate 2007/08
3210038	Larne high school	12.4	12.1
3210091	Carrickfergus college	9.8	10.0
3210200	Monkstown community school	10.6	12.9
3210232	Downshire school	9.2	9.4
3230066	St comgall's high school	9.0	8.2
3260299	Ulidia intergrated college	6.7	6.4
3410098	Carrickfergus GS	4.8	4.8
3420046	Larne GS	4.9	4.7
3420077	Belfast high school	4.7	4.8
3420094	St macnissi's college	5.4	5.6

Notes:

1. Data includes pupils in Year 8-12 only.
2. It was not possible to include attendance data for 2006/07 for six post-primary schools which closed prior to the data being collected. This equates to 2.6% of all schools and 0.7% of all Year 8 to 12 pupils in 2006/07.
3. It was not possible to include attendance data for 2007/08 for four post-primary schools which closed prior to the data being collected in 2008/09. This equates to 1.8% of all post-primary schools and 0.4% of all Year 8 to 12 pupils in 2007/08.

Detailed information on pupil attendance for the 2008/09 school year was collected from schools as part of the recent school census exercise in October. These detailed statistics are undergoing analysis and will be published in the new year.

Teacher Sickness Rates

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education to detail teacher sickness rates in primary schools in the East Antrim constituency in each of the last five years. (AQW 2783/10)

Minister of Education: Léiríonn an tábla thíos rátaí tinnis na múinteoirí i mbunscoileanna agus iarbhunscoileanna i dtoghcheantar Oirthear Aontroma i ngach bliain de na cúig bliana a chuaigh thart.

The table below details teacher sickness rates in primary and post primary schools in the East Antrim constituency in each of the last five years.

		Number of sick days	Number of teachers in Post	Average
2004/2005	Primary	2576	357	7.22
	Post primary	1785	316	5.65
2005/2006	Primary	3178	343	9.27
	Post Primary	1964	305	6.44
2006/2007	Primary	2561	343	7.47
	Post Primary	2249	305	7.37
2007/2008	Primary	2971	352	8.44
	Post Primary	2072	319	6.50
2008/2009	Primary	2853	358	7.97
	Post Primary	2121	322	6.59

Notes:

1. Information is based on full time and pro rata teachers.
2. Post primary school information excludes voluntary grammar schools.
3. Figures are from April to March each year, working days only.

Teacher Sickness Rates

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education to detail teacher sickness rates in post-primary schools in the East Antrim constituency in each of the last five years. (AQW 2784/10)

Minister of Education: Léiríonn an tábla thíos rátaí tinnis na múinteoirí i mbunscoileanna agus iarbhunscoileanna i dtoghcheantar Oirthear Aontroma i ngach bliain de na cúig bliana a chuaigh thart.

The table below details teacher sickness rates in primary and post primary schools in the East Antrim constituency in each of the last five years.

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	Post Primary	2249	305	7.37
2007/2008	Primary	2971	352	8.44
	Post Primary	2072	319	6.50
2008/2009	Primary	2853	358	7.97
	Post Primary	2121	322	6.59

Notes:

4. Information is based on full time and pro rata teachers.
5. Post primary school information excludes voluntary grammar schools.
6. Figures are from April to March each year, working days only.

Detached Youth Workers

Mr M McLaughlin asked the Minister of Education how many detached youth workers are currently employed in Crumlin; and how they are being funded. (AQW 2828/10)

Minister of Education: Soláthraíonn an Roinn Oideachais maoiniú do Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt a fhostaíonn scar-oibríthe don ógra. Sholáthar Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt an t-eolas seo a leanas ar líon na scar-oibríthe atá fostaíthe ag an Bhord i gCromghlinn faoi láthair.

The Department of Education currently provides funding to the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) which employs detached youth workers in Crumlin.

The Chief Executive of the NEELB has provided the following information on the number of detached youth workers currently employed by the Board in Crumlin.

One full-time detached youth worker operating 3 out of 4 evenings per week in Crumlin.

I understand from the NEELB there are also two part-time outreach apprentices operating one night each per week, employed by the Board through funding from the Antrim Community Safety Partnership.

GCSE English and Maths

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Education how many children left school without gaining a grade D or above in (i) GCSE English; and (ii) GCSE Maths in each of the last five years, in the Mid-Ulster constituency. (AQW 2868/10)

Minister of Education: Níl na sonraí ar fáil ach do na trí bliana a chuaigh thart mar gur bailíodh agus gur bailmheasadh an t-eolas seo don chéad uair sa bhliain acadúil 2005/06. Tá na sonraí ar fáil sa tábla thíos.

The data are only available for the last three years as information on individual subjects was first collected and validated for the 2005/06 academic year. The data are contained in the table below.

Number of pupils resident in the Mid-Ulster Constituency not achieving a grade D or above in: (i) GCSE English or (ii) GCSE mathematics 2005/06 to 2007/08

	(i) Pupils not achieving a grade D or above in GCSE English		(ii) Pupils not achieving a grade D or above in GCSE mathematics		Total Leavers
	Number	%	Number	%	Number
2005/06	289	18.6	385	24.8	1,550
2006/07	257	18.2	349	24.7	1,411
2007/08	247	17.7	320	23.0	1,393

Source: School Leavers Survey

Economic Appraisal for Magherafelt High School

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Education to outline the sequence of events in relation to the economic appraisal for the Magherafelt High School project since tender was approved in July 2009; and when her Department will sign off the appraisal. (AQW 2896/10)

Minister of Education: Fuarthas dréacht den Bhreithmheas Eacnamaíochta athbhreithnithe do Magherafelt High School ar 23 Meán Fómhair agus tugadh barúlacha do Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt ar 27 Deireadh Fómhair. Fuair an Roinn Oideachais Breithmheas Eacnamaíochta snoite ar 10 Samhain agus d'fhaomh an Roinn Airgeadais agus Pearsanra é ar 19 Samhain.

A draft of the revised Economic Appraisal (EA) for Magherafelt High School was received on 23 September and comments were returned to the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) on 27 October. A refined EA was received by the Department on 10 November and was approved by the Department of Finance and Personnel on 19 November.

Truancy

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education how many pupils in (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools have been suspended because of truancy in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 2899/10)

Minister of Education: Ní cúis bhailí é neamhláithreacht ar scoil chun dalta a chur ar fionraí ná a chaitheamh amach agus, mar sin de, níor fágadh dalta ar bith amach as scoil mar gheall ar an chúis seo i ngach bliain de na trí bliana a chuaigh thart.

Absence from school is not a valid reason for a pupil to be suspended or expelled and as such, no pupils have been excluded from school in each of the last three years for this reason.

The Department collects data on the number of pupil suspensions and expulsions from the Education and Library Boards annually. These statistics are published on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk/index/21-pupils-parents-pg/pupils_parents-suspensions_and_expulsions_pg.htm and include a breakdown of the reasons for suspension and expulsion.

Truancy

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education how many pupils in (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools have been excluded because of truancy in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 2900/10)

Minister of Education: Ní cúis bhailí é neamhláithreacht ar scoil chun dalta a chur ar fionraí ná a chaitheamh amach agus, mar sin de, níor fágadh dalta ar bith amach as scoil mar gheall ar an chúis seo i ngach bliain de na trí bliana a chuaigh thart.

Absence from school is not a valid reason for a pupil to be suspended or expelled and as such, no pupils have been excluded from school in each of the last three years for this reason.

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Truancy

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education what steps she has taken to reduce truancy rates in (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools.

(AQW 2901/10)

Minister of Education: Tá bearta i bhfeidhm ag scoileanna le freastal rialta a chur chun cinn i measc na ndaltaí agus le déileáil le neamhfheastal. Mar shampla, d'fhéadfadh siad teastais a bhronnadh do na daltaí sin a bhfuil taifid lánfheastail acu, agus d'fhéadfadh siad teagmháil a dhéanamh le tuismitheoirí nó cúramóirí trí ghuthán i gcás na ndaltaí sin a bhí as láthair gan fáth.

Schools have their own measures in place to promote regular attendance amongst their pupils and to address non-attendance. For example, they may award certificates to those pupils who have full attendance records and, for those who have been absent from school without reason, they may contact parents or carers by phone.

A school will use its own discretion to determine if non-attendance is an issue that requires external support. This may include consideration of other issues such as a pupil's personal circumstances, a pupil's general condition of health and examining any emerging absence patterns.

A school is expected to make a referral to the Education Welfare Service (EWS) in its local Education and Library Board when a pupils' school attendance is a cause for concern or when attendance drops below 85%, which is a threshold used as a guiding tool for schools.

The reasons for persistent non-attendance are frequently symptomatic of other problems being experienced by a pupil, such as caring responsibilities, pregnancy or being a victim of bullying. The initial response to a referral of a pupil by a school to EWS is a home visit. This provides the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) with an

opportunity to assess whether the absence is condoned by parents and if they are in a position to ensure regular attendance. When this is the case court action may be considered.

Where parents are in need of support or addressing the underlying reasons for non-attendance will require sustained intervention, then the EWO will act as lead worker and in collaboration with all parties seek to agree an action plan. This may involve a 'case conference' at which the pupil, his/her parents and the school are represented. Depending on the nature of the presenting problems participation may be broadened to include other agencies. For pupils with particular problems regular attendance at their host school, or any other mainstream school, may not be an option. Where this is the case, pupils may be referred by their EWO to a suitable alternative education programme.

Crumlin Integrated High School

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the process; (ii) the date; (iii) the timeframe; and (iv) the reasons for the decision not to allow Crumlin Integrated High School to proceed with a sixth-form. (AQW 2929/10)

Minister of Education: Chun athrú ar bith a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le soláthar scoile, caithfear Togra Forbartha a thabhairt isteach. D'fhoilsigh Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlaine an Oirthuaiscirt Togra Forbartha, ar 2 Aibreán 2009, a ligeann soláthar iar-16 ar Crumlin Integrated College agus ar Parkhall College a bhunú le héifeacht ó 1 Meán Fómhair, nó chomh luath agus is féidir ina dhiaidh sin.

In order to effect any change in school provision there is a requirement to bring forward a Development Proposal (DP). The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) published, on 2 April 2009, a DP to allow for the establishment of post 16 provision at Crumlin Integrated College and Parkhall College with effect from 1 September 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter. A further DP was published on the same date to allow for the establishment of post-16 provision at St Benedict's College. All three schools are part of the Antrim Learning Community. The publication of the DPs initiated a statutory 2 month period during which representations could be made to the Department. Following this period I considered the DPs very carefully and I decided to turn both down. My decision, which was made known on 27 August, was taken in the context of area planning and the delivery of the Entitlement Framework. The DPs appeared simply to allow for the setting up of three small sixth forms. In planning their curricular offer the focus of schools and Area Learning Communities must not be on the needs of institutions or courses that have been traditionally offered but on the needs and aspirations of the young people.

Primary School Trained Teachers

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2571/10, what plans she has to ensure (i) that there are sufficient primary school trained teachers to cope with the extra demand; and (ii) that there will be no negative impact on teacher:pupil ratios. (AQW 2932/10)

Minister of Education:

- (i) Cinntear iontógálacha ar oideachas múinteora tosaigh ar bhonn bhliantúil agus tá gá le cinntiú go bhfreagróidh líon na ndaltaí atá ag dul isteach in oideachas múinteora tosaigh do riachtanais an chórais oideachais, sa ghearrthearma agus san fhadthearma araon. Úsáideann an Roinn Múnla staitistiúil Éilimh Múinteorí, atá íogair do réimse fachtóirí éilimh-soláthair, chun eolas a thabhairt don chinneadh seo.
- (ii) Intakes to courses of initial teacher education (ITE) are determined on an annual basis and there is a need to ensure that the number of students entering ITE reflect the needs of our school system, both in the short and longer term. The Department uses a statistical Teacher Demand Model, which is sensitive to a range of supply and demand factors, to help inform this determination.

In setting the intakes to Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for the 2009/10 academic year I took account of a range of issues including the rise in birth rates and its impact on pupil numbers within the primary sector. The overall primary ITE intake figure for the 2009/10 academic year was increased to 265 (an increase of 28 places over the 2008/09 academic year figure of 237). As part of the process of determining the intakes for the 2010/11 academic year I will be carefully considering the latest population projections published by NISRA.

- (ii) The Teacher Demand Model, which the department uses to calculate the optimum intake into Initial Teacher Education, takes account of a number of factors, including Schools Census projections (derived from NISRA birthrate data), the projected wastage of teachers, and the Pupil: Teacher Ratio. In the Teacher Demand Model, the Pupil: Teacher Ratio is projected to remain the same. (This is because Pupil: Teacher Ratio has not changed appreciably in recent years, and there are no targets associated with it.) Therefore, projections for ITE intakes are designed to ensure that there will be no impact on the Pupil: Teacher Ratio.

School Governor Applicants

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education what background checks are carried out on applicants for the position of School Governor. (AQW 2961/10)

Minister of Education: The position of school governor is specified as a regulated position under the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007.

A new Vetting and Barring Scheme started on the 12 October 2009 with the implementation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Children's Barred List and Adults' Barred List barring individuals from regulated activity.

Any individual held on the ISA's Barred Lists will be prohibited from working as a school governor. An individual can be automatically included on either the Children's or Adults' Barred list for very serious offences. These are specified in Statutory Rule 2009/39 the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (NI) 2009.

Caithfear seiceálacha cúlra a dhéanamh ar dhaoine a chuireann iarratas isteach ar phoist rialaithe agus caithfear seiceáil shásúil a chur i gcrích sula líontar poist den chineál seo. Cuimsíonn seiceáil choiriúil cúlra deimhniú nach láithríonn ainm an duine aonair ar liosta reachtúil de dhaoine faoi urchoisc ar obair le páistí nó le daoine fásta leochaileacha.

Criminal background checks must be carried out on those applying for regulated positions and a satisfactory check completed before such positions are filled. A criminal background check includes confirmation that the individual's name does not appear on any statutory list of persons barred from working with children or vulnerable adults.

There is also a provision in the Schemes of Management approved by my Department for grant-aided schools that disqualifies a school governor from office on the basis of a criminal conviction. It disqualifies from office anyone who within five years before the first day that his or her governorship could have taken effect, or who, at any time after that date, has been convicted by a court of any offence and has had passed on him a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than 3 months without the option of a fine.

Appointment to Boards of Governors

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education if a criminal conviction prohibits appointment to the Boards of Governors of schools, and under what circumstances a criminal conviction would bar an applicant. (AQW 2964/10)

Minister of Education: The position of school governor is specified as a regulated position under the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007.

A new Vetting and Barring Scheme started on the 12 October 2009 with the implementation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Children's Barred List and Adults' Barred List barring individuals from regulated activity.

Any individual held on the ISA's Barred Lists will be prohibited from working as a school governor. An individual can be automatically included on either the Children's or Adults' Barred list for very serious offences. These are specified in Statutory Rule 2009/39 the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Prescribed Criteria and Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (NI) 2009.

Caithfear seiceálacha cúlra a dhéanamh ar dhaoine a chuireann iarratas isteach ar phoist rialaithe agus caithfear seiceáil shásúil a chur i gcrích sula líontar poist den chineál seo. Cuimsíonn seiceáil choiriúil cúlra

deimhniú nach láithríonn ainm an duine aonair ar liosta reachtúil de dhaoine faoi urchoisc ar obair le páistí nó le daoine fásta leochaileacha.

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Schools: Federation Model or Cluster Arrangement

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Education to list schools from across all sectors and in each Education and Library Board area which form part of a federation model or cluster arrangement; and to detail the criteria for schools entering into such an arrangement to achieve viability and sustainability. (AQW 3028/10)

Minister of Education: Tá aon shocrú cónasctha amháin i bhfeidhm i dtuaisceart na hÉireann, idir Bunscoil Naomh Seosaimh, Glenullin, agus Bunscoil Naomh Pádraig, Tír Mhic Caoirthinn. Breithneofar aon togra le haghaidh cónaidhme ar bhonn ó chás go cás tríd an chreat atá leagtha amach sa Bheartas um Scoileanna Inbhuanaithe.

There is currently one federated arrangement in operation in the north of Ireland between St. Joseph's Primary School, Glenullin and St Patrick Primary School, Tirkeeran.

Any proposal for federation would be considered on a case-by-case basis using the framework provided by the Sustainable Schools Policy.

DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING

Belfast Metropolitan College at the Titanic Quarter

Mr P Butler asked Minister for Employment and Learning (i) how much the new Belfast Metropolitan College at the Titanic Quarter will cost to build under the Private Finance Initiative contract; (ii) how much his Department will have to pay to the developers under this contract; and (iii) how many years this contract will last until ownership of the college reverts to Belfast Metropolitan College. (AQW 2574/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning (Sir Reg Empey): The private sector consortium responsible for the Titanic Quarter Public Private Partnership project for the Belfast Metropolitan College will be paid a unitary payment of £4.4m per annum. This covers the cost of the design, build, financing and operation of the college including cleaning, caretaking, security and ongoing maintenance of the building. This sum which is indexed linked for the duration of the 25 year contract is at March 2009 prices.

The accommodation will be available for 25 years from August 2011, after which time ownership of the property reverts to the College.

Future Department of Justice

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) what steps his Department intends to take to engage with a future devolved Department of Justice on cross-cutting matters; and (ii) what contribution can his Department make to address cross-cutting justice and community safety issues, such as reducing levels of offending. (AQW 2678/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: My Department will engage with any future devolved Department of Justice on relevant cross-cutting issues, as it currently does with other Departments.

As part of the proposed new arrangements for Tribunal Reform in NI the Industrial Tribunals and the Fair Employment Tribunal and the Reserve Forces Reinstatement Committee together with the administrative function is scheduled to transfer to the NI Courts Service in April 2010, unless a newly devolved Department of Justice is formed in the meantime, in which case they will transfer Departments within the NI Civil Service. My Department will continue to make the policy context in which employment rights are redressed as well as making the relevant legislation.

My Department contributes to addressing cross cutting justice and community safety issues in a range of ways. These include the raising of essential skills amongst offenders to improve their future employability, and schemes to help them find work, thereby reducing the risk of re-offending. In addition, my Department supports the work of the “Skills for Justice” Sector Skills Council which works with justice and community safety employers to identify skills and workforce development needs and provide high quality solutions.

Private Finance Initiatives

Mr P Butler asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of Private Finance Initiatives his Department has entered into with the private sector in the last three years; (ii) the Further Education capital build projects being carried out under Private Finance Initiative contracts; and (iii) the cost of these projects, including payments that will be made to private contractors. (AQW 2693/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: Colleges in the Further Education sector currently have seven Public Private Partnerships agreements, three of which have been signed within the last three years - South Eastern Regional College at Lisburn, South Eastern Regional College at East Down (Downpatrick, Ballynahinch and Newcastle), and Belfast Metropolitan College at Titanic Quarter. The attached table sets out the unitary payments, which are indexed linked, that will be paid to the private sector consortium for the design, building, financing and operation of the facilities for the contract term.

Project Name	Contract Length	Estimated Capital Value	Unitary Payment	DEL Contribution	College Contribution
Belfast Metropolitan College - Titanic Quarter	25 years	£45m	£4.4m*	£2.9m	£1.5m
Belfast Metropolitan College - Millfield	25 years	£20m	£3.1m**	£2.1m	£1.0m
South Eastern Regional College – Lisburn	25 years	£24m	£2.7m*	£1.8m	£0.9m
South Eastern Regional College – East Down	25 years	£20m	£3.7m*	£2.7m	£1.0m
North West Regional College - Northland Building	25 years	£10m	£2.2m**	£1.3m	£0.9m
South West College - Omagh	30 years	£20m	£3.5m**	£2.9m	£0.6m
South West College - Dungannon	30 years	£17m	£2.7m**	£2.2m	£0.5m

Notes:

* at contract signing prices

** at service commencement

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many EU Directives his Department has (i) received; and (ii) implemented in each of the last three years. (AQW 2724/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: The following table sets out the number of EU Directives (i) received and (ii) implemented in each of the last three years. For the purposes of this question, ‘received’ and ‘implemented’ have been translated to mean adopted and transposed.

A directive is formally adopted when it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Subsequently, departments receive details of the directive and determine what action needs to be taken.

Transposition into Northern Ireland law may be required; however, in other cases, this is done on a UK-wide basis. Date of transposition refers to the date at which enabling legislation is complete and is therefore the legal date of implementation. Further action in terms of operational implementation may be required by departments; however this may be open-ended.

Year*	Adopted**	Transposed***
2007	0	1
2008	1	0
2009	1	0
Total	2	1

Footnote:

* Calendar year basis (1 January to 31 December).

** Date published in Official Journal of the European Union.

*** This may include directives which were adopted prior to 2007.

Apprenticeships

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many people have enrolled in apprenticeships in the Mid-Ulster constituency in each of the last three years. (AQW 2762/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: The Department has supported 1104 apprentices whose given address is within the Mid-Ulster area between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2009. The data in the Table below lists the number of apprentices who have enrolled in each of the last three years. Although these apprentices reside within the Mid-Ulster area, they may or may not have enrolled with Training Providers in the Mid-Ulster area and may or may not be employed by companies in the Mid-Ulster area. The Department is not in a position to break enrolments down by constituency.

NUMBER OF ENROLMENTS FOR APPRENTICESHIPS PROGRAMMES IN THE MID-ULSTER AREA 1 SEPTEMBER 2006 – 31 AUGUST 2009

1 Sept 2006 – 31 Aug 2007	220
1 Sept 2007 – 31 Aug 2008	414
1 Sept 2008 – 31 Aug 2009	470

Public Sector Jobs in West Tyrone

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number, the location, the grade and the posts within his Department currently located in (a) the Omagh District; and (b) the Strabane District; and to outline his Department's plans to increase the number of public sector jobs in West Tyrone. (AQW 2882/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: The number, location, grade and posts within the Department for Employment and Learning in the Omagh and Strabane Districts are set out in the tables below.

The Department has no plans at present to increase the number of public sector jobs in West Tyrone. The position is however subject to ongoing review as the department seeks to balance service demands and resource availability

OMAGH DISTRICT

ALL POSTS ARE BASED IN OMAGH JOBS AND BENEFITS OFFICE:

Number	Grade	Post
1.0	Deputy Principal	Southern Region District Manager

Number	Grade	Post
1.0	Staff Officer	Office Manager
1.15	EO1	Pathways Team Leader
1.79	EO1	Team Leader
7.26	EO2	Work Focused Interview Personal Adviser
2.99	EO2	Employment and Support Allowance Personal Adviser
4.83	EO2	Steps to Work Personal Adviser
1.25	EO2	Supervisor
3.76	AO	Job Brokerage Officer
1.0	AO	Welcome Desk
6.16	AO	Job Signing Officer
1.57	AO	Administrative Officer
1.0	AA	Administrative Assistant
1.0	EO1	Access to Work Adviser
0.78	AO	Disablement Advisory Service Administration
1.0	DP	Careers Service Area Manager
3.47	EO1	Careers Adviser
1.0	AO	Careers Administration
42.01	Total Positions	

STRABANE DISTRICT

ALL POSTS ARE BASED IN STRABANE JOB CENTRE:

Number	Grade	Post
1	Staff Officer	Office Manager
0.98	EO1	Pathways Team Leader
1.63	EO1	Team Leader
2.75	EO2	Employment and Support Allowance Personal Adviser
5.93	EO2	Steps to Work Personal Adviser
0.43	EO2	Supervisor
2.56	AO	Job Brokerage Officer
1.74	AO	Administrative Officer
2	AA	Administrative Assistant
2	EO1	Careers Adviser
1	AO	Careers Administration
0.76	EO1	Employment Service Policy EO1
0.65	AO	Employment Service Policy Administration
1	EO1	ICT & Innovation EO1
1	EO2	ICT & Innovation EO2
25.43	Total Positions	

DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

NI Electricity

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the procedures that NI Electricity follows when accessing private land to lay connections. (AQW 2635/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster): When Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) intends to lay a new electricity connection on private land NIE will discuss its plans with the landowner(s). Legal consent in the form of a wayleave agreement or easement is required from the relevant landowner(s) before work can commence. To secure legal consent, NIE or its agent, will approach Land Registry or obtain a copy of the title deeds if they are unsure of who owns the land.

When the plans are agreed each landowner is invited to sign a voluntary wayleave agreement or in the case of an easement their solicitor will be instructed to complete the legal documentation. If agreement cannot be reached NIE will apply to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for a necessary wayleave. This will entail the Department appointing independent wayleave officers to consider the application. The wayleave officer will recommend whether or not the Department should grant the wayleave, following a hearing with the landowner(s) and NIE.

At the time of signing the wayleave or easement NIE will also obtain any special requests from the landowner(s) with regard to access or contact arrangements before NIE or its contractors access their land.

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many EU Directives her Department has (i) received; and (ii) implemented in each of the last three years. (AQW 2662/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The table below sets out the number of EU Directives DETI has (i) received and (ii) implemented

Year Calendar year basis	Adopted Date published in Official Journal of the European Union	Transposed This includes 3 directives which were adopted prior to 2007
2007	5	4
2008	20	15
2009	21	17
Total	46	36

Notes:

For the purposes of this question, 'received' and 'implemented' have been translated to mean adopted and transposed.

A directive is formally adopted when it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Date of transposition refers to the date at which enabling legislation is complete and is therefore the legal date of implementation.

Transposition into Northern Ireland law may not be required in every instance or may be done on a UK-wide basis.

Future Department of Justice

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what steps her Department intends to take to engage with a future devolved Department of Justice on cross-cutting matters; and (ii) what contribution can her Department make to address cross-cutting justice and community safety issues, such as reducing levels of offending. (AQW 2703/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: To date no decision has been taken regarding the devolution of Policing and Justice. As with all cross cutting matters, my Department will fully engage with a future Department of Justice, as appropriate. As regards cross cutting justice and community safety issues it is not possible to anticipate what contribution my Department could make without knowledge of the specific issue.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if the Financial Services Authority carried out an inspection of the Presbyterian Mutual Society prior to its final inspection. (AQW 2745/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) announced on 9 April 2009 that it had carried out an investigation of the Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS). The investigation concluded that the PMS had been conducting regulated activities without the necessary FSA authorisation.

As the PMS was not regulated by the FSA at any time my Department is not aware that the FSA carried out any inspections prior to the investigation which it reported on 9 April 2009.

Local Fishing Industry

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assistance Invest NI can offer to the local fishing industry for overseas marketing; and what assistance has been given over the past five years. (AQW 2752/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: In its role as the lead economic development agency, Invest NI provides a wide range of business support options to both seafish and freshwater fish processors in Northern Ireland.

Invest NI makes a range of overseas marketing support options available to the local fish processing sector. This can include inter alia:

- the provision of in-house secondary market research directly from a unique, extensive and up-to-date market research information held in Invest NI's Information Centre
- financial intervention to support primary market research and market research visits,
- financial intervention to support market development visits,
- financial intervention to support the design and origination of a full range of advertising and promotional materials including the design of company websites,
- financial intervention to support the development of company capability through the provision of management salary grants for Marketing and Sales posts.
- assistance to participate in the Passport to Export programme
- participation on 'Meet the Buyer' sessions

Over the past five years Invest NI support, totalling £88,977, has levered an investment in direct marketing spend of over £222,000. This has been made available to support the overseas marketing effort of seven fish processing companies.

Typical rates of Invest NI financial support range from 30-40% of eligible expenditure and assistance is generally provided through either short-term (18 month) programmes such as the Growth Accelerator Programme or the more strategic (3-year) Selective Finance Agreements.

In addition 5 companies were supported in attending/exhibiting at the European Seafood Exhibition in Brussels, the largest fish marketing trade show in Europe, in 2004 and a further 10 companies in 2005. The total financial support provided by Invest NI in assisting these companies was almost £6,300.

Support for assistance to exhibit at this event was subsequently withdrawn due to lack of support by the sector. Invest NI is however currently recruiting participant companies for a Trade Development Visit to the 2010 European Seafood Exhibition.

Invest NI is also supporting those fish processing companies currently preparing applications to the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) for capital assistance: the first applications which are due to be appraised by DARD, as the Competent Authority with responsibility for the programme, within the next few weeks. Additionally, Invest NI is also actively seeking to develop associated marketing programmes and to encourage complementary applications for marketing assistance which will be assessed and supported by Invest NI.

Assistance was also provided by Invest NI, as an integral part of the previous capital support focused programme the EU Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). This programme has been superseded by the European Fisheries Fund (EFF).

The Invest NI financial interventions quoted above exclude the significant additional capital support of over £135,000 offered to the sector over the same period which levered over £2.7m of capital investment.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money has been sourced from the European Regional Development Fund to support the development of Credit Unions. (AQW 2756/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: To date, European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) has not been accessed through DETI to support the development of Credit Unions.

European Funding to Assist Credit Unions

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money has been sourced from European funding to assist Credit Unions to (i) improve services, including offering financial management advice; and (ii) establish new Credit Unions in areas of high social deprivation and economic disadvantage. (AQW 2757/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: My Department has had no contact with the Scottish Parliament or with the Welsh Assembly in relation to the promotion of the credit union movement.

The Northern Ireland credit union movement is already well established throughout Northern Ireland, including areas of social and economic disadvantage, providing a comprehensive and accessible savings and loan network of 180 credit unions with over 430,000 members, savings of £775m and loans to members of £516m.

The Registrar of Credit Unions in DETI will continue to work closely with all sectors of the movement in implementing measures which will promote the development and growth of credit unions where it is prudent to do so.

Credit Unions

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what steps have been taken to raise awareness of Credit Union's being an alternative to the risks of people turning to loan sharks and doorstep lenders. (AQW 2758/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Credit unions are well established throughout Northern Ireland, including areas of social and economic disadvantage, providing a comprehensive and accessible savings and loan network of 180 credit unions with over 430,000 members, savings of £775m and loans of £516m. They can provide an alternative source of affordable credit to many individuals who might otherwise resort to loan sharks and other illegal doorstep lenders.

I welcome the Irish League of Credit Unions' national advertising campaign: "CU at Your Place". The aim of this multi media campaign is to convey the message that credit unions are safe and strong. The next phase of this campaign is due to commence in January 2010.

OFMDFM has also been working alongside a range of key stakeholders including the PSNI, credit unions, the voluntary and community sector and my Department's Trading Standards Service (TSS) to address the problem, and a sub-group of the Cross Sector Advisory Forum is currently considering how best to take this matter forward.

In its enforcement role under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 - protecting the public from unlicensed money lenders - TSS has used both the print and broadcast media to issue warnings about the dangers inherent in using loan sharks, and to highlight the advantages of using lawful, licensed sources of consumer credit such as Credit Unions.

Credit Unions

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions her Department has had with the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly in relation to the promotion of the Credit Union Movement. (AQW 2760/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: To date EU funding has not been accessed through DETI to either assist or establish Credit Unions in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland credit union movement is already well established, throughout Northern Ireland, including areas of social and economic disadvantage, providing a comprehensive and accessible savings and loan network of 180 credit unions with over 430,000 members, savings of £775m and loans to members of £516m.

The credit union movement prides itself that this success has largely been achieved through a sustainable business model which has created a robust and vigorous movement over the past 40 years.

The Registrar of Credit Unions in DETI has regular contact with the representative bodies for Northern Ireland credit unions, and will discuss this matter further with them to identify what action if any might be taken under future programmes.

People Registered as Unemployed

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of people registered as unemployed in each constituency, in each of the last 24 months. (AQW 2785/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The table below provides the number of unemployment benefit claimants by Parliamentary Constituency Area in each month from November 2007 to October 2009.

Date	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08
Belfast East	808	795	860	863	841	871	863	886	936	965	957	988
Belfast North	1,775	1,751	1,807	1,839	1,840	1,895	1,891	1,946	2,035	2,084	2,091	2,105
Belfast South	1,181	1,159	1,230	1,235	1,213	1,249	1,257	1,328	1,453	1,577	1,558	1,578
Belfast West	2,626	2,689	2,801	2,840	2,844	2,857	2,861	2,863	2,929	3,050	3,130	3,191
East Antrim	1,082	1,054	1,141	1,179	1,130	1,151	1,139	1,159	1,236	1,324	1,340	1,417
East Londonderry	1,286	1,320	1,426	1,502	1,475	1,477	1,480	1,483	1,586	1,706	1,793	1,834
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	1,060	1,067	1,103	1,162	1,136	1,138	1,131	1,149	1,288	1,359	1,419	1,429
Foyle	2,676	2,643	2,807	2,815	2,793	2,809	2,748	2,908	2,978	3,260	3,319	3,259
Lagan Valley	745	712	799	829	861	870	908	915	993	1,068	1,131	1,226
Mid Ulster	637	662	714	769	785	812	813	853	983	1,108	1,159	1,265
Newry & Armagh	1,186	1,199	1,300	1,357	1,351	1,329	1,320	1,358	1,545	1,635	1,649	1,630
North Antrim	1,110	1,202	1,278	1,293	1,287	1,307	1,299	1,298	1,474	1,571	1,588	1,598
North Down	828	828	881	858	889	858	795	836	889	939	973	1,005
South Antrim	807	831	887	942	930	951	972	936	1,015	1,124	1,136	1,219
South Down	1,071	1,134	1,233	1,255	1,234	1,243	1,235	1,329	1,496	1,589	1,671	1,694
Strangford	870	925	950	946	923	920	948	975	1,069	1,128	1,177	1,219
Upper Bann	1,066	1,094	1,231	1,278	1,329	1,360	1,341	1,406	1,598	1,687	1,708	1,714
West Tyrone	1,599	1,617	1,663	1,679	1,671	1,671	1,659	1,732	1,897	2,024	1,986	2,008

Date	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09
Belfast East	1,077	1,182	1,308	1,387	1,470	1,576	1,635	1,718	1,849	2,001	1,993	1,984
Belfast North	2,148	2,228	2,342	2,585	2,699	2,771	2,915	2,939	3,045	3,154	3,187	3,220

Date	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09
Belfast South	1,650	1,708	1,804	2,011	2,127	2,247	2,330	2,359	2,544	2,679	2,582	2,531
Belfast West	3,393	3,507	3,714	3,998	4,086	4,222	4,348	4,452	4,582	4,672	4,713	4,657
East Antrim	1,581	1,665	1,917	2,185	2,303	2,471	2,439	2,524	2,605	2,747	2,751	2,730
East Londonderry	2,224	2,415	2,661	2,951	2,925	2,881	2,915	2,948	3,024	3,125	3,141	3,073
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	1,631	1,766	2,080	2,335	2,458	2,483	2,514	2,552	2,651	2,801	2,809	2,704
Foyle	3,448	3,575	3,885	4,057	4,171	4,258	4,395	4,549	4,811	4,914	4,899	4,813
Lagan Valley	1,347	1,408	1,590	1,799	1,898	1,983	2,036	2,086	2,166	2,285	2,251	2,211
Mid Ulster	1,575	1,772	2,019	2,318	2,394	2,504	2,607	2,658	2,790	2,919	2,885	2,770
Newry & Armagh	1,837	2,026	2,265	2,568	2,759	2,932	2,995	3,165	3,330	3,413	3,374	3,317
North Antrim	1,835	2,021	2,299	2,512	2,571	2,619	2,678	2,671	2,821	2,921	2,937	2,943
North Down	1,082	1,178	1,275	1,422	1,471	1,501	1,524	1,590	1,706	1,726	1,743	1,737
South Antrim	1,406	1,471	1,678	1,936	2,028	2,100	2,159	2,155	2,239	2,378	2,325	2,290
South Down	1,915	2,038	2,280	2,584	2,699	2,800	2,881	2,906	3,065	3,196	3,211	3,183
Strangford	1,330	1,409	1,535	1,683	1,795	1,834	1,886	1,888	1,981	2,048	2,100	2,124
Upper Bann	1,968	2,085	2,414	2,660	2,761	2,915	2,993	3,066	3,160	3,325	3,334	3,262
West Tyrone	2,217	2,362	2,515	2,636	2,671	2,760	2,807	2,913	3,061	3,207	3,257	3,185

Note:

Figures not adjusted for seasonality

Companies Registry Staff Training

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what training Companies Registry staff in Belfast received on the new switchboard system following the merger with Companies Registry in Cardiff.
(AQW 2798/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Following the full implementation of the Companies Act 2006 which applies company law on a UK wide basis, the operation of the Companies Registry in Belfast now falls within the responsibilities of Companies House. Training on the new switchboard system was not appropriate to the now merged Companies Registry Northern Ireland (CRNI) in Belfast. Since the CRNI's integration with Companies House on 1st October 2009, calls are now taken by the Companies House Contact Centre. I understand that the Registrar of Companies for Northern Ireland will contact you directly to address any specific issues or concerns you may have in relation to this matter.

Public Sector Jobs in West Tyrone

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number, the location, the grade and the posts within her Department currently located in (a) the Omagh District; and (b) the Strabane District; and to outline her Department's plans to increase the number of public sector jobs in West Tyrone.
(AQW 2881/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI) and its Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) have the following posts located in the Omagh & Strabane Districts;

Omagh

- 1 Grade 7
- 12 Deputy Principals
- 2 Health & Safety Inspectors (analogous to Deputy Principal)
- 1 Staff Officer
- 2 Trainee Health & Safety Inspectors (analogous to Executive Officer 1)
- 3 Executive Officer 1s.
- 3 Executive Officer 2s
- 1 Administrative Officer

Strabane

- There are no posts in the Strabane District

At this time, in line with the findings of the Bain Report, there are no proposals for either the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment or its NDPBs (Invest NI, NI Tourist Board, Consumer Council and Health and Safety Executive for NI) to increase the number of public sector posts in West Tyrone.

Invest NI

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the support Invest NI has provided to the Rose Energy owners and their subsidiaries over the last five years. (AQW 2924/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Invest NI has provided no financial assistance to Rose Energy Limited or to Glenfarm Holdings Limited.

Assistance offered and paid to O’Kane Poultry Limited and Moy Park Limited from 20th November 2004 to date is as follows:

O’Kane Poultry Limited	
Selective Financial Assistance offered:	£250,000
Selective Financial Assistance paid:	£235,224
Training Assistance offered:	£129,496
Training Assistance paid:	£106,078
Research & Development assistance offered:	£47,985
Research & Development assistance paid:	£13,360
Moy Park Limited	
Selective Financial Assistance offered:	£6,026,003
Selective Financial Assistance paid:	£3,822,082
Training Assistance offered:	£156,357
Training Assistance paid:	£107,387
Research & Development assistance offered:	£236,051
Research & Development assistance paid:	£19,177

Biomass Heating Solutions Limited

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether Invest NI officials have met with representatives of Biomass Heating Solutions Limited. (AQW 2925/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: An Invest NI Official met with Mr Jack O’Connor of Biomass Heating Solutions Ltd on 24 September 2009 at the Invest NI headquarters. A third party, who requested anonymity, also attended the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss opportunities in the field of bioenergy – specifically the manufacture of biomass boilers for mushroom compost and chicken litter in

Northern Ireland and to discuss the development of an associated supply chain for the manufacture of component parts. In addition, compliance of the proposed boilers with the Waste Incineration Directive was discussed and, in particular, the approximate timescales for approval from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) for demonstration plant to be installed and commissioned.

Civil Servants' Earnings

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many civil servants in her Department earn more than the Minister, inclusive of salaries, bonuses and any paid positions on outside bodies. (AQW 2954/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment has one civil servant who currently earns more than the Minister.

Broadband in the Sperrins and the Foyle Basin

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when the roll-out of Broadband will be completed in the Sperrins and Foyle Basin area. (AQW 2967/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: A fixed wireless Broadband network in the Foyle Basin and North Sperrins areas will be delivered by a local business, North West Electronics, which is also deploying another extensive network across the rural west. This project is expected to complete in December 2009 at which point work will commence on the extension of the network to include the Foyle Basin/North Sperrins areas – this work will take approximately 5 months to complete.

While both projects will increase the range of options available to users seeking a broadband service, it is important to note that Northern Ireland has 100% broadband coverage as a consequence of the 2004 Local Access Broadband Contract awarded to BT by my Department.

My Department also currently has in place a 3-year contract with Avanti Communications for the provision of a broadband service delivered via satellite for those users located too far from an exchange to access a fixed line service.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Future Department of Justice

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what steps his Department intends to take to engage with a future devolved Department of Justice on cross-cutting matters; and (ii) what contribution can his Department make to address cross-cutting justice and community safety issues, such as reducing levels of offending. (AQW 2702/10)

Minister of the Environment (Mr E Poots):

- (i) Post-devolution my Department will collaborate with a Department of Justice on relevant cross-cutting issues, particularly through involvement in inter-departmental working groups.
- (ii) My Department currently engages with the criminal justice system in several key areas, as set out below.

All prosecution cases relating to breaches of environmental law are directed on and prosecuted by the Public Prosecution Service and this entails liaison between the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Courts on an ongoing basis. NIEA also liaises and works with other law enforcement agencies (such as PSNI) on operational issues, including sharing of information on potential offending. It has contact with Lay Magistrates concerning the obtaining of warrants for entry to premises. NIEA can also be judicially reviewed concerning their decision making in regard to regulation.

The Department has a long established and strong working relationship with the police on the development and delivery of road safety strategies and initiatives. Many of our strategic objectives require the police and

the Department to work closely together to ensure compliance with road traffic laws through education and/or enforcement activities.

Successive strategies have achieved significant casualty reductions and this partnership is essential to ensuring that cohesive and complementary road safety measures continue to lead to improvements in safety for all road users in Northern Ireland.

DVA (Enforcement Testing) carry out roadside operations in conjunction with the PSNI in relation to the enforcement of road transport regulations. This encompasses bus, goods vehicles, taxis and modified car operations. Prosecution cases arising from these operations are directed through the Public Prosecution Service with their examiners attending as professional witnesses in both the Magistrates and Crown courts. My Department would also have contact with the PSNI and the Courts with regard to driver, vehicle and operator policy, as appropriate.

It will be crucial to the work of this Department in prosecuting and deterring environmental offending, in the enforcement of road transport regulation, and in the development and delivery of road safety strategies, that we would continue such activities as are set out above, and would continue to engage positively with the Criminal Justice agencies.

Septic Tanks

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment for an estimate of the number of un-consented septic tanks which were installed pre October 2001; and what measures have been taken to regularise such tanks.

(AQW 2767/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) estimates that there are approximately 16,400 un-consented On-site Waste Water Treatment System (OWWTS), such as septic tanks or other privately operated sewage treatment systems, in Northern Ireland.

NIEA has recently commissioned work to identify and regularise discharges from OWWTSs and to examine the impacts of a dispersed population pattern on water quality. The outcome of this work will inform proposals for future legislation, policies and procedures to address pollution related to wastewater treatment provision in rural areas.

Septic Tanks

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment how many prosecutions have been taken in relation to illegal discharges from (i) consented septic tanks; and (ii) un-consented septic tanks installed pre October 2001, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2768/10)

Minister of the Environment: It is Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) policy to initiate enforcement action only where a pollution incident is of high or medium severity.

Pollution incidents involving On-site Waste Water Treatment Systems (OWWTSs), such as septic tanks or other privately operated sewage treatment systems are almost invariably of low severity because of the localised nature of the discharge.

In the last 5 years, NIEA has taken prosecution action for illegal discharges from consented OWWTSs on 5 occasions, as shown on the table below.

Year	Prosecution Action
2004	1
2005	2
2006	0
2007	1
2008	1
Total	5

NIEA has no record of prosecution action having been taken in the last 5 years for un-consented OWWTSS installed pre-October 2001.

Illegal Irish Republican Terrorist Memorial in Newtownbutler

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment what action he has taken to ensure the removal of the illegal Irish republican terrorist memorial erected in Newtownbutler earlier this year. (AQW 2787/10)

Minister of the Environment: Discussions are continuing with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to establish the potential to resolve the matter locally to the satisfaction of all parties.

Clyde Valley Review of Joint Working and Shared Services

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of the Environment whether his Department will consider the findings of Sir John Arbuthnott's 'Clyde Valley Review of Joint Working and Shared Services' once published. (AQW 2792/10)

Minister of the Environment: I welcome the member drawing Sir John Arbuthnott's forthcoming 'Clyde Valley Review of Joint Working and Shared Services' to my attention. I think this is clearly an important piece of work and will no doubt provide further support to our agreed vision of a restructured, strong and dynamic local government working on a collaborative basis. I will therefore be happy to consider the findings of the review once published.

Revised PPS4

Mr D Ford asked the Minister of the Environment when the revised PPS4 will be published. (AQW 2820/10)

Minister of the Environment: I will shortly submit PPS 4 for Executive consideration and look forward to publishing it once it has been cleared.

Bonfire Groups

Mr M McLaughlin asked the Minister of the Environment how many councils directly fund bonfire groups; and how much does this cost the rate payer in each council area. (AQW 2830/10)

Minister of the Environment: Seven councils directly fund bonfire groups. The cost for the year 2008/2009 by each council area is recorded in the table below.

Council	2008/09
Antrim	27,969.47
Ards	16,328.00
Ballymena	13,733.51
Belfast	50,000.00
Castlereagh	850.00
Larne	8,925.59
North Down	2,000.00
Total	119,806.57

Planning Service Website

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how often the 'Planning Explorer' section of the Planning Service website is updated; and (ii) how much it costs to maintain this section of the website annually. (AQW 2886/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Planning Explorer section of the Planning Service website is updated automatically on a daily basis through an up load of data extract from Planner 20/20.

The annual cost of maintaining this section of the website is £10,000.

PPS21

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to provide an update on PPS21 and the recently published Independent Working Group report. (AQW 2894/10)

Minister of the Environment: I will shortly submit PPS 21 for Executive consideration. The final version will take account of the Independent Working Group report, the outcome of the public consultation on draft PPS 21 and other factors.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

Carbon Neutral Estate by 2015

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what progress has been made towards the target of a carbon neutral estate by 2015. (AQW 2529/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr S Wilson): The most recent Public Sector Energy Campaign PSEC report shows carbon emissions across the Northern Ireland public sector estate to be 2.5% below the 99/00 base level in absolute terms (a 10% reduction per sqm of space occupied).

The target of a 'carbon neutral government estate by 2015' was set prior to devolution and while I strongly support the introduction of cost-effective measures to reduce energy costs across the public sector, I would question any policy which is likely to result in the Northern Ireland government purchasing carbon offsets particularly when the budget applied to this measure is likely to be lost to the Northern Ireland block.

There will be an opportunity to review the policy of achieving a 'carbon neutral government estate by 2015' as part of the development of a revised Sustainable Development Implementation Plan following OFMDFM's recently launched consultation on the revised Sustainable Development Strategy.

Funding Related Audits

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many funding related audits of (i) charities; (ii) community groups; and (iii) voluntary groups have been carried out by (a) his Department; and (b) its agencies in each of the last 5 years; and how many times was an audit was carried out on more than one occasion by different sections of his Department or its agencies relating to the same funding. (AQW 2578/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Under EC Regulation 438 / 2001 Article 10 checks on the eligibility of EU expenditure incurred by (i) charities; (ii) community groups; and (iii) voluntary groups, are undertaken on projects funded from Measures for which DFP is the Accountable Department.

Details of the checks carried out by my Department during the last five years are provided in the table below. A total figure is provided in each year for the checks completed on voluntary and community groups as the Department's database records do not separately identify these two groups. No project received more than one Article 10 check.

The Department's executive agencies have not carried any audits on (i) charities; (ii) community groups; and (iii) voluntary groups.

Year	Audit Type	Voluntary/Community Group	Registered Charity
2004	Article 10	16	17
2005	Article 10	21	12
2006	Article 10	17	16
2007	Article 10	9	15
2008	Article 10	7	4
2009 up to 16/11/09	Article 10	4	1
Total Audits		74	65

H1N1 Flu Virus

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if there is a difference in the approach taken to public sector employees who have taken time off work as a result of annual winter flu, compared with the H1N1 flu virus. (AQW 2667/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: In answering this question, I can comment only on the approach adopted by the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) in dealing with sickness absence due to the annual winter flu, compared with the H1N1 flu virus.

The NICS approach has been aimed primarily at limiting the spread of the disease within the workplace, while ensuring the continuous and effective delivery of services during the Pandemic. The NICS was advised that routine testing of suspected cases of the H1N1 flu virus (Swine flu) had been discontinued and those presenting with influenza like illnesses should follow the Swine Flu guidance provided by the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS). Based on this advice, a decision was taken to treat all cases of influenza like illnesses, including confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu virus, in the same way.

Quangos

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number of quangos; and the cost of each in each of the last five years. (AQW 2736/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Information on public bodies sponsored by Northern Ireland departments, including the cost of each, is contained in the annual public bodies report.

Reports for the last three years are held in the Assembly library, or are available at:

http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/public_bodies_2007-4.doc

http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/public_bodies_2008-6.doc

http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/public_bodies_2009__2_-7.pdf

Information prior to this is contained within the UK wide reports published by the Cabinet Office. These are available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/publicbodies2006_tcm6-2474.pdf

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/Assets/publicbodies2005_tcm6-2472.pdf

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many EU Directives his Department has (i) received; and (ii) implemented in each of the last three years. (AQW 2737/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: In this answer, 'received' is taken to mean a Directive adopted by the EU and published in the Official Journal, and 'implemented' is taken to mean transposed into UK or NI law. The Directive will normally give a timescale for implementation by member states. The table below refers to those Directives where DFP is in the lead.

Year*	Adopted**	Transposed***
2007	2	nil
2008	nil	1
2009	nil to date	nil to date
Total	2	1

* Calendar year basis (1 January to 31 December).

** Date published in Official Journal of the European Union.

*** This may include directives which were adopted prior to 2007.

Efficiency Savings

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what steps he is taking to monitor the cumulative impact of individual efficiency savings being made by each Department, to ensure that serious gaps in service delivery are not created. (AQW 2742/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Primary responsibility for the planning and delivery of the 3% per annum efficiency savings target, as agreed by the Executive for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11, lies with individual Ministers and their departments. This includes the production and implementation of Efficiency Delivery Plans detailing how efficiency savings are to be achieved.

In this context, the role of DFP is to monitor the delivery of savings only with individual departments responsible for ensuring that services are delivered in line with the targets set out in the Programme for Government.

Internet Advertising for Civil Service Posts

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if his Department has any plans to increase internet advertising for Civil Service posts, in order to reduce the cost of newspaper advertising. (AQW 2812/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Department currently has no plans to increase internet advertising of civil service posts. The Government Advertising Unit is making greater use of the internet in campaign advertising and the lessons learned will be reviewed for potential application to classified advertising, including recruitment. Other factors, such as the growth of internet access in the population and preferences for accessing recruitment information, will be taken into account. In the meantime NICS competitions will continue to be advertised in the three main Northern Ireland papers in accordance with the Department's Equality Scheme.

Statistics on Suicide

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the statistics held by his Department on suicide in the Mid-Ulster area in (i) 2007; (ii) 2008; and (iii) 2009. (AQW 2980/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The table below gives the number of deaths registered due to either 'suicide and self-inflicted injury'¹ or 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'² where the deceased was resident in Mid-Ulster Parliamentary Constituency in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) the first six months of 2009P.

¹ International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes X60-X84, Y87.0

² International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes Y10-Y34, Y87.2

^P 2009 data is provisional

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS DUE TO ‘SUICIDE AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURY’ AND ‘UNDETERMINED INJURY WHETHER ACCIDENTALLY OR PURPOSEFULLY INFLICTED’ WHERE THE DECEASED WAS RESIDENT IN THE MID-ULSTER PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, 2007, 2008 AND QUARTER 1 AND QUARTER 2 2009P.

Registration Period	Number of Suicide Deaths
2007	12
2008	15
Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2009P	6

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Increased Waiting Lists

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to address the threat of increased waiting lists following the suspension of referrals to private clinics. (AQW 1630/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey): Despite the current severe financial constraints that have led some trusts to temporarily suspend referrals to private clinics, I continue to give the utmost priority to minimising elective care waiting times. My expectation remains that by the end of this financial year the overwhelming majority of patients will be assessed and treated within the minimum standards.

Equipment Failure in the Health Service

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of recorded incidents of serious equipment failure in the Health Service; and (ii) which pieces of equipment failed, in each of the last five years. (AQW 2531/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety does not hold the information requested centrally.

Lost Health Service Assets and Equipment

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number and type of Health Service assets and equipment which have been lost; and (ii) the value of these, in each of the last five years. (AQW 2534/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Health and Social Care Trusts are responsible for the management of their assets and equipment and therefore the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety does not hold the information requested centrally.

Type 2 Diabetes

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are currently diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in the age groups (i) 5-20; (ii) 21-40; (iii) 41-50; and (iv) over 50 years old. (AQW 2560/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested is not available centrally.

Type 2 Diabetes

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he is taking to address the increase in men and women over 50 years old with type 2 diabetes. (AQW 2567/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The increase in the number of people with type 2 diabetes is clearly linked to a number of lifestyle factors such as obesity, lack of exercise and smoking. Each of these areas has been promoted in various Departmental strategies and a range of initiatives are in place to raise the awareness of diabetes and how it can be prevented.

Obesity, in particular, is a major factor in the onset of diabetes and other chronic conditions. Almost £1million has been made available to GP practices to monitor and follow-up patients with a Body Mass Index higher than 30 and who are at risk of developing diabetes. The Department is also leading on the development of a cross-departmental Obesity Prevention Strategic Framework which will set out a range of measures to prevent obesity across the whole life course.

Speech and Language Therapy Services

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the proportion of the health budget directed towards speech and language therapy services, in each of the three years of the current Comprehensive Spending Review. (AQW 2573/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The table below details the total funding provision for Speech and Language Therapy services over the current CSR period:

Year	Planned Expenditure on SLT services (0.5% of total planned expenditure)	Additional CSR Resources	Total
2008/2009	£14.09 m	n/a	£14.09 m
2009/2010	£14.7 m	£0.2 m	£14.9 m
2010/2011	£15.6 m (provisional figures only)*	£0.5 m	£16.1 m
Total:	£44.39 m (using provisional figures from 2010/11)	£0.7 m	£45.09 m

* The figure for 2010/11 is an estimate based on the previous 2 years.

Source: Strategic Resources Framework database

Funding Related Audits

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many funding related audits of (i) charities; (ii) community groups; and (iii) voluntary groups have been carried out by (a) his Department; (b) Boards and; (c) Health and Social Care Trusts in each of the last 5 years; and how many times was an audit carried out on more than one occasion, by different sections of his Department, Boards or Trusts, relating to the same funding. (AQW 2576/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Based on the information available, the number of funding related audits, including verification visits, of charities, community and voluntary groups that have been carried out by the Department, HSC Board and Trusts in each of the last 5 years is summarised as follows:

Organisation	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
DHSSPS	60	54	54	89	61
HSC Board	10	100	96	102	105
HSC Trusts		9	4	2	3

It has not been possible to split the information by charities, community and voluntary groups as the figures are not available in this format.

A significant number of organisations in this sector do not have the same level of governance arrangements that are associated with larger bodies. Consequently verification visits, checking expenditure claims, are necessary to ensure appropriate use is made of public funds. The frequency of these visits is set according to the assessed need to provide assurance on use of these funds.

Verification or audit visits are not undertaken in relation to the same funding.

Infrastructure Problems at the Ulster Hospital

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the plan to deal with the concrete cancer that is causing the infrastructure problems at the Ulster Hospital. (AQW 2595/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust commissioned a report earlier this year on the Structural Condition of the Facades of several of the blocks located towards the front of the Ulster Hospital complex.

In general the condition of the concrete cladding panels and exposed aggregate concrete surfaces at the various blocks surveyed has deteriorated since a previous 1995 report. As a result the report recommends that any areas of precast concrete panels which have shown signs of deterioration should undergo repairs.

The first phase of this work will be undertaken in conjunction with the refurbishment of the hospital Main Entrance which is planned to commence early 2010.

Ards Hospital Site

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he plans to sell any land on the Ards Hospital site. (AQW 2596/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are currently no plans to sell any land on the Ards Hospital site.

Live Donor Operations

Mrs C Hanna asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many live donor operations took place in each month of the last year. (AQW 2599/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In 2008/09 there were 8 live donor transplants carried out in Northern Ireland. In order to protect patient confidentiality, it is not possible to break this down by month.

Uniforms for Hospital Doctors

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on the proposed introduction of uniforms for hospital doctors. (AQW 2600/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: To date, the Department met the cost of a piece of design work in relation to a regional proposal for uniforms for HSC staff. The overall cost for this piece of work was £17,650. It is not possible to attribute the exact proportion of costs appropriate to hospital doctors.

Category A Ambulance Call-outs

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, after inter-hospital transfers are excluded from the statistics, what percentage of category A ambulance call-outs met the eight minute target in each of the last three years. (AQW 2601/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Urgent inter-hospital transfers which are life threatening in nature receive the same high priority as any other category A call and therefore it is appropriate that they are included in the relevant performance management reporting process. The table below details the percentage of category A calls which met the eight minute target over the last three years and excludes inter-hospital transfers in the 2008/09 year:

Year	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Percentage of category A calls responded to within eight minute target	67%	62%	55%

Waiting List for Adoption

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many (a) couples; and (b) individuals are currently on the waiting list to adopt a child; and (ii) how many (a) babies; and (b) children have been adopted in each of the last five years. (AQW 2602/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: At 13 November 2009, 74 married couples and 8 individuals had been approved as adopters and were waiting for an adoption placement from within Northern Ireland.

For part (ii), it is assumed that babies refer to children younger than 12 months, and children to those aged 12 months or older. Figures on the numbers of babies and children adopted from care in Northern Ireland are detailed in Table 1 below for each of the five years for which information is available.

TABLE 1: NUMBERS OF BABIES AND CHILDREN ADOPTED FROM CARE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Year	Babies (children younger than 12 months)	Children (children 12 months or older)
2007/08	0	64
2006/07 ¹	0	84
2005/06	0	56
2003/04	0	79
2002/03	14	85

Notes: Data Source: AD1 survey of children adopted from care in Northern Ireland. Year refers to the period from 1 April to 31 March the following year. To avoid personal disclosure "0" represents either no children or fewer than four children. Children 12 months or older includes children younger than 18 years.

- ¹ As there was no AD1 survey for 2006/07, these figures were provided directly by each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. The figures provided by Trusts have not been validated by DHSSPS

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many EU Directives his Department received and implemented in each of the last three years. (AQW 2614/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The details of the number of EU Directives received and transposed by my Department are contained in the table below. I also attach details for the Food Standards Agency for Northern Ireland.

DHSSPS		
Year	Adopted	Transposed
2007	1	1
2008	1	2
2009 (to date)	3	0

Food Standards Agency (NI)		
Year	Adopted	Transposed
2007	5	13
2008	9	4
2009 (to date)	5	10

Bamford Review

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety does the Bamford Review indicate within its conclusions that people with a disability and educational disadvantage will have the issue of friendship and social interaction prioritised due to the importance of being able to carry out social interactions with friends. (AQW 2625/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: “Promoting the Social Inclusion of people with a mental health problem or a learning disability” was one of the 10 Bamford reports and it made recommendations relating to a wide range of issues, including social life and personal relationships.

The Bamford Action Plan 2009-2011, published in October, includes commitments to promote the social inclusion of people with a learning disability through education, employment, day opportunities, access to public transport and sport and leisure. The Action Plan also anticipates the publication by OFMDFM on “Promoting Social Inclusion for people with a disability”, which is due shortly.

St Joseph’s Baby Home

Mr D Simpson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 678/10, if a record of the number of infants sent (i) from Northern Ireland to St Joseph’s baby home in Donegal; and (ii) to St Joseph’s baby home on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast, in each year since the formation of Northern Ireland was kept in the past but has now been destroyed. (AQW 2638/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested is not available.

St Joseph’s Baby Home

Mr D Simpson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 678/10, if his Department will work with the care homes in question to ascertain how many infants were sent (i) from Northern Ireland to St Joseph’s baby home in Donegal; and (ii) to St Joseph’s baby home on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast in each year since the formation of Northern Ireland. (AQW 2639/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department currently has no plans to work with St Joseph’s home in Donegal or St Joseph’s home on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast to ascertain how many infants were sent there from Northern Ireland.

People Diagnosed with Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa

Mr D Simpson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 1636/10, if his Department will start to record the number of people diagnosed with (i) anorexia nervosa; and (ii) bulimia nervosa. (AQW 2640/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of people, who have been admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa is collected. However, this does not include the numbers of people who have anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa who have not needed hospital admission and have been diagnosed by their GP or a community mental health worker. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Cost of Staff Surveys

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 1901/10, why his Department does not hold a central record of the amount of money spent on staff surveys; and if it will start to keep a record. (AQW 2642/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department maintains a central record of departmental monies spent on staff surveys.

My Department does not separately monitor expenditure incurred by the HSC on staff surveys. It is clear, however, from the broader information contained in standard accounts and financial returns, that such expenditure is not material. It follows that the costs of collecting and maintaining records of staff survey expenditure would not represent value for money.

Cost of Staff Surveys

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 1901/10, and in the absence of a central record of the relevant costs being maintained, how his Department (i) monitors the amount of money spent on staff surveys; and (ii) ensures value for money when conducting staff surveys. (AQW 2644/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department maintains a central record of departmental monies spent on staff surveys.

My Department does not separately monitor expenditure incurred by the HSC on staff surveys.

I take assurance from a comprehensive system of internal controls – including the application of appropriate procurement procedures – that value for money is achieved in the use of resources both by my Department and the HSC.

Cost of Staff Surveys

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 1901/10, if the costs of staff surveys in his Department are subject to monthly, quarterly or annual returns; and if so, how are these returns kept in the absence of a central record. (AQW 2646/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department maintains a central record of Departmental expenditure on staff surveys.

My Department does not separately monitor expenditure incurred by the HSC on staff surveys.

Cost of Staff Surveys

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 1901/10, from which departmental account are staff surveys paid. (AQW 2647/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Expenditure on Departmental staff surveys is paid from the Department's administration budget.

Hygiene Inspections

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail, per facility, how many (i) announced; and (ii) unannounced hygiene inspections have been carried out in hospitals and care homes in each of the last three years. (AQW 2670/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: During the past three years the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority has carried out the following inspections.

(I) HYGIENE INSPECTIONS OF HOSPITALS

Year	Unannounced Inspections	Announced Inspections
2007 – 08	1	0
2008 – 09	15	0
2009 – 10 (year to date)	30	0
Total	46	

(II) INSPECTIONS OF CARE HOMES, I.E. NURSING, RESIDENTIAL CARE AND CHILDREN'S HOMES

These inspections examine not just hygiene but every aspect of the care provided, to ensure the safety, comfort and dignity of those using the facilities, and to ensure public confidence.

Year	Unannounced Inspections	Announced Inspections
2007 – 08	537	488
2008 – 09	546	523
2009 – 10 (year to 31 Oct)	355	215
Total	1,438	1,226

Positive Mental Health in Young Children

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what programmes are available to primary schools to promote positive mental health in young children. (AQW 2672/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Whilst the Health and Social Care sector has no programmes aimed specifically at promoting positive mental health in the primary school setting, the revised primary school curriculum, which is now in place, aims to support pupils in better understanding mental and physical health and wellbeing, for example in exploring how children can feel positive about themselves and develop an understanding of their self-esteem and confidence.

As part of my Department's work on mental health promotion, the Public Health Agency is co-ordinating the rollout of Mental Health First Aid training. This training programme is targeted at adults, including those in the education sector, who regularly come into contact with the most vulnerable members of society.

My Department is currently leading the development of a new Northern Ireland strategy for Promoting Mental Wellbeing. Work to date has identified the importance of intervention to promote positive mental wellbeing in the early years. The new strategy will therefore identify children as a priority group and the school setting as a key location for the promotion of mental wellbeing. Actions will be developed specifically for children and for the school setting.

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what his Department is doing to assist people aged 18 and 19 who suffer from Prader-Willi Syndrome. (AQW 2673/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: An individual with a diagnosis of Prader-Willi syndrome has access to the full range of services available. Services provided are based on a person centred assessment of need. Services are provided by specialist staff within multi-disciplinary teams to meet each individual's needs.

Bamford Review

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps his Department is taking to address the Bamford Review's assertion that thousands of vulnerable adults have no carers. (AQW 2677/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Bamford Review report Equal Lives indicated that over 70% of people with a learning disability live with family. In addition many adults with a learning disability who are in other accommodation retain strong family links. The substantial contribution made by carers was acknowledged by the Review. Where there are no carers, there is a duty on health and social care bodies to ensure that support is provided as appropriate to meet individual needs.

Guardianship under the Mental Health Order (NI) 1986 may be used to protect people with a learning disability, where it is in the interests of their welfare. Work is under way in my Department to develop new mental health and mental capacity legislation, as recommended by Bamford. While no firm decisions have been taken yet, the

ethos of the new legislation will be to empower those who have capacity to make decisions for themselves to do so and to provide a range of substitute decision making arrangements and protections for those who are unable to make decisions for themselves.

Relationships and Sexuality Education

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what material Health and Social Care Trusts has available for (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools for use in teaching Relationships and Sexuality Education. (AQW 2715/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Health and Social Care Trusts offer a range of materials to help schools deliver Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE), including training packs, DVDs leaflets, posters, workbooks and other promotional materials. In addition, Trust staff may offer training or specialist advice on sexual health and emotional wellbeing, and sessions on puberty and development may be facilitated by School nurses following a school's request.

The materials available include Trust-developed resources and material from a range of agencies including for example the Public Health Agency and voluntary organisations. Examples of materials include:

- (i) **Primary**
Personal development and puberty packs supported by leaflets and videos e.g. Boys/ Girls guides to growing up; Want to know about puberty?
- (ii) **Post-Primary Schools**
Web-based resources, manuals and leaflets which cover issues such as body image, self-esteem, relationships, choices, decisions and consequences, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and drugs and alcohol.

Patients from Outside the UK

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if the Health Service charges patients from outside the UK for the use of medical services. (AQW 2718/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Anyone who does not satisfy an exemption from health charges under current legislation will be expected to pay for their treatment.

Whiteabbey Radiology Unit

Mr M McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many X-rays were taken at the Whiteabbey Radiology Unit during the period 13-30 October 2009. (AQW 2720/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There were 1,481 x-rays undertaken at the Radiology Unit at Whiteabbey Hospital between the 13th and 30th October 2009.

Source: Northern HSC Trust

Analysing X-rays

Mr M McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the standard number of days taken to analyse X-rays by radiographers at Whiteabbey Hospital; and how quickly are these results communicated to GPs. (AQW 2721/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that the average number of days taken to analyse X-rays by radiographers at Whiteabbey Hospital is 5.2 days.

All examinations referred from GP practices are communicated electronically to the GP within 28 days, and followed up with paper copies.

Delivery of Radiology Results

Mr M McLaughlin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what quality assurance measures are in place to ensure that patient care is paramount in the delivery of radiology results at Whiteabbey Hospital. (AQW 2723/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has confirmed that, in addition to general Trust policies and procedures, it has the following quality assurance procedures / policies in place to ensure patient care is paramount in the delivery of radiology results at Whiteabbey Hospital –

- Full and comprehensive clinical audit programme;
- Radiation safety policy;
- Adherence to the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations Northern Ireland 2000;
- Intravenous Administration of Contrast by Radiographers;
- Policy for identification of abnormal findings on radiographs;
- Policy for prioritisation of requests;
- Policy for referral to x-ray departments by nurse practitioners;
- Child protection policy - role of radiographer; and
- Elective access booking and DNA protocol.

Mental Health

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in the Strangford constituency have been referred to hospital for treatment of a mental health illness in each of the last five years. (AQW 2746/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of people in the Strangford constituency who have been referred to hospital for the treatment of a mental health illness in each of the last five years is not collected centrally by the Department.

Mental Health

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what his Department is doing to help people suffering from mental health difficulties brought on by debt. (AQW 2747/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: People presenting with any mental health difficulties are offered the most appropriate services available for them. The range and availability of these services has greatly increased with the extra allocation for mental health which I was able to achieve in the Budget settlement.

Mental Health Services

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much additional funding has been spent each year on mental health services since the publication of the Bamford Review. (AQW 2748/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Bamford Review concluded in August 2007 with publication of its final report in a series of ten.

My Department's new investment in mental health services in support of Bamford over the subsequent Comprehensive Spending Review period was £12.75m in 2008-09, which was spent [in full] as planned, and £14.6m in 2009-10, which is on schedule to be delivered in full. The allocation for 2010-11 is £27m, assuming the DHSSPS budget is not reduced.

The Bamford Review

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail which recommendations in the Bamford Review have been implemented by his Department. (AQW 2749/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Bamford Action Plan 2009-2011, which is available on the DHSSPS website, sets out at Chapter 9 a summary of changes which have already had a direct impact on services for those with a mental health need or a learning disability. Sections 2 and 3 of the document contain a wide range of actions committed to over the period 2009-2011 across Government.

Progress on the Action Plan will be reviewed and rolled forward during 2011, as Bamford envisaged a 10-15 year horizon for reform and modernisation.

Waiting Times for Chiropody/Podiatry Services

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for the current waiting times for chiropody/podiatry services in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. (AQW 2750/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: During the quarter ending 30 September 2009, 2,372 people in the Northern HSC Trust attended their first appointment with a community chiropodist / podiatrist. Of these, 2,211 (93%) had waited less than 3 months from referral to first appointment, with the remaining 161 (7%) waiting between 3 and 6 months. No person attending their first appointment with a chiropodist / podiatrist during the last quarter had waited more than 6 months.

GM Foods

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if any GM foods have been introduced in Northern Ireland; and to outline the controls to which they are subjected. (AQW 2751/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In Northern Ireland food may be derived from a number of types of GM crops, mainly maize and soya, that have been authorised for use in the European Union. The European Commission maintains an up-to-date list of these on its website. (See attached link).

http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm

At present there is no register of foods containing authorised GM ingredients that are on the market in NI or elsewhere in the UK. However, although a number of GM products have been authorised for use, there are very few GM foods on sale as UK manufacturers and retailers currently tend to avoid the use of GM ingredients. No GM crops are grown commercially in the UK and food operators generally arrange for their supplies of imported ingredients, such as soya and maize, to come from specific non-GM sources.

Fire at the Union Theological College

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what checks were carried out by the Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that the first fire at the Union Theological College, on Saturday 14 November 2009, was completely extinguished. (AQW 2891/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I understand that Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) personnel took all appropriate steps to ensure that the first fire was fully extinguished before leaving the site.

These measures included cutting away parts of the floor, timber wall lining and insulation which had been affected by fire and heat. Sections of the ceiling and undamaged flooring were also removed to check for any fire spread. Each floor of the building, and in particular the room directly above the fire, was checked for signs of fire spread – none of which was found. In addition, NIFRS personnel carried out a visual inspection of wall cavities and insulation and injected water from a high pressure hose into the exposed voids to ensure the fire was extinguished.

The last NIFRS fire appliance left the scene at 0424 hours and the scene was handed over to the PSNI.

I commend the NIFRS for their bravery and efficiency in dealing with this matter.

Swine Flu Vaccination

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why some pensioners with high risk health factors are being refused the swine flu vaccination. (AQW 2922/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: No one in the high risk groups has been refused the swine flu vaccination. The phased delivery schedule for this new vaccine has meant that it has not been possible to provide the vaccine for everyone in the high risk groups immediately, however we are on target to deliver the vaccine to everybody in the high risk groups on the expected schedule (i.e. by early December).

The UK-wide policy is that the following groups should be prioritised for vaccination in the following order:

- (i) Individuals aged between six months and 65 years in the current seasonal flu clinical risk groups;
- (ii) All pregnant women;
- (iii) Household contacts of immuno-compromised individuals;
- (iv) People aged 65 and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.

GPs were advised to use their clinical judgement to decide who within the priority groups were their most vulnerable patients and therefore required the swine flu vaccine first. As more vaccine is now available GPs will be able to vaccinate more of those in the above groups.

Fire at the Union Theological College

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what liaison took place with the PSNI in relation to the first fire at the Union Theological College on Saturday 14 November 2009. (AQW 2947/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I understand that both Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) personnel and police officers were in attendance throughout the incident at Union Theological College. Initially, NIFRS personnel had control of the scene while they sought to extinguish the fire. Once the fire was extinguished, they took measures to ensure that the fire had not spread undetected. This process was observed by the attending police officers in terms of preserving the scene for further investigation. The last NIFRS fire appliance left the scene at 0424 hours, when the scene was handed over to the PSNI.

I commend the NIFRS for their bravery and efficiency in dealing with this matter.

DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Footpath along the Ballywalter Road, Millisle

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development if his Department would consider providing a footpath to improve pedestrian safety along the Ballywalter Road from Drumfad Road to Ballywisken, Millisle. (AQW 2539/10)

Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy): My Department's Roads Service has advised that they assessed a request for a footway along the A2 Ballywalter Road from Drumfad to Ballywhiskin Village in June 2008 and again in April 2009. Results from both assessments indicated that, the provision of a new footway at this location did not attract sufficient priority to be included in a programme of improvement works, when compared with other similar proposals.

Street Light at the end of Woburn Road, Millisle

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development if his Department would consider erecting a street light at the end of Woburn Road, towards Millisle, to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety. (AQW 2540/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the main criterion within its policy for providing street lighting in rural areas is that there should be at least ten dwellings in

a contiguous 200 metres of road length. Following an internal review of street lighting policy in 2002, this criterion was relaxed so that any public building with significant evening use is counted as two dwellings, when considering street lighting requests.

The end of Woburn Road, towards Millisle, does not meet Roads Service's criteria for Street Lighting in Rural Areas and it is therefore unable to provide the street lighting requested.

Tarmacing and Removing Broken Flag Stones at Main Street, Millisle

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development if his Department would consider tarmacing and removing broken flag stones from the remainder of Main Street, Millisle. (AQW 2541/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The Member will recall that he recently wrote to me on this issue. In my reply I advised that my Department's Roads Service confirmed that they are planning to remove the worst affected section of flagged footway on Main Street, Millisle, adjacent to the shops and to replace it with a bitmac surface.

The timing of this work will depend on the availability of resources, and other competing priorities. However, Roads Service has advised that it hopes that the work will be carried out within the next six months.

Traffic Congestion in Belfast City Centre

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development what emergency measures have been taken to ensure that traffic congestion in Belfast City Centre is kept to a minimum following the collapse of a section of the road in Cromac Street, Belfast on Saturday 7 November 2009. (AQW 2587/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My response to the Member's question on this issue on 12 November 2009 (AQW 2585/10) outlined the emergency measures taken by my Department's Roads Service to ensure that traffic congestion in Belfast City Centre was kept to a minimum, following the collapse of a section of the road in Cromac Street on Saturday 7 November 2009.

The initial measures taken were reviewed at an emergency planning meeting on Sunday 8 November 2009. To cope with the expected weekday traffic congestion, additional mobile variable message signs were located at key points on the network and PSNI motorcyclists were made available to assist in the management of traffic. The PSNI also allocated an officer to be present in Traffic Information Control Centre during peak traffic periods to communicate with the police motorcyclists located at key junctions.

Overall, the level of traffic congestion arising from the closure of this section of Cromac Street was within manageable levels. This was largely due to the co-ordinated and effective response of all the agencies and organisations involved and the response by the travelling public to the travel advice issued.

Work Completed on the Culmore Road, Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development if his Department has conducted an inspection of work completed on the Culmore Road, Derry following the recent roadworks to install water pipes, which are currently causing problems for motorists. (AQW 2590/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that they have inspected this watermain renewal scheme on the Culmore Road, Derry, on a weekly basis, since 29 July 2009. Roads Service is not aware of any issues relating to the conduct of this work.

Pedestrian Crossings for Residents of Maydown, Derry

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department is taking to provide pedestrian crossings for residents of Maydown, Derry to access local shops and bus stops to the city centre. (AQW 2591/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has no plans to provide any additional crossing facilities on the A2 at Maydown, at present.

Objections to the Planning Application to Build an Additional 26 Houses at Warren Hill in Newry

Mr J Wells asked the Minister for Regional Development why Roads Service staff withdrew their objections to the planning application to build an additional 26 houses at Warren Hill in Newry. (AQW 2592/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service gave careful consideration to Planning Application P/03/1193 for 26 No dwellings at Warren Hill, Newry and, taking into account all reasonable matters relating to traffic safety and progression, determined that there was no basis for objection to this particular application. Both the Transport Assessment and Safety Audit carried out by separate accredited independent consultants, submitted through Planning Service, supported this view.

Roads Service did not form any initial presumed opinion of objection and has, throughout the process from July 2003, sought clarification and further details on the proposal. The application was eventually determined under the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980 on 24 March 2009.

Adopted and Unadopted Roads

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to list (i) unadopted roads; (ii) roads that have been adopted in the last six months; and (iii) roads that are planned for adoption within the next six months in the North Down constituency. (AQW 2606/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, according to their records:

(i) The following roads in the North Down constituency are unadopted:

- Abbey Road, Millisle
- Alandale Mews, Bangor
- Alexander Court, Bangor
- Alexandra Place, Holywood
- Andrews Shorefield, Groomspoint
- Ardmore Court, Holywood
- Ardmore Terrace, Holywood
- Ashdale Court, Bangor
- Balloo Court, Bangor
- Ballyholme Court, Bangor
- Ballykillaire Terrace, Bangor
- Ballymacormick Gardens, Bangor
- Ballymacruise Drive, Millisle
- Ballywalter Road, Millisle
- Bank Lane, Bangor
- Birch Drive, Holywood
- Bloomfield Place footways, Bangor
- Braehead, Bangor
- Brecken Ridge, Donaghadee
- Brown's Brae – Part Private, Holywood
- Carmen Lane, Bangor
- Carney Hill, Holywood
- Carnmoon, Millisle Road, Donaghadee
- Carrig Dene, Helens Bay
- Castle Brook Avenue, Bangor
- Cedar Lane, Holywood

- Church Court, Bangor
- Clanbrassil Court, Hollywood
- Clandeboye Avenue, Helens Bay
- Clandeboye Cottages, Bangor
- Claremont Road, Hollywood
- Coastguard Lane, Orlock
- Coastguard Avenue, Helens Bay
- Coronation Park, Bangor
- Cotswold Court, Bangor
- Craigtara, Hollywood
- Crawfordsburn Wood, Bangor
- Cultra Terrace, Hollywood
- Dellmont Court, Bangor
- Demesne Close, Hollywood
- Demesne Road Cul-de-sac - part private, Hollywood
- Donaghadee Road, Newtownards
- Donard Court, Bangor
- Downhill Avenue, Bangor
- Downshire Mews, Hollywood
- Downshire Park, Bangor
- Dufferin Terrace, Bangor
- Dunratho (Glen Road), Cultra
- East Street, Donaghadee
- Edgewater, Millisle Road, Donaghadee
- Frenchwood Park, Hollywood
- Gibsons Lane, Bangor
- Glen Road, Hollywood
- Glenford Road, Newtownards
- Groomsport House Road, Groomsport
- Hill Street Mews, Hollywood
- Holborn Court, Bangor
- Holborn Villas, Bangor
- Innis Court, Hollywood
- Killaire Road, Carnalea
- Laurel Lane, Hollywood
- Lemonfield Avenue, Hollywood
- Lord Wardens Mews, Bangor
- Lowry Lane, Crawfordsburn
- Lyndhurst Court, Bangor
- Manselton Close, Bangor
- Manor Farm, Moat Street, Donaghadee
- Marsham Court, Bangor
- Maxwell Lane, Bangor
- Mill Cottage Park, Millisle
- Millbank, Abbey Road, Millisle
- Moat Street, Donaghadee

- Montgomery Manor Footways, Bangor
- Moss Road, Holywood – Part Private
- Moss Road, Millisle
- Mountpleasant – Part Private
- Murdock's Lane, Bangor
- Nixons Lane, Bangor
- Nook Farm, Bangor
- Norwood Lane, Holywood
- O'Neills Place, Holywood
- Orlock Lane, Bangor
- Osterly Court, Bangor
- Pickie Terrace, Bangor
- Riverside, Holywood
- Eockhill, Warren Road, Donaghadee
- Rock Port Manor, Holywood
- Rock Port Rise, Holywood
- Rock Port Road, Holywood
- Sandeel Lane, Orlock, Bangor
- Sandymount Court, Bangor
- Seaforth Close, Bangor
- Seahill, Donaghadee
- Seahill Park, Donaghadee
- Seahill Ridge, Donaghadee
- Seahill Vale, Donaghadee
- Seaview Terrace, Holywood
- Sheridan Grove, Helens Bay
- Stanley Avenue, Bangor
- Station Court, Bangor
- Station Drive, Carnalea
- Station Road, Craigavad – Part Private
- Station Square – Part Private
- Station Terrace, Helens Bay
- Stockbridge Road, Donaghadee
- Strand Mews, Holywood
- The Bay, Bangor
- The Briggs, Groomsport
- The Coach House, Bangor
- The Cotton, Donaghadee
- The Court Yard, Donaghadee
- The Meadows, Donaghadee
- Towerview Close, Bangor
- Towerview Court, Bangor
- Towerview Hill, Bangor
- Tudor Park, Holywood
- Twiselside, Holywood
- Warren Villas, Donaghadee

- Whin Lane, Bangor
- Windmill Cottages, Bangor

In addition, the following is a list of proposed housing development locations in the North Down constituency, within which the roads are unadopted, but are subject to Private Streets Order Legislation:

- Woodcroft Lane, Holywood
- Willowbrook Park/Gibsons Lane, Bangor
- Cove Bay, Groomsport
- Kestral Park, Conlig
- Downshire Lane, Bangor
- Hanover Hill/Close, Bangor
- Ballymacconnell Road
- Lineybrook Lane, Bangor
- Gibsons Lane/Willowbrook Rise
- Riverwood Vale, Bangor
- Upritchard Court/Crescent
- Seapark Lane, Holywood
- Crawfordsburn Close, Bangor
- Clifton Road, Bangor
- Victoria Drive, Bangor
- Bloomfield Road South, Bangor
- Abbey Place, Holywood
- Willowbrook Road/Balmoral Road, Bangor
- Brook Lane, Bangor
- Burns Land, Green Road, Conlig
- Ballycrochan Road, Bangor
- Shaftesbury, Belfast Road, Bangor
- Demesne Gate, Holywood
- Dellmount Avenue, Bangor
- Woodvale Gardens, Bangor
- 163/191 Shaftesbury Road, Bangor
- Worcester Avenue, Bangor
- Linen Crescent/Rathgill Parade, Bangor
- Rockfield Glen, Bangor
- Beechfield Avenue, Bangor
- Rathgill Avenue, Bangor
- Ashfield Manor, Bangor
- Rockfield, Gransha Road, Bangor
- Ashfield Park, Bangor
- Balloo Drive, Bangor

(ii) The following roads that were subject to Private Streets Order Legislation have been adopted in the North Down area, in the last 6 months:

- Glen Park, Bangor
- Glen Manor, Bangor
- Regency Square, Bangor
- The Crescent, Bangor

(iii) The rate of progress to roads adoption, of roads in housing developments, is related to many factors that are outside the control of Roads Service. However, based on progress to date, Roads Service expects the roads listed below, within the following housing developments in North Down, to progress to adoption within the next 6 months:

- Ballymacconnell Road
- Edgewater Millisle Road, Donaghadee
- Gibsons Lane/Willowbrook Rise
- Hanover Hill/Close, Bangor
- Kestral Park, Conlig
- Lineybrook Lane, Bangor
- Manor Farm, Moat Road, Donaghadee
- Moss Road, Millisle
- Willowbrook Park/Gibson's Lane, Bangor

Public Transport Needs of Residents in North Down

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what action his Department has taken to meet the public transport needs of residents in North Down, in each year since devolution was restored. (AQW 2607/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Since I came to office in May 2007 the following capital projects have been funded or continue to be funded by my Department to meet the public transport needs of residents in North Down.

Capital Bus Projects	2007/2008 £'000	2008/2009 £'000	2009/2010 £'000	Start/Completion Date
New Buses	490	765	–	On-going bus replacement strategy – represents investment in buses that were allocated to Bangor
Capital Rail Projects				
Bangor TEMPL/TDM (signalling) replacement	152	134	101	July 2006 – June 2010
Bangor west Path and Lighting	–	5	4	January 2009 – December 2010

In addition a programme of works across the North costing £18m, to upgrade railway stations and halts including those on the Belfast to Bangor line has been completed.

During the period since devolution was restored, Translink has erected a number bus stops and timetables in the North Down constituency. I gave details to you in my response to AQW 7586/09.

During the period since devolution was restored, my Department has continued to operate the Rural Transport Fund which has provided support to Peninsula Community Transport to deliver specialised transport services in the rural parts of the North Down constituency. Peninsula Community Transport recently amalgamated with Down Community Transport and Age Concern Travel Services to become Down District Accessible Transport.

Door-to-Door Transport was introduced in the Bangor and Holywood areas in February 2007 and provides an accessible local transport service for elderly and disabled people who find it difficult or impossible to use mainstream public transport. The scheme provides access to local services that fall within a designated urban area.

Pay and Display Machines

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number; and (ii) the location of pay and display machines in the North Down constituency. (AQW 2608/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Details of the number and location of pay and display machines in the North Down constituency are provided in the table below:

Car Park	Number of Pay and Display Machines
Abbey Street East, Bangor	2
Bingham Lane, Bangor	2
Castle Street, Bangor	2
Clifton Road, Bangor	1
Holborn Avenue, Bangor	2
Mills Road, Bangor	2
The Vennel, Bangor	1
Church Road, Holywood	2
Hibernia Street North, Holywood	3
Hibernia Street South, Holywood	1

Road Resurfacing Schemes

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what road resurfacing schemes are planned for the North Down constituency in 2010/11. (AQW 2610/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I would remind the Member that information on the completed and proposed roads schemes can be found in my Department's Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from the Roads Service internet site at the following web address:

www.roadsni.gov.uk/index/publications/publications-council_reports.htm

Roads Service is currently compiling their Autumn Reports to Councils.

Traffic Issues in North Down

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what road schemes are planned to address traffic issues in the North Down constituency. (AQW 2611/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I would remind the Member that information on the completed and proposed roads schemes can be found in my Department's Roads Service's Spring and Autumn Reports to Councils. These reports can be accessed from the Roads Service internet site at the following web address:

www.roadsni.gov.uk/index/publications/publications-council_reports.htm

Roads Service is currently compiling their Autumn Reports to Councils.

Street Lighting

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister for Regional Development if he has assessed the level of street lighting on all major trunk roads and A class roads, and if so, to detail his findings. (AQW 2636/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that when street lighting systems are designed and installed, the level and arrangement of lighting is selected in accordance with the recommendations of the applicable design standards. Roads Service aims to conform to the principles recommended in the latest codes of practice for the design of street lighting, these being, BS 5489 and BS EN 13201.

All street lighting systems, including those on major trunk roads and A class roads, are inspected regularly to ensure that they are operating effectively.

Utility Operators

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the procedures and scale of fines or penalties imposed on utility operators who open roads but fail to reinstate the road to an acceptable standard.

(AQW 2637/10)

Minister for Regional Development: As I advised the Member in my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 2324/10, the procedures by which my Department's Roads Service deals with defective reinstatement of road openings are set out in the Code of Practice for Inspections (2nd Edition) 1 September 2003 (ISBN 0-337-08622-2).

The procedures involve alerting the utility operator to the defective reinstatement, agreement of the required remedial works, followed by a further inspection on completion of the remedial works, at the expense of the utility. The current inspection fee for follow-up inspections is £60.

Where more than 10% of the same utility's reinstatements are found to be defective, the procedures allow for issue of an improvement notice, requiring that utility to prepare and implement an agreed improvement plan. Ultimately, the Street Works (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, provides for prosecution, which may lead to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000).

I can advise that road openings, by utilities, have been the subject of a Northern Ireland Audit Office Review in 2008 and a subsequent Public Accounts Committee Hearing in January 2009. Roads Service has given a commitment to the Public Accounts Committee, that where a utility repeatedly fails in its duties to work to the Code of Practice, Roads Service will utilise the powers, within the Code, to rectify the situation. In cases where public safety is compromised, Roads Service will prosecute. Where problems are related to poor performance, Roads Service will increase the number of its inspections, at the expense of the utility, until such time as the pass rate is achieved.

Parking Illegally on Disabled Parking Bays

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development how many tickets have been issued to those parking illegally on disabled parking bays in Larne, in each of the last 24 months.

(AQW 2658/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the information you have requested is not available in a format that would allow it to be easily retrieved without incurring significant costs.

However, I can advise that in Larne, in the two year period from 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2009, 263 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued to vehicles parked in designated disabled persons' parking spaces, which did not clearly display a valid disabled person's badge. This equates to an average total of eleven PCNs per month.

Parking Illegally on Disabled Parking Bays

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development how many tickets have been issued to those parking illegally on disabled parking bays in Carrickfergus, in each of the last 24 months.

(AQW 2659/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the information you have requested is not available in a format that would allow it to be easily retrieved without incurring significant costs.

However, I can advise that in Carrickfergus, in the two year period from 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2009, 187 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued to vehicles parked in designated disabled persons' parking spaces, which did not clearly display a valid disabled person's badge. This equates to an average total of eight PCNs per month.

Parking Illegally on Disabled Parking Bays

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development how many tickets have been issued to those parking illegally on disabled parking bays in Newtownabbey, in each of the last 24 months. (AQW 2660/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the information you have requested is not available in a format that would allow it to be easily retrieved without incurring significant costs.

However, I can advise that in the Newtownabbey area, which includes Ballyclare, in the two year period from 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2009, 84 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued to vehicles parked in designated disabled persons' parking spaces, which did not clearly display a valid disabled person's badge. This equates to an average total of three PCNs per month.

Ramps and Traffic Calming Measures

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister for Regional Development what assessment has been made of the adverse impact of ramps and traffic calming measures on the mechanical condition of vehicles. (AQW 2683/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that considerable research has been carried out into the design and performance of road humps since the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1990 were introduced. All traffic calming measures are designed and implemented in accordance with these regulations, and no mechanical damage should occur to vehicles, when they are driven at the appropriate speed.

Ramps and Traffic Calming Measures

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister for Regional Development what assessment has been made of the adverse impact of ramps and traffic calming measures on the Fire and Rescue Service, Ambulance Service and Police Service vehicles when responding to emergency calls. (AQW 2686/10)

Minister for Regional Development: As I advised the Member in my answer to his Assembly Question, AQW 2683/10, considerable research has been carried out into the design and performance of road humps since the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1990 were introduced. All traffic calming measures are designed and implemented in accordance with these regulations.

When implementing any traffic calming scheme, my Department's Roads Service undertakes an extensive consultation process, during which all 'blue light' emergency services are given the opportunity to comment. Roads Service will modify a traffic calming scheme, in order to obtain an acceptable compromise, which will not jeopardise any emergency vehicle's response time.

Traffic Calming Measures

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister for Regional Development how much his Department spent on traffic calming measures in each of the last five financial years. (AQW 2687/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Details of my Department's Roads Service expenditure on traffic calming measures in each of the last five financial years are provided in the table below:

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Expenditure on Traffic Calming Measures	£2.549 million	£3.127 million	£2.55 million	£3.059 million	£3.287 million

Traffic Calming Measures

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the effectiveness of traffic calming measures in reducing the number of road traffic fatalities and injuries. (AQW 2690/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has published the Road Safety Engineering Report for 2006/7 which includes details of traffic calming measures and their effectiveness in reducing the number of road traffic collisions up to and including the financial year 2005/06.

The report can be viewed at www.roadsni.gov.uk/2006-07_rdsafetyreport.pdf and details of the collision histories in connection with traffic calming found at pages, 5, 15-6 and 31-41 of the report.

Signage at Market Street, Downpatrick

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister for Regional Development if Roads Service will provide signage at Market Street, Downpatrick and Belfast Road, Downpatrick, to direct visitors to the railway attraction at Inch Abbey. (AQW 2691/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that for an attraction to qualify for tourist signage it must be open continuously from March to October. I am advised that the railway attraction at Inch Abbey only opens on a Sunday and therefore, does not meet the criterion required.

However, I understand that Roads Service officials are in discussions with the operators of the railway to try and find a way of resolving this issue.

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development how many EU Directives his Department has (i) received; and (ii) implemented in each of the last three years. (AQW 2739/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The information requested is set out in the table below.

Year*	Adopted**	Transposed***
2007		2
2008	1	1
2009	1	1
Total	2	4

For the purposes of this question, 'received' and 'implemented' have been translated to mean adopted and transposed.

A directive is formally adopted when it is published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Subsequently, departments receive details of the directive and determine what action needs to be taken.

Transposition into law relevant to the North may be required. However, in other cases, this is done on the basis of the law across England, Scotland and Wales and the North of Ireland. Date of transposition refers to the date at which enabling legislation is complete and is therefore the legal date of implementation. Further action in terms of operational implementation may be required by departments, however this may be open-ended.

Footnote:

*Calendar year basis (1 January to 31 December).

** Year published in Official Journal of the European Union.

***This may include directives which were adopted prior to 2007.

Road Gritting

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the reasons for using outside contract staff as well as Roads Service staff for road gritting. (AQW 2740/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the North is covered by 113 designated priority gritting routes. In order to comply with Working Time Regulations and ensure

sufficient numbers of drivers are available given the possibility of a Swine Flu pandemic, three drivers have been allocated to each gritting route on a rota basis for the 2009/10 season.

In areas where it is not possible to fully cover such rotas using only Roads Service Industrial driving staff, other drivers are recruited, temporarily, for the Winter Service operation, to cover any shortfalls. Temporary driving staff may be selected from contract drivers and from suitably qualified non-industrial Roads Service staff.

I should advise that, for the past five years, Roads Service has employed external contract drivers to fill vacancies in the winter service driver rota.

Road Gritting

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many (i) Roads Service staff; and (ii) outside contract staff were the road gritting drivers in North Down (i) in 2008/09; and (ii) in 2009/10. (AQW 2743/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that in 2008/09 Winter Service gritting in the North Down and Ards Peninsula area was carried out by a rota of 11 Roads Service drivers and six contract drivers.

In the current 2009/10 year, the present rota is manned by four Roads Service drivers and 17 contract drivers.

Road Gritting

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the total cost of road gritting in North Down in 2008/09; and (ii) the projected budget for 2009/10. (AQW 2744/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The North Down Constituency area lies within both my Department's Roads Service Eastern and Southern Divisions. However, the majority of the subject area is located within Eastern Division, this being, the North Down Council area.

Roads Service has advised that it does not hold information, specifically on the cost of road gritting; however, it is included within the overall cost of Winter Service in Eastern Division, which was £1.1 million during 2008/09.

Winter Maintenance is carried out on the basis of need, with the resulting expenditure being heavily reliant on the prevailing weather conditions, in a particular area, during any given season. It is, therefore, not possible to predict an overall cost in a particular Council area at this time of year.

That said Divisional budgets, which are set at the start of each financial year, are broadly similar to previous years' and are monitored and adjusted accordingly during the winter period. The Eastern Division budget, which includes the North Down Council area, has an initial allocation of £835,000 for Winter Maintenance, for the 2009/10 season.

Pay and Display Machines

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Regional Development how much revenue has been generated from pay and display machines in the Magherafelt District Council area, in the last three years, broken down by car park. (AQW 2763/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Details of the revenue generated from pay and display car-parks in Magherafelt, for the last three financial years, including the current financial year to the end of October 2009, are set out in the table below.

Car-Park	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Rainey Street	£164,000	£156,000	£87,000
Union Road	£69,000	£62,000	£35,000

Note: that the above revenue figures are inclusive of VAT.

I can advise that all revenue generated from car parking charges, along with income from parking penalty charge notices, supplement the overall financing of Roads Service by Central Government. However, I should

point out that the cost of managing Roads Service off-street car parks and enforcing the on-street parking restrictions, exceed the total revenue received.

The Main Belfast to Newtownards Road.

Mrs I Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail any plans his Department has to repair and resurface the main Belfast to Newtownards Road. (AQW 2765/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that as part of the on-going Newtownards Road Environmental Improvement (EI) Scheme, being led and part-funded by the Department for Social Development (DSD), the footways and carriageway on the A20 Newtownards Road, Belfast will be resurfaced between McMaster Street and Albertbridge Road. DSD has indicated that the work is expected to be completed in September 2010.

In recent years, a number of other stretches along the Newtownards Road and the Upper Newtownards Road have been resurfaced, as detailed below:

- in 2002, the Newtownards Road was resurfaced between the Albertbridge Road and the Hollywood Road; and
- in the period from 2002 to 2008, the Upper Newtownards Road was resurfaced between the Knock Road and Stoney Road and between the Comber Road and Bradshaws Brae.

The remaining sections of footway and carriageway along this route will be resurfaced on a priority basis, dependent upon condition and the availability of finance.

Roads Service is aware that there has been significant deterioration during the past year, in the condition of the carriageway surface on the A20 Kempstones Road, the main road between Belfast (at Dundonald) and Newtownards.

I should explain that the Belfast to Newtownards road forms part of the Trunk Road network and funding for structural maintenance is sought through a separate bidding process to the normal allocation. This year Roads Service was successful in securing funding to resurface a 600 metre section of the Belfast bound carriageway into Dundonald.

I can confirm that significant bids have been lodged for funding to carry out similar work on other stretches of both the Belfast and Newtownards bound carriageways in the 2010/11 financial year. However, the outcome of this bidding process will not be known until February/March 2010.

Roads Service staff will continue to monitor the condition of the carriageway and carry out interim repairs as required.

Car Parks Revenue

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister for Regional Development how much revenue has been generated in Carrickfergus since January 2009 from (i) St Bride's car park; (ii) Joymount car park; (iii) the library car park; and (iv) Lancasterian Street car park. (AQW 2777/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Details of the revenue generated from pay and display car-parks in Carrickfergus from 1 January 2009 to 31 October 2009, are set out in the table below.

Car Park	Revenue Generated
St Bride's Street	£28,200
Joymount	£16,000
High Street	£47,200
Lancasterian Street	£38,700

Note: that the above revenue figures are inclusive of VAT.

I can advise that all revenue generated from car parking charges, along with income from parking penalty charge notices, supplement the overall financing of Roads Service by Central Government. However, I should

point out that the cost of managing Roads Service off-street car parks and enforcing the on-street parking restrictions, exceed the total revenue received.

Road Gritting

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the hourly rate of pay for (i) Roads Service drivers; and (ii) external contract staff for road gritting. (AQW 2789/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the rate of pay for Roads Service drivers, on road gritting duties, varies widely. The amount earned by a driver depends upon the staff grade and the day and time of day that the gritting action occurs, as enhancements to the basic rate are payable for unsocial hours and overtime premiums.

As an example, if gritting takes place every weekday evening and morning the average hourly rate of pay is £12.14 for a driver of 'Roadworker 2' grade. The majority of Roads Service drivers on winter gritting duties are Roadworker 2 grade.

Roads Service has also advised that due to the commercially sensitive nature of the contract with "Driver Hire", I am not at liberty to disclose the rate of pay for external contract staff, involved on road gritting duties.

Road Gritting

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what was the average hourly rate of pay for (i) Roads Service drivers; and (ii) external contract staff for road gritting in North Down in 2008/09. (AQW 2790/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service does not hold this information in the format that the Member has requested, and to research historical record databases would incur disproportionate cost. As an approximate estimate I would refer the Member to my response to AQW 2789/10.

Roads Service has also advised that due to the commercially sensitive nature of the contract with "Driver Hire", I am not at liberty to disclose the rate of pay for external contract staff, involved on road gritting duties.

Misuse of Disabled Parking Badges

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development how many people have been prosecuted for the misuse of disabled parking badges in each of the last three years. (AQW 2796/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service, through its parking enforcement contract with NSL Services Group and in conjunction with the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee, has established procedures whereby, a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) can be issued when abuse of the Blue Badge scheme is suspected.

I can advise the Member that from the time these procedures were implemented in September 2008 to 31 October 2009, 160 PCNs have been issued, when abuse of the Blue Badge scheme has been suspected.

Unpaid PCNs cannot be pursued through the criminal courts, therefore, prosecutions cannot be secured. Unpaid parking penalties are pursued using the administrative process set out in the Traffic Management (NI) Order 2005. Ultimately, the Enforcement of Judgements Office, and Clamping and Removal operations may be used for the recovery of civil debt.

Incident in Cromac Street, Belfast

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what checks are being carried out to ensure that there is no recurrence of the incident in Cromac Street, Belfast, where a section of the road collapsed on 7 November 2009. (AQW 2816/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the road collapse incident at Cromac Street was a rare and unusual event. NIW has carried out surface ground settlement monitoring along the route of the tunnel and has found nothing to suggest that a recurrence of the incident is likely.

Uneven Footpaths and Footways

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of successful compensation claims for injuries due to uneven footpaths and footways in each council area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2825/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Central Claims Unit maintains claims statistics on the basis of individual Roads Service Section Office areas. The 24 Section Office areas correspond roughly with District Council areas, but include parts of more than one District Council area. For this reason, the claims information in the form requested is not readily available. The claims information requested is available in respect of the Roads Service Section Offices and this is shown in the table below. This format corresponds with my reply to AQW 1991/10 on 6 November 2009.

Roads Service Section Office	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Antrim	4	7	4	3	6
Ards	7	14	6	6	9
Armagh	9	7	2	1	6
Ballymena & Larne	4	4	4	1	3
Ballymoney & Moyle	3	1	nil	nil	4
Banbridge	4	1	5	3	5
Belfast North	46	42	49	31	27
Belfast South	24	16	21	21	17
Castlereagh	10	13	7	10	6
Coleraine	4	2	1	1	1
Cookstown	2	5	1	3	nil
Craigavon	10	5	6	7	5
Down	7	nil	6	nil	4
Dungannon	nil	3	4	3	1
Fermanagh	nil	2	nil	3	1
Limavady	nil	3	3	nil	2
Lisburn	12	12	8	10	10
Londonderry	11	10	11	10	7
Magherafelt	nil	nil	nil	nil	1
Newry & Mourne	5	7	4	5	6
Newtownabbey & Carrick	18	10	20	15	11
North Down	9	7	8	9	5
Omagh	1	nil	7	3	4
Strabane	1	5	2	nil	1
Strangford Ferry	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

Uneven Footpaths

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of (i) successful compensation claims; and (ii) unsuccessful compensation claims for injuries due to uneven footpaths in (a) Larne; (b) Carrickfergus; and (c) Newtownabbey in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2861/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The number of successful and unsuccessful personal injury compensation claims due to footpath defects received by my Department's Central Claims Unit for each of the last three years from the Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey Roads Service Section Office areas are listed in the following table:

	Successful Claims	Unsuccessful Claims	Total
2008/09			
Carrickfergus Section Office	2	10	12
Larne Section Office	1	4	5
Newtownabbey Section Office	9	20	29
2007/08			
Carrickfergus Section Office	4	19	23
Larne Section Office	0	6	6
Newtownabbey Section Office	11	23	34
2006/07			
Carrickfergus Section Office	1	12	13
Larne Section Office	2	7	9
Newtownabbey Section Office	19	16	35

Footpath on Frances Street, Newtownards

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Regional Development why the footpath on Frances Street, outside Sheldon Galleries, Newtownards has not been repaired given that there has been a successful claim against his Department because of injuries due to a raised flagstone. (AQW 2890/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the incident in question arose due to the displacement of a concrete drainage channel on the footway. It is believed this was caused by the growth of roots from a nearby street tree which resulted in the exposed edge of the concrete channel block being marginally higher than the level of the adjacent footway.

Defects on footways are assessed against pre-determined criteria contained in Roads Service's maintenance guidelines and as the level of displacement fell short of the threshold for intervention, it was not initially intended to carry out a repair at this location. Recently, however, the street tree has been removed by what appears to be an act of vandalism, resulting in disturbance of the footway area adjacent to the drainage channel. Roads Service has therefore, decided to carry out repairs at this location, which will include the relaying of the subject drainage channel. It is anticipated that this work will be completed within the next 2 weeks.

EASSDA Property Developments

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development how outstanding commitments on the adoption of roads and sewers in EASSDA property developments will be met now the company has gone into liquidation. (AQW 2892/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Officials from my Department are aware that the property developer EASSDA has gone into liquidation. Roads Service has advised that it will use statutory procedures and powers, under the Private Streets (NI) Order 1980, to progress the adoption of roads and sewers within their housing sites.

I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that, on sites where ESSDA Property Developments has entered into a sewer adoption agreement, under Article 161 of the Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order

2006, a Guarantee Bond will be in place. If any remedial work is required on these sites to bring the sewers up to adoptable standard, NIW will utilise the Bond to complete the work.

Portadown to Londonderry Railway Link

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will consider the feasibility of building a railway link and the necessary services to connect Portadown to Londonderry, to include links with Dungannon, Enniskillen, Omagh and Strabane. (AQW 2946/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The planned investment in public transport by the Department for Regional Development in the North of Ireland, over the next ten years, is set out in the Investment Delivery Plan which is published on the Strategic Investment Board's website. Development of the railway infrastructure was considered in the course of the production of the business case, completed in August 2007, for the New Trains Two Programme. This followed from the work of an inter-departmental group established in September 2006 which considered options for future investment in the railways network here. The building of a railway link and the necessary services to connect Portadown to Derry, to include links with Dungannon, Enniskillen, Omagh and Strabane is not considered to be feasible at this time. Given the available funding for railway projects, my priority at this time is to maintain, improve and upgrade existing railway lines in the region.

Upgrading of the A5

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the length of railway line, with related services, his Department would be able to build into the west of Northern Ireland using the £800 million which has been set aside for the upgrading of the A5. (AQW 2948/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's priority at this time is to maintain, improve and upgrade existing railway lines in the region and there are no plans to build new railway lines here. Consequently my Department has not considered the estimated length of railway line that could be constructed in the west of the Region using the £800 million set aside for the upgrading of the A5. A feasibility study and Economic Appraisal would be required to assess the options and to consider all relevant issues including: the length of track; passenger demand; capital and revenue consequences before it would be possible to comment on the specifics of this proposal. It is also worth emphasizing that the A5 roads project was, itself, subject to economic appraisal and is part of the Investment Delivery Plan for all departments.

Martin's Lane Flyover

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the construction of the new A1 dual carriageway, what efforts are being made to accelerate the completion of the Martin's Lane flyover and associated roads, to facilitate the local community and businesses. (AQW 2986/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service advise that Amey Lagan Roads Limited, the Design, Build, Finance and Operate Project Company, and Lagan Ferrovia, their Construction Contractor, who are responsible for all aspects of the design, programming and construction of the new A1 dual carriageway, are fully aware of the need to facilitate the local community and businesses and are progressing the construction works necessary, to complete the Martin's Lane flyover and associated roads.

As I previously advised the Member, the Acting Divisional Roads Manager, in response to continuing concern about this matter, is arranging a further site meeting. This will provide Lagan Ferrovia with the opportunity, not only to describe and explain their construction activities, but also to advise of their programme for making this new bridge available to traffic as soon as possible.

Railway Link between Portadown and Dungannon and Portadown and Enniskillen

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the cost of introducing a railway link between (i) Portadown and Dungannon; and (ii) Portadown and Enniskillen. (AQW 3004/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The planned investment in public transport by the Department for Regional Development in the North of Ireland, over the next ten years, is set out in the Investment Delivery Plan which is published on the Strategic Investment Board's website. Development of the railway infrastructure was considered in the course of the production of the business case, completed in August 2007, for the New Trains Two Programme.

The funding allocated to public transport is limited and it is necessary to prioritise the projects which can be undertaken. My current priority with regards to investment in railways is to maintain, improve and upgrade existing railway lines in the region. There are no plans to build railway links to connect Portadown to Dungannon and Portadown to Enniskillen, nor do they feature in the Investment Strategy. At this time no feasibility study or business case has been prepared in relation to this. Without these it is impossible to provide a reliable estimate of the cost of building those links.

DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Statistics on Pensioners

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister for Social Development to list all statistics held by her Department on (i) pensioners; (ii) pensioner employment; and (iii) pensioners accessing state pensions and benefits. (AQW 2224/10)

Minister for Social Development (Ms M Ritchie):

(i) **Statistics held on pensioners:**

The Dept only hold statistics on pensioners who claim benefit – these are outlined in (iii) below.

(ii) **Statistics held on pensioner employment**

The latest available Households below average income publication, for 2006/07, includes the numbers of pensioners where one or more within the family/household unit are working. The figure published for the number of pensioners working is 37,900.

(iii) **Statistics held on pensioners accessing state pensions and benefits**

- a) The department produces National Statistics publications on people claiming State Pension and State Pension Credit.
- b) The department produces publications on other benefits which may be claimed by people of pensioner age such as Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance and Severe Disablement Allowance.
- c) The department produces also produces the NI Client Group Analysis publication which contains a section on persons of pensionable age claiming at least one of the key benefits.

Vacancies to the Board of the NI Housing Executive

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development (i) why vacancies to the Board of the NI Housing Executive are to be readvertised; (ii) who decided to readvertise; (iii) how many people were interviewed in the first process; (iv) how many applicants were deemed appropriate for appointment; and (v) what is the religious background of the individuals who were deemed appropriate for appointment. (AQW 2475/10)

Minister for Social Development: No decision has been made to readvertise the vacancies and officials are currently in discussions with the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland. In the first process seven candidates were interviewed of which six were deemed suitable for appointment. The information in relation to the religious background of the individuals deemed suitable for appointment cannot be provided for legal reasons.

Funding Related Audits

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how many funding related audits of (i) charities; (ii) community groups; and (iii) voluntary groups have been carried out by (a) her Department; and (b) its agencies in each of the last 5 years; and how many times an audit was carried out on more than one occasion, by different sections of her Department or its agencies, relating to the same funding. (AQW 2577/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Department for Social Development and its agencies carry out checks on grant funding awarded to charities; community groups and voluntary groups rather than official audits of business accounts conducted by an independent qualified accountant. The Department currently inspects projects on a risk assessed basis but for projects receiving funding over a number of years all will be subject to at least an annual inspection to ensure that money is expended for the purpose for which it was awarded.

The Department also has a role as regulator of Registered Housing Associations, which are registered for charitable purposes. A dedicated Regulation and Inspection Team carry out inspections to review the key areas of Corporate Governance, Finance, Property Development and Property Management.

A breakdown of the information held on checks/inspections carried out by the Department outlined in the table below. Information broken down in respect of Charities; Voluntary Groups; and Community Groups is not held in all cases.

EU PROGRAMMES

PROJECT CHECKS

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Community Groups	12	32	20	31	2	97

EXPENDITURE CHECKS (5%)

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Visits carried out	84	72	49	43	9	257

URBAN REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

ORGANISATION RISK ASSESSMENTS:

Year end	2005 - 06	2006 - 07	2007- 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	Total
Charities	2	0	0	0	0	2
Voluntary and Community Groups	67	133	48	5	9	262

ASSESSMENT REVIEWS:

Year end	2005 - 06	2006 - 07	2007- 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	Total
Charities	0	0	0	2	0	2
Voluntary and Community Groups	0	0	0	22	159	181

NUMBERS OF PROJECTS PER YEAR FROM THE FUNDERS DATABASE

Year end	2005 - 06	2006 - 07	2007- 08	2008 - 09	2009 - 10	Total
	812	762	1009	813	830	4226

Footnote: Until 2006 100% of every quarterly claim for payment for each project was validated. To reduce bureaucracy but continue to protect public funds, based on an assessment of an organisation's finance and governance controls, a risk based approach was piloted and fully implemented early in 2008. Payment for individual projects where an organisation is deemed low risk are limited to 1 payment per year retrospectively;

for medium risk organisations 2 payments per year in advance and for high risk organisations all payment applications are examined in advance.

INSPECTIONS OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total
Full Inspection	8	7	8	9	1	33
Follow up Inspection	0	0	0	1	4	5

Note: NIHE not included.

Sickness Absence

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development what steps she is taking to reduce the Department's sickness absence levels of 14.6 working days lost per whole time equivalent. (AQW 2630/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Department is taking a wide range of steps to reduce sickness absence levels, including robust application and monitoring of procedures for managing sick absence to ensure action is taken expeditiously; close working with Occupational Health Service (OHS) and staff support services on case management for long term absences; the intervention of a Stress Enquiry Team for work-related stress cases; and a series of health promotion events, along with intranet access to OHS literature on, for example, healthy living.

These steps have seen a reduction of sick absence over the last 3 years from 18.7 days to 14.6 days. The Department nevertheless continues to give a strategic priority to reducing sick absence, and is working on the development of a new strategy focusing on priority areas for action to further reduce absence levels.

Online Applications for Child Maintenance

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Social Development if there are any discrepancies in online applications for Child Maintenance through her Department's website; and if so, what action is being taken to rectify the problem. (AQW 2648/10)

Minister for Social Development: The new claims application team in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division has received 120 online applications since April 2009. There are no known or reported discrepancies or problems associated with online applications.

Social Housing Waiting List

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many people currently on the social housing waiting list in the North Down area are in housing stress. (AQW 2650/10)

Minister for Social Development: At 30 September 2009, 974 applicants on the North Down waiting list were deemed to be in housing stress.

Housing Executive Homes

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive homes in the North Down area have been vacant for (i) more than six months; and (ii) more than one year. (AQW 2651/10)

Minister for Social Development: The table below shows the number of vacant Housing Executive dwellings at 12 November 2009 within the North Down area for the periods requested:-

Vacant between 6-12 months	Vacant over 1 Year
15	66

These figures include homes for sale, demolition, decanting and awaiting repairs.

Housing Executive Homes

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive homes in (i) the North Down Borough Council area; (ii) Millisle; and (iii) Donaghadee, are currently awaiting modernisation or renovation before being allocated to tenants. (AQW 2654/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested. However, within the Housing Executive's Bangor District Office area, which corresponds to the North Down Borough Council area, there are 27 Housing Executive dwellings at various stages of repair which are awaiting modernisation or renovation before being allocated. In the Millisle area, one dwelling is currently awaiting repairs and a further dwelling is awaiting repairs in the Donaghadee area. The Housing Executive will seek to complete the required remedial works and allocate these dwellings at the earliest opportunity.

New Build Houses in Derry

Mr R McCartney asked the Minister for Social Development how many of the 240 planned new build houses for this financial year in Derry were started in the period April 2009 to September 2009. (AQW 2671/10)

Minister for Social Development: There are now 225 starts programmed for the Derry City Council area for 2009/10 as the scheme at Bligh's Lane Derry has reduced from 80 to 65 units. One scheme at Sherman Court of 18 units has started on site.

Future Department of Justice

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Social Development (i) what steps her Department intends to take to engage with a future devolved Department of Justice on cross-cutting matters; and (ii) what contribution her Department can make to cross-cutting justice and community safety issues such as reducing levels of offending. (AQW 2679/10)

Minister for Social Development:

- (i) My Department currently engages with the Northern Ireland Office and other agencies on justice related matters. It will collaborate with a future devolved Department of Justice on these issues in the same manner.
- (ii) Tackling the issues relating to community safety or justice falls to three areas of responsibility in my Department; Urban Regeneration and Community Development, Social Security and Housing.

The ongoing contribution of Urban Regeneration and Community Development Division takes many forms including the provision of funding for community safety initiatives, working with other statutory bodies to feed into the community safety plan for Belfast and the tackling of community safety issues through Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plans.

The Social Security Agency's (the Agency) Benefit Investigation Service works closely with the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPSNI) on issues of mutual interests such as benefit fraud cases. Following a recommendation from an earlier inspection by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate, the Agency and PPSNI have been working jointly on the development of a Service Level Agreement which should be concluded shortly.

My Department through the Housing Executive works with the NIO on community safety issues such as crime prevention initiatives. Most new social housing schemes conform to the 'secured by design' standard, which in effect means that PSNI community safety officers are involved in discussions about the design of social housing schemes helping to cut down and minimise the potential for the sites attracting anti social behaviour and offering some form of added security to prospective tenants.

My housing officials also have ongoing regular discussions with NIO around the delivery of Special Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings (SPED) scheme.

Home Improvement Grants

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister for Social Development how many home improvement grants were approved and processed by the Housing Executive in each Council area in (i) 2008/09; and (ii) 2009/10 to date.
(AQW 2684/10)

Minister for Social Development: The table below details the numbers of Northern Ireland Housing Executive Grants approved, by local Council area, for the periods requested.

Council Area	2008/2009	2009/10 (up to 31/10/09)
Antrim	53	12
Ards	104	46
Armagh	175	168
Ballymena	58	18
Ballymoney	54	20
Banbridge	104	18
Belfast	1234	366
Carrickfergus	55	28
Castlereagh	117	17
Coleraine	106	21
Cookstown	237	52
Craigavon	407	60
Derry	375	79
Down	222	50
Dungannon	285	78
Fermanagh	570	116
Larne	41	24
Limavady	126	32
Lisburn	201	69
Magherafelt	139	33
Moyle	40	8
Newry & Mourne	568	119
Newtownabbey	106	59
North Down	123	57
Omagh	269	60
Strabane	232	54

Outsourced Medical Support Services

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister for Social Development what plans she has to outsource medical support services.
(AQW 2711/10)

Minister for Social Development: In light of the changing Welfare Reform Agenda and following a review of delivery of Medical Support Services, the Social Security Agency is taking forward a project to outsource delivery of medical expertise to a third party partner. A procurement exercise is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that the Invitation to Submit Final Tenders will be issued at the end of 2009 with contract award

March 2010. Based on this timetable full cutover to the new provider will take place in mid to late 2010 or earlier if feasible.

Disability Awareness Training

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister for Social Development what disability awareness training front-line Employment and Support Allowance staff are given, particularly Autism specific training. (AQW 2712/10)

Minister for Social Development: Staff in the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) Centre receive awareness training on how to deal with customers who have a disability. This training is delivered by trainers from Disability Action. In addition, all front line telephony staff in the ESA Centre are currently receiving customer service training, which includes a section specifically on customers with autism.

Front-line Employment and Support Allowance Staff

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister for Social Development if front-line Employment and Support Allowance staff make claimants aware that they are entitled to have an advocate to assist with their applications. (AQW 2713/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claim line procedures include the facility for a claim to be made by an advocate on behalf of any customer. If, at any stage of a telephone conversation, the telephone agent becomes aware that a customer is having difficulty with the claim process the agent will advise the customer that an advocate can complete the call on their behalf. It will also be explained that arrangements can be made for a customer, or an advocate, to receive face to face assistance at a local Jobs & Benefits/Social Security Office.

When a caller contacts the ESA centre, staff must ask if the caller is ringing to make a claim or if the call is on behalf of someone else but staff would not suggest that a caller might require the assistance of an advocate. If a caller indicates that they wish to act as an advocate for a customer there are procedures in place to enable staff to arrange for the authorisation of a designated representative to enable a claim to be taken by telephone.

Housing Executive Properties

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties are currently sitting empty or boarded up and unable to be allocated to new residents in the Upper Falls electoral ward; and why these homes cannot be allocated. (AQW 2731/10)

Minister for Social Development: At any given time the Housing Executive's West Belfast District Office will have several operational voids and, at 19 November, there were 3 such vacant dwellings within the area in question. These dwellings are secured by steel screens to prevent squatting or vandalism while change of tenancy repairs are carried out. However all 3 properties have been allocated and the new tenants will move in as soon as the necessary remedial works have been completed.

Housing Waiting List

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many people are currently on the (a) housing waiting list; and (b) housing transfer list for the Upper Falls electoral ward; and (ii) how these numbers compare to the same period in each of the last 3 years. (AQW 2732/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not collate information by electoral ward. The table below details the social housing waiting list for the Greater Andersonstown area of the Housing Executive's West Belfast Office at 30th September 2009 and at the 31 March for the previous 3 financial years.

As at	Housing Applicants	Housing transfers
31 March 2006	976	310

As at	Housing Applicants	Housing transfers
31 March 2007	1,039	297
31 March 2008	1,061	297
31 March 2009	1,068	320
30 September 2009	1,070	338

Housing Benefit

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are currently in receipt of Housing Benefit for private landlords in the Upper Falls electoral ward; and how does this figure compare to the same period in each of the last three years. (AQW 2733/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the table below details the current Housing Benefit private landlord caseload figures for those areas of Belfast which previously comprised the Housing Executive's Belfast District 1 Office* and those at 1 April for the last 3 financial years:-

Nov 2009	Apr 2009	Apr 2008	Apr 2007
3462	3155	2616	2412

* The Housing Executive's Belfast District 1 Office included the following areas within Belfast: Andersonstown Area, Brooke Park, Donegall Road, Glencolin, Hannahstown, Ladybrook, Lenadoon, Riverdale, Rossnareen, St James Area, Suffolk, and Tullymore.

Pension Credit

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of pensioners currently living in the Omagh district who qualify for Pension Credit; (ii) the number of dedicated Pension Credit advisers based in the Social Security Offices in Omagh; and (iii) the initiatives undertaken by her Department to advise and inform older people, resident in the Omagh district, about how to access their entitlements and overcome poverty. (AQW 2735/10)

Minister for Social Development:

- (i) Information is not available on the number of pensioners currently living in the Omagh District who qualify for Pension Credit. However, there were 2,779* State Pension Credit recipients residing in the Omagh Local Government area in August 2009.
- (ii) One Pension advisor is based in Omagh Social Security Office, however, Pension Advisors can be redirected from one location to another if workloads dictate to ensure that all Pensioners, irrespective of where they live, receive an efficient service.
- (iii) Since 2005 the Social Security Agency has delivered Benefit Uptake Programmes to increase awareness and uptake of social security benefits. In the first year, one part of the Programme specifically targeted pensioners in the Omagh area. Since then Programmes have been Northern Ireland wide and residents in Omagh were selected through the normal process of identifying customers to be contacted. As a result of these Programmes, £27 million of additional annual benefit has been paid to people across Northern Ireland.

The 2009/10 Benefit Uptake Programme is focussing on older people, carers and families who may be eligible for additional benefit. 25,000 people will be offered a full benefit assessment through the Citizens Advice Bureau. Older people living in Omagh have been selected through the normal process of identifying customers to be contacted.

I am also launching a Benefits Adviser Service, www.nidirect.gov.uk/benefits-adviser, available from 19 November 2009 which provides a benefit calculator with information on 27 benefits/credits/allowances for customers and a Calculation and Comparison Service for 11 benefits.

* The information provided is derived from a 100% un-validated scan of the Income Support Computer System at August 2009 and the verified data will not be available until May 2010.

Legislation to Permit Bookmakers to open on Sundays

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister for Social Development if she will introduce legislation to permit bookmakers to open on Sundays, in light of the demand to place bets and the loss of business in Northern Ireland when people place their bets elsewhere. (AQW 2769/10)

Minister for Social Development: In June 2008 I sent an Executive Paper to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister seeking agreement to my proposal to permit limited Sunday opening of bookmakers and commercial bingo clubs. It has yet to be considered. I remain committed to progressing Sunday opening as swiftly as possible and would welcome an early decision by the Executive on my proposal.

Negotiations to Dispose of Housing Executive Land

Mr W Irwin asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 7228/09, to provide an update on the negotiations to dispose of Housing Executive land in the area of Latt Crescent, off the main Newry/Armagh Road. (AQW 2774/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Housing Executive had received an offer from an interested party to purchase this area of land. However, a query arose on whether access would be permitted onto the main Newry – Armagh Road. Without access, the land would not be capable of development. Enquiries with the Roads Service have led to the view that the only permissible access will be via Latt Crescent and this will involve the need for an increased area of land to be sold. The Housing Executive is currently considering the sale of the additional area of land required for access.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister for Social Development how many people who are alcohol-dependent are currently entitled to cars as part of their high rate mobility Disability Living Allowance. (AQW 2776/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested. Data is published on a Northern Ireland-wide basis on what is known as the main disabling conditions for disability living allowance recipients at www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/dla. However, it cannot be deduced from these figures how many people who are alcohol-dependent are in receipt of disability living allowance. Entitlement to disability living allowance is not linked to specific disabilities or diagnoses, but instead depends on the extent to which a person needs help with personal care, requires supervision or has mobility needs.

Motability is an independent voluntary organisation and it is responsible for the scheme which arranges the provision of vehicles for people who are in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. Under the Motability contract hire scheme the person in receipt of disability living allowance does not necessarily need to drive or to have a driving licence. Two drivers can be nominated who may be the person in receipt of disability living allowance or friends, relatives or carers. Whilst my Department facilitates the operation of the scheme by diverting payments of disability living allowance to meet contract hire payments, it is not directly involved in the administration of the scheme. Further information about the scheme can be obtained directly from Motability.

On-street Drinking

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have been prosecuted for on-street drinking in Larne since January 2008. (AQW 2780/10)

Minister for Social Development: While my Department is responsible for confirming bye laws made by councils prohibiting the consumption of intoxicating liquor in designated streets and public places, prosecution of offenders is a matter for the relevant district council. My Department does not hold records of prosecutions; the relevant information may be obtained from Larne Borough Council.

Derelict Housing Executive Properties

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in North Down are classified as derelict. (AQW 2791/10)

Minister for Social Development: There are currently 35 derelict Housing Executive dwellings within the Bangor District office area.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have been unsuccessful in their applications to the Warm Homes Scheme for (i) heating; (ii) insulation; and (iii) heating and insulation in (a) Lisburn; and (b) Dromore in each month of the last two years. (AQW 2839/10)

Minister for Social Development: The new Warm Homes Scheme commenced on 1 July 2009 and is being delivered on behalf of the Department by two new scheme managers, Bryson Charitable Group and H&A Mechanical Services Limited. Prior to this, Eaga plc delivered the scheme and when their contract ended, Eaga handed over all the records they held relating to the scheme to the Department. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive now holds those records of behalf of the Department.

Eaga did not record the number of people who were not eligible for the scheme and therefore the records which the Northern Ireland Housing Executive now holds relate only to customers who had energy efficiency measures installed through the Warm Homes Scheme.

Since the start of the new scheme the following have applied for assistance from the Warm Homes Scheme but have been deemed ineligible:

Banbridge Council Area (which includes Dromore)	Lisburn Council Area
325	629

Small Pockets of Deprivation Scheme

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Social Development what is the last date for applications to the Small Pockets of Deprivation scheme which will run until March 2010. (AQW 2914/10)

Minister for Social Development: In March this year, I announced that funding from the Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) programme would be extended to 31 March 2010. This allows expenditure incurred on projects on or before 31 March 2010 to be covered by the programme.

In April 2009, a deadline of 30th September was set for the submission of applications for funding under the programme. This deadline was established to ensure that there would be enough time for proposed projects to be properly worked up, assessed and delivered before 31 March 2010. The deadline is important in ensuring that the most effective use is made of the funding which is available. All the community based groups which can benefit from the SPOD programme were advised of the deadline in April. This deadline does not affect projects that have already been approved for funding.

Funding and Delivery Models for Social Housing

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development what alternative funding and delivery models for social housing her Department has considered, or is currently considering. (AQW 2916/10)

Minister for Social Development: When I launched the New Housing Agenda, I said that my Department will be engaging intensively with the private sector and development community to advance new structures and deals that can deliver the maximum housing on the ground for the least outlay of scarce public capital.

To this end, I have been looking critically at the structures and capacity for delivery in my own Department the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and Housing Associations, and have been working closely with the Strategic Investment Board in taking forward much of this work.

I am also considering other delivery models, including leasing and front loaded stimulus type delivery packages.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many appeals have been held for people refused Disability Living Allowance claims; and (ii) how many applications have been received for appeals in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency. (AQW 2975/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department's Appeals Service can only provide the information requested broken down by Tribunal Centre as opposed to constituency area.

The number of Appeals held which have been refused for Disability Living Allowance claims and the numbers of applications received in the last three years is set out in the table below.

	April '06 – March '07		April '07 – March '08		April '08 – March '09	
	No. of Hearings Held*	Applications Received	No. of Hearings Held	Applications Received	No. of Hearings Held	Applications Received
Armagh	133	129	183	155	222	185
Banbridge	73	66	105	112	161	121
Belfast	2428	1970	2788	2284	3212	2454
Ballymena	324	285	383	308	467	330
Ballymoney	60	49	105	87	132	99
Cookstown	135	102	117	99	154	121
Craigavon	371	337	401	374	500	405
Coleraine	281	250	299	222	381	295
Dungannon	205	177	239	213	300	254
Downpatrick	241	170	271	225	345	264
Enniskillen	229	205	276	223	268	233
Londonderry	633	528	724	576	767	678
Limavady	141	125	150	123	172	161
Magherafelt	116	100	131	107	142	120
Newtownards	408	334	453	395	582	447
Newry	377	325	406	300	532	403
Omagh	139	120	202	174	223	188
Strabane	186	170	197	148	239	195
Total	6480	5442	7430	6125	8799	6953

* Please note that there is no direct correlation between the number of applications received and the number of hearings held as cases can be adjourned and then reheard. Figures exclude postponed appeals.

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY COMMISSION

Equality Impact Assessments

Mr P Butler asked the Assembly Commission how many Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out by or on behalf of the Commission over the last three years. (AQW 2770/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The Assembly Commission's Equality Scheme was approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland on 27 February 2008. The Assembly Commission has not carried out any Equality Impact Assessments over the last three years. The Assembly Commission is currently undertaking a screening exercise which details those policies to be subject to equality impact assessment. This exercise will be subject to public consultation for a 12 week period and is expected to commence in December 2009.

Revised Written Answers

Friday 27 November 2009

(AQW 2339/10)

Funding for bands for the five years from 2005/06 to 2009/10 is summarised in the table below. Individual awards also listed in the attached document. Details of the Arts Council's grants are available on the Arts Council's website at www.artscouncil-ni.org/funding/recentawards.

Scheme	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	Total
Musical Instruments for Bands	-	146,915	150,002	149,311	104,822	551,050
Small Grants /Awards for All	67,540	29,920	42,565	16,020	18,750	174,795
Equipment	153,104	-	-	-	-	153,104
Total	220,644	176,835	192,567	165,331	123,572	878,949

ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING FOR BANDS

2009-2010 TO DATE

Type	Finance Year	Decision date	Name	Project Title	Grant
Small Grants Programme	2009-2010	08/07/2009	Pride of the Orange and Blue Flute Band	'A Band Play'	10,000
Small Grants Programme	2009-2010	04/06/2009	Armagh Old Boys Silver Band	Brass series in Armagh	4,000
Small Grants Programme	2009-2010	13/05/2009	Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	Teaching Programme & 1 week long Summer Scheme	2,250
Small Grants Programme	2009-2010	01/04/2009	Upper Falls Protestant Boys	(Flute) Band Development	2,500
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Schomberg Fife and Drum Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	2,741
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Closkelt Highland Pipe Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	3,663
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Ulster Grenadiers Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,266
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Garvary Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Tobermore Loyal Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	3,735
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	South Down Defenders Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Megargy Accordion Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,866
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Ballykeel Conservative Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,845
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Upper Falls Protestant Boys	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,658

Type	Finance Year	Decision date	Name	Project Title	Grant
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Fifes and Drums Historical and Musical Society	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,878
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Omagh Protestant Boys (Melody) Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Blackhill Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	2,477
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Crossmaglen Youth Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Ulster Volunteer Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,583
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Ballylesson Old Boys' Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,889
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Magheraglass Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,557
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Loughinsholin Cultural Music Group	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,984
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Lisbellaw Accordion Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Eden Accordion Band & Concert Music Society	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Wattlebridge Accordion Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Glenavy Accordion Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	4,680
Musical Instruments	2009-2010	07/07/2009	Castlegore Amateur Flute Band	Purchase Musical Instruments	5,000
Total to Date					123,572

2008-2009

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Ballinacross Accordion Band	4,995	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Ballymartin Pipe Band	4,999	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Ballymena and Harryville Young Conqueror	5,000	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Ballyreagh Silver Band	4,923	Silver band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	3,472	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Cappagh Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Castlerock Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Clogher Youth & Music Club	3,750	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Coleraine Fife & Drum Band	4,492	Fife and Drum band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Drumaheagles Young Defenders Flute Band	5,000	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	First Old Boys Association Silver Band	4,900	Silver band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Killymuck Accordion Band	5,000	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Kilnaslee Pipe Band	3,789	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Lisnaskea Accordion Band	5,000	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Montober Flute Band	4,958	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Moybrone Pipe Band	4,657	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Moygashel Sons of Ulster	4,183	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	4,999	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Mulnagore Coronation Accordion Band	4,862	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Murley Concert Band (Junior band of Murley Silver Band)	5,000	Concert band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Pomeroy Flute Band	4,736	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Pride of the Derg Flute Band	4,713	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Raffrey Pipe Band	4,999	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Roses Lane Ends Temperance Flute Band	3,750	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Sgt White Memorial Flute Band	4,255	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Skeogh Flute Band	5,000	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Tamlaght Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	4,005	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Tempo Accordion Band	4,191	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	Tubrid Pipe Band	4,688	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	W.J. Armstrong Memorial Pipe Band	4,995	Pipe band

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type
Musical Instruments for Bands	2008-2009	William Strain William Lightbody Memorial Flute Band	5,000	Flute band
Awards for All	2008-2009	The Hamilton Flute Band	800	Flute band
Awards for All	2008-2009	Letterbreen Silver Band	4,000	Silver band
Awards for All	2008-2009	Ballindarragh Accordion Band	1,850	Accordion band
Awards for All	2008-2009	Trilick Pipe Band	3,650	Pipe band
Awards for All	2008-2009	Magheraboy Flute Band	3,520	Flute band
Awards for All	2008-2009	Holy Cross Accordion Band Atticall	2,200	Accordion band
Total 2008/09			165,331	

2007-2008

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Ballymacall True Blues Flute Band	4,300	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Ballymacconnelly Sons of Conquerors	4,525	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Ballymoughan Flute Band	2,280	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Blaris Accordion Band	4,688	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Burntollet Sons of Ulster	5,000	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Carnagh Accordion Band	2,295	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Coalisland Jubilee Accordion Band	4,688	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Crumlin Young Loyalist Flute Band	3,963	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Cullybackey Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Curran Flute Band	5,000	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Dromara Highland Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Drumconvis Young Defenders Flute Band	3,795	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Drumnaglough Flute Band	3,775	Flute band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Dyan Pipe Band	4,594	Pipe band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	George A Dummigan Accordion Band	4,000	Accordion band
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Gilnahirk Pipe Band	3,438	Pipe band

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Gortagilly Musical Society	5,000		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Grallagh Unionist Flute Band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Hounds of Ulster	5,000		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Killycoogan Accordion Band	5,000	Accordion band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Kilrea Pipe Band	4,999	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Knockloughrim Accordion Band	5,000	Accordion band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Lisnaskea Silver Band	5,000	Silver band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Maghera Sons of William	2,730		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Magheraboy Flute Band	3,723	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Muckamore Cultural Music Society	5,000		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Newmills Silver Band	5,000	Silver band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Pride of Ardoyne	4,605		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Pride of the Maine	3,690		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Pride of The Park Flute Band Armoy	4,013	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Saint Patrick's Pipe Band, Drumquin	4,901	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	St Eugene's Band Omagh	5,000		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Tullywhisker Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2007-2008	Tyrone Ditches Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Awards for All	2007-2008	St John's Independant Accordion Band	8,320	Accordion band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Moneymore Accordion Band	2,880	Accordion band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Letterbreen Silver Band	5,795	Silver band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Magheraboy Flute Band	3,600	Flute band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Bawn Silver Band	5,500	Silver band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Ardboe Central Youth Band	5,000		Tuition costs

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type	
Awards for All	2007-2008	Aghavilly Accordion Band	500	Accordion band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2007-2008	Ballycoan Pipe Band	5,970	Pipe band	Tuition costs
Total 2007/08			192,567		

2006-2007

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Ballykeel Loyal Sons of Ulster Flute Band	5,000	Flute Band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Ardinariff Flute Band	3,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Augharonan Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Barr Jubilee Pipe Band	4,673	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Brookeborough Flute Band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Cairncastle Flute Band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Churchill Flute Band	3,517	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Cranny Pipe Band	3,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Crimson Arrow Pipe Band	2,605	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Desertmartin Accordion Band	5,000	Accordion band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Donaghmore Accordion Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Dungiven Flute Band	3,750	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Hillview Flute Band	4,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Lisbeg Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Lisburn Young Defenders Flute Band	2,957	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Lisnamulligan Pipe Band	3,773	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Lower Woodstock Ulster Scots Flute Band	3,585	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Magheragall Pipe Band	3,500	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Magheraveely Flute Band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Maguiresbridge Silver band	4,485	Silver band	

Type	Year	Name	Grant	Project Type	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	McNeillstown Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Mullabrack Accordion Band	4,594	Accordion band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Newtownards Silver Band	3,630	Silver band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Newtownbutler Flute Band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Omagh True Blues	3,000		
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Portrush Sons of Ulster Flute Band	3,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Pride of the Shore Flute Band	3,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Rasharkin Pipe Band	5,000	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Sergeant Walker Memorial Pipe Band	3,263	Pipe band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Sir George White Memorial Flute band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Star of Down Flute Band	3,693	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Strabane Concert Brass	5,000	Concert band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Stranocum Flute Band	4,890	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Tullyhogue Flute Band	5,000	Flute band	
Musical Instruments for Bands	2006-2007	Vow Accordion Band	5,000	Accordion band	
Awards for All	2006-2007	South Fermanagh Flute Band	3,284	Flute band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Churchill Flute Band	2,203	Flute band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Benburb Pipe Band	984	Pipe band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Blacksessiagh Coronation Accordion Band	1,520	Accordion band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Newbuildings Girls Flute Band	2,600	Flute band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Cooneen Pipe Band	3,600	Pipe band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Killadeas Pipe Band	9,264	Pipe band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Pomeroy Accoridian Band	2,465	Accordion band	Tuition costs
Awards for All	2006-2007	Cavanaleck Pipe Band	4,000	Pipe band	Tuition costs
Total 2006/07			176,835		

2005-2006

Type	Year	Name	Grant
Equipment	2005-2006	St Malachy's Pipe Band Edendork	11,811
Equipment	2005-2006	Garvagh Pipe Band	15,633
Equipment	2005-2006	Letterbreen Silver Band	25,458
Equipment	2005-2006	North Belfast Pipe Band	12,942
Equipment	2005-2006	Ravara Pipe Band	16,479
Equipment	2005-2006	St Patrick's Pipe Band Coa	13,117
Equipment	2005-2006	Waringsford Pipe Band	13,526
Equipment	2005-2006	Mavemacullen Accordion Band	12,078
Equipment	2005-2006	Cookstown Sons of William Flute Band	11,173
Equipment	2005-2006	Aughnaskeagh Silver Band	20,887
Awards for All	2005-2006	Holy Cross Accordion Band Atticall	3,000
Awards for All	2005-2006	St Treas Flute Band	3,000
Awards for All	2005-2006	Drumlough Pipe Band	2,840
Awards for All	2005-2006	Pomeroy Accordion Band	2,700
Awards for All	2005-2006	Breaghey Silver Band	4,225
Awards for All	2005-2006	The Hamilton Flute Band	1,102
Awards for All	2005-2006	Bawn Silver band	2,306
Awards for All	2005-2006	St Brigid's Community Band/ Youth Arts Group	4,170
Awards for All	2005-2006	South Ulster Concert Band	1,150
Awards for All	2005-2006	Maguiresbridge Silver Band	3,530
Awards for All	2005-2006	Ballycoan Pipe Band	3,817
Awards for All	2005-2006	Heatherbrook Silver Band	2,998
Awards for All	2005-2006	Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	5,000
Awards for All	2005-2006	The Sergeant Walker Memorial Pipe Band	2,800
Awards for All	2005-2006	Ardboe Central Youth Band	3,840
Awards for All	2005-2006	Fermanagh Concert Band	4,860
Awards for All	2005-2006	Ballydonaghy Pipe Band	5,000
Awards for All	2005-2006	St Canice's Accordion Band	5,000
Awards for All	2005-2006	Killylea Silver Band	2,897
Awards for All	2005-2006	Cullenfadd Pipe Band	3,305
Total 2005/2006			220,644

WRITTEN ANSWERS

Department for Regional Development

Adopted and Unadopted Roads	68
Car Parks Revenue	78
EASSDA Property Developments	81
EU Directives	76
Footpath along the Ballywalter Road, Millisle	66
Footpath on Frances Street, Newtownards	81
Incident in Cromac Street, Belfast	79
Martin's Lane Flyover	82
Misuse of Disabled Parking Badges	79
Objections to the Planning Application to Build an Additional 26 Houses at Warren Hill in Newry	68
Parking Illegally on Disabled Parking Bays	74
Parking Illegally on Disabled Parking Bays	74
Parking Illegally on Disabled Parking Bays	75
Pay and Display Machines	72
Pay and Display Machines	77
Pedestrian Crossings for Residents of Maydown, Derry	67
Portadown to Londonderry Railway Link	82
Public Transport Needs of Residents in North Down	72
Railway Link between Portadown and Dungannon and Portadown and Enniskillen	82
Ramps and Traffic Calming Measures	75
Ramps and Traffic Calming Measures	75
Road Gritting	76
Road Gritting	77
Road Gritting	77
Road Gritting	79
Road Gritting	79
Road Resurfacing Schemes	73
Signage at Market Street, Downpatrick	76
Street Light at the end of Woburn Road, Millisle	66
Street Lighting	73
Tarmac and Removing Broken Flag Stones at Main Street, Millisle	67
The Main Belfast to Newtownards Road.	78
Traffic Calming Measures	75
Traffic Calming Measures	75
Traffic Congestion in Belfast City Centre	67
Traffic Issues in North Down	73
Uneven Footpaths	80
Uneven Footpaths and Footways	80
Upgrading of the A5	82
Utility Operators	74
Work Completed on the Culmore Road, Derry	67

Department for Employment and Learning

Apprenticeships	42
Belfast Metropolitan College at the Titanic Quarter	40
EU Directives	41
Future Department of Justice	40

Private Finance Initiatives	41
Public Sector Jobs in West Tyrone	42

Department for Social Development

Derelict Housing Executive Properties	91
Disability Awareness Training	88
Disability Living Allowance	90
Disability Living Allowance	92
Front-line Employment and Support Allowance Staff	88
Funding and Delivery Models for Social Housing	91
Funding Related Audits	84
Future Department of Justice	86
Home Improvement Grants	87
Housing Benefit	89
Housing Executive Homes	85
Housing Executive Homes	86
Housing Executive Properties	88
Housing Waiting List	88
Legislation to Permit Bookmakers to open on Sundays	90
Negotiations to Dispose of Housing Executive Land	90
New Build Houses in Derry	86
Online Applications for Child Maintenance	85
On-street Drinking	90
Outsourced Medical Support Services	87
Pension Credit	89
Sickness Absence	85
Small Pockets of Deprivation Scheme	91
Social Housing Waiting List	85
Statistics on Pensioners	83
Vacancies to the Board of the NI Housing Executive	83
Warm Homes Scheme	91

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

A5 Dual Carriageway	7
Dairy Farming	6
Davagh Forest Park	8
Flooding in Newry	5
Grants for Forests or Parklands	5
Grants for Forests or Parklands	5
ICAS	4
Renewable Energy	7
Slurry Tanks	6
Woodland Grant Scheme	6

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Belvoir Players Amateur Dramatic Society	23
Capital Spend on Sporting and Cultural Projects	21
Capital Spend on Sporting and Cultural Projects	22
Chess	25
Eels	21
EU Directives	8

Financial Problems of Soccer Clubs	20	GCSE English and Maths	36
Funding for Derry City FC	21	Ministerial Sub-committee on Children and Young People	29
Funding of Bands	11	Primary School Trained Teachers	38
Funding of Bands	24	Pupil Absentee Rate	32
Future Department of Justice	10	Pupil Absentee Rate	34
Lyric Theatre	24	Pupils Deemed to be 'gifted and talented'	29
Maritime Heritage	23	Relationships and Sexuality Education	31
Motor Sports Project	20	School Governor Applicants	39
National Museum	8	Schools: Federation Model or Cluster Arrangement	40
Places for Sport Programme	23	School Visits in the Mid-Ulster constituency	32
Re-imaging Communities	24	Teacher Sickness Rates	34
Sport Governing Bodies	8	Teacher Sickness Rates	35
Sports Grounds	20	Teaching Induction Year	30
Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation	24	Truancy	37
The Future of BBC Radio Foyle	21	Truancy	37
Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages	10	Truancy	37
Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages	10	Viability Criteria	25
Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages	10		
Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts into the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages	10		
Third Periodic Report of the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages	25		
Travel Expenses for Board Members of Sport NI	23		
Ulster Scots and Irish Language Events	11		
Department of Education		Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	
Appointment to Boards of Governors	39	Biomass Heating Solutions Limited	49
Balmoral High School Private Finance Initiative / Public Private Partnership Project	32	Broadband in the Sperrins and the Foyle Basin	50
Crumlin Integrated High School	38	Civil Servants' Earnings	50
Department of Education: Capital Works	27	Companies Registry Staff Training	48
Department of Education: Funding Audits	29	Credit Unions	46
Department of Education Posts	27	Credit Unions	46
Detached Youth Workers	36	EU Directives	44
Economic Appraisal for Magherafelt High School	36	European Funding to Assist Credit Unions	46
Educational Underachievement	30	European Regional Development Fund	46
Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion	26	Future Department of Justice	44
Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion	27	Invest NI	49
Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion	28	Local Fishing Industry	45
Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion	28	NI Electricity	44
Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion	28	People Registered as Unemployed	47
Future Department of Justice	31	Presbyterian Mutual Society	45
		Public Sector Jobs in West Tyrone	48
		Department of Finance and Personnel	
		Carbon Neutral Estate by 2015	53
		Efficiency Savings	55
		EU Directives	54
		Funding Related Audits	53
		H1N1 Flu Virus	54
		Internet Advertising for Civil Service Posts	55
		Quangos	54
		Statistics on Suicide	55
		Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	
		Analysing X-rays	63
		Ards Hospital Site	58
		Bamford Review	60
		Bamford Review	62
		Category A Ambulance Call-outs	58
		Cost of Staff Surveys	60
		Cost of Staff Surveys	61
		Cost of Staff Surveys	61
		Cost of Staff Surveys	61

Delivery of Radiology Results	64	MP's Hotline	1
Equipment Failure in the Health Service	56	Presbyterian Mutual Society	1
EU Directives	59	Refusal of Executive Ministers to attend Functions in Religious Buildings	1
Fire at the Union Theological College	65	Staff Employed in OFMDFM	4
Fire at the Union Theological College	66		
Funding Related Audits	57		
GM Foods	65		
Hygiene Inspections	61		
Increased Waiting Lists	56		
Infrastructure Problems at the Ulster Hospital	58		
Live Donor Operations	58		
Lost Health Service Assets and Equipment	56		
Mental Health	64		
Mental Health	64		
Mental Health Services	64		
Patients from Outside the UK	63		
People Diagnosed with Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa	60		
Positive Mental Health in Young Children	62		
Prader-Willi Syndrome	62		
Relationships and Sexuality Education	63		
Speech and Language Therapy Services	57		
St Joseph's Baby Home	60		
St Joseph's Baby Home	60		
Swine Flu Vaccination	66		
The Bamford Review	65		
Type 2 Diabetes	56		
Type 2 Diabetes	56		
Uniforms for Hospital Doctors	58		
Waiting List for Adoption	59		
Waiting Times for Chiropody/Podiatry Services	65		
Whiteabbey Radiology Unit	63		
Department of the Environment			
Bonfire Groups	52		
Clyde Valley Review of Joint Working and Shared Services	52		
Future Department of Justice	50		
Illegal Irish Republican Terrorist Memorial in Newtownbutler	52		
Planning Service Website	53		
PPS21	53		
Revised PPS4	52		
Septic Tanks	51		
Septic Tanks	51		
Northern Ireland Assembly Commission			
Equality Impact Assessments	92		
Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister			
Appointment of a Commissioner for Older People	2		
Establishment of the Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum	3		
Executive Sub-committee on Poverty and Social Exclusion	2		
Financial Inclusion Strategy	4		
Lifetime Opportunities Strategy	3		

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