

# Official Report (Hansard)

## Written Answers to Questions

Friday 12 February 2010  
Volume 48, No WA1



# Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister .....1

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development .....5

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure .....11

Department of Education .....14

Department for Employment and Learning.....39

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment .....44

Department of the Environment.....51

Department of Finance and Personnel .....57

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.....66

Department for Regional Development.....80

Department for Social Development .....91

Revised Written Answers.....101

Suggested amendments or corrections will be considered by the Editor.  
They should be sent to:

The Editor of Debates, Room 248, Parliament Buildings, Belfast BT4 3XX.  
Tel: 028 9052 1135 · e-mail: [simon.burrowes@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:simon.burrowes@niassembly.gov.uk)

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

# Assembly Members

Adams, Gerry (West Belfast)  
Anderson, Ms Martina (Foyle)  
Armstrong, Billy (Mid Ulster)  
Attwood, Alex (West Belfast)  
Beggs, Roy (East Antrim)  
Bell, Jonathan (Strangford)  
Boylan, Cathal (Newry and Armagh)  
Bradley, Dominic (Newry and Armagh)  
Bradley, Mrs Mary (Foyle)  
Bradley, P J (South Down)  
Brady, Mickey (Newry and Armagh)  
Bresland, Allan (West Tyrone)  
Browne, The Lord (East Belfast)  
Buchanan, Thomas (West Tyrone)  
Burns, Thomas (South Antrim)  
Butler, Paul (Lagan Valley)  
Campbell, Gregory (East Londonderry)  
Clarke, Trevor (South Antrim)  
Clarke, Willie (South Down)  
Cobain, Fred (North Belfast)  
Coulter, Rev Dr Robert (North Antrim)  
Craig, Jonathan (Lagan Valley)  
Cree, Leslie (North Down)  
Dallat, John (East Londonderry)  
Deeny, Dr Kieran (West Tyrone)  
Dodds, Nigel (North Belfast)  
Doherty, Pat (West Tyrone)  
Donaldson, Jeffrey (Lagan Valley)  
Durkan, Mark (Foyle)  
Easton, Alex (North Down)  
Elliott, Tom (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Empey, Sir Reg (East Belfast)  
Farry, Dr Stephen (North Down)  
Ford, David (South Antrim)  
Foster, Mrs Arlene (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Gallagher, Tommy (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Gardiner, Samuel (Upper Bann)  
Gildernew, Ms Michelle (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Hamilton, Simon (Strangford)  
Hay, William (Speaker)  
Hilditch, David (East Antrim)  
Irwin, William (Newry and Armagh)  
Kelly, Mrs Dolores (Upper Bann)  
Kelly, Gerry (North Belfast)  
Kennedy, Danny (Newry and Armagh)  
Kinahan, Danny (South Antrim)  
Leonard, Billy (East Londonderry)  
Lo, Ms Anna (South Belfast)  
Long, Mrs Naomi (East Belfast)  
Lunn, Trevor (Lagan Valley)  
McCallister, John (South Down)  
McCann, Fra (West Belfast)  
McCann, Ms Jennifer (West Belfast)  
McCarthy, Kieran (Strangford)  
McCartney, Raymond (Foyle)  
McCausland, Nelson (North Belfast)  
McClarty, David (East Londonderry)  
McCrea, Basil (Lagan Valley)  
McCrea, Ian (Mid Ulster)  
McCrea, Dr William (South Antrim)  
McDevitt, Conall (South Belfast)  
McDonnell, Dr Alasdair (South Belfast)  
McElduff, Barry (West Tyrone)  
McFarland, Alan (North Down)  
McGill, Mrs Claire (West Tyrone)  
McGimpsey, Michael (South Belfast)  
McGlone, Patsy (Mid Ulster)  
McGuinness, Martin (Mid Ulster)  
McHugh, Gerry (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
McIlveen, Miss Michelle (Strangford)  
McKay, Daithí (North Antrim)  
McLaughlin, Mitchel (South Antrim)  
McNarry, David (Strangford)  
McQuillan, Adrian (East Londonderry)  
Maginness, Alban (North Belfast)  
Maskey, Alex (South Belfast)  
Maskey, Paul (West Belfast)  
Molloy, Francie (Mid Ulster)  
Morrow, The Lord (Fermanagh and South Tyrone)  
Moutray, Stephen (Upper Bann)  
Murphy, Conor (Newry and Armagh)  
Neeson, Sean (East Antrim)  
Newton, Robin (East Belfast)  
Ní Chuilín, Ms Carál (North Belfast)  
O'Dowd, John (Upper Bann)  
O'Loan, Declan (North Antrim)  
O'Neill, Mrs Michelle (Mid Ulster)  
Paisley, Rev Dr Ian (North Antrim)  
Paisley Jnr, Ian (North Antrim)  
Poots, Edwin (Lagan Valley)  
Purvis, Ms Dawn (East Belfast)  
Ramsey, Pat (Foyle)  
Ramsey, Ms Sue (West Belfast)  
Ritchie, Ms Margaret (South Down)  
Robinson, George (East Londonderry)  
Robinson, Ken (East Antrim)  
Robinson, Peter (East Belfast)  
Ross, Alastair (East Antrim)  
Ruane, Ms Caitríona (South Down)  
Savage, George (Upper Bann)  
Shannon, Jim (Strangford)  
Simpson, David (Upper Bann)  
Spratt, Jimmy (South Belfast)  
Storey, Mervyn (North Antrim)  
Weir, Peter (North Down)  
Wells, Jim (South Down)  
Wilson, Brian (North Down)  
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

---

# Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 12 February 2010

## Written Answers to Questions

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

#### Lifetime Opportunities Strategy

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 3509/10, when the action plan to implement Lifetime Opportunities will be available.

**(AQW 4173/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness):** It will be the responsibility of the Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion to agree the priorities and key Executive actions for tackling poverty and social inclusion here and also to agree the monitoring and reporting mechanisms associated with the 'Lifetime Opportunities' anti-poverty strategy.

Officials have already undertaken significant work with departments to examine the potential for further actions to benefit those in greatest objective need.

It is hoped these priority action areas along with the monitoring and reporting framework for 'Lifetime Opportunities' will be agreed at the third meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee due to be held early this year and then submitted for formal approval by the Executive.

#### Executive Papers

**Mr G Savage** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the subject matter of each of the 173 papers that their Department referred to the Executive between May 2007 and 7 December 2009; and to state whether the Executive agreed each paper.

**(AQW 4264/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** It is not our practice to disclose details of Executive business. The content of Executive papers and all aspects of Executive business are confidential.

#### Preventative and Early Intervention Measures

**Mr P Weir** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an estimate of the percentage of their annual budget which is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.

**(AQW 4325/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** Based on a broad interpretation of the question, it is estimated that 100% of the good relations budget within the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures. Over the period 2008-11, approximately £29 million has been allocated towards the PSA target of a shared and better future for all. Total expenditure on good relations in 2008/09 was approximately £8.4 million.

We are fully committed to building a society that is free of sectarianism, racism and any form of intolerance. All of the work undertaken towards this aim can ultimately be seen as preventative and early intervention measures. By working on a daily basis to improve relationships on the ground and tackle intolerance we are helping to prepare the foundation for a shared and better future for all people here.

## Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2

**Mr G Savage** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they can confirm that allocated funds for Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2 will be used for capital projects.

**(AQW 4392/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** Funding for Investment Strategy 2008-18 projects is provided by the Executive through its agreed Budget.

Capital allocations in the 2008-11 Budget include capital expenditure by departments, capital grants to the private sector and net lending to public corporations. All these avenues of expenditure will lead to the progression of the Executive's capital projects and are reflected in the Investment Strategy, which pertains only to such projects.

## Executive Business

**Mr G Savage** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of why it is in the public interest not to disclose information relating to Executive business.

**(AQW 4461/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** We would refer the Member to the answer provided on 9 November in relation to his previous question on Executive confidentiality.

## Review of Women's Sector Funding

**Ms J McCann** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Review of Women's Sector Funding, including the membership of the Gender Advisory Panel and the Reference Group that are due to set the Terms of Reference and co-ordinate the Review.

**(AQW 4493/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** The interim review is underway and expects to report to the Executive later this year. The Steering Group have agreed draft Terms of Reference for consideration and approval by us, taking account of the views of a stakeholder reference group. This reference group, comprising volunteers from the Gender Advisory Panel, will meet again this month and will have an important advisory role to the Steering Group and will be consulted throughout the interim review.

## Community Empowerment Partnerships

**Mr N Dodds** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when funding will be distributed under the proposed new Community Empowerment Partnership scheme for North Belfast.

**(AQO 667/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has provided just under £14 million to the North Belfast Community Action Unit for Community Capacity Building Programmes in North Belfast since 2003.

The purpose of the Programme, delivered through Community Empowerment Partnerships, was to enable communities to build leadership to better manage relations within and between neighbouring communities and to develop networks to be able to better deal with issues which affect their areas.

In October 2009, Junior Ministers Newton and Kelly outlined the strategic direction for future funding of the programme. This will build on the previous experience and will be delivered through the themes of leadership, citizenship and good relations.

Officials from the North Belfast Community Action Unit have been consulting extensively with the Community Empowerment Partnerships on the operational detail of the new programme. Applications have been requested by 22nd February 2010 with the aim of funding decisions being made in March 2010. Current CEP funding will continue until the new Programme is operational.

## Policing and Justice Powers

**Mr A Attwood** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on developments and discussions on the devolution of policing and justice.

**(AQO 671/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** The Member will be aware that an agreement was announced at Hillsborough Castle on Friday 5 February.

In relation to the devolution of policing and justice, the Agreement states that, following community consultation, the First Minister and deputy First Minister will table jointly a resolution for a cross community vote in this Assembly on 9 March. Following affirmation of the resolution, we will support all necessary steps in the Assembly to ensure devolution of powers by 12 April 2010.

## Investment Strategy

**Mr A Maskey** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what plans they have to meet with the Chair and CEO of the Strategic Investment Board to monitor the Executive's Investment Strategy, in light of the current economic situation and the recent announcement from the Minister of Finance and Personnel of budget cuts for the 2010/11 financial year.

**(AQO 672/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** We corresponded with the Strategic Investment Board on 4 January with a view to arranging a meeting with its directors, including its Chairman and Chief Executive, as soon as diaries permit.

Our officials are in continual contact with SIB and advise us on a wide range of relevant issues including the Investment Strategy, the Review of the Capital Realisations Taskforce and the construction industry.

## Victims and Survivors Service

**Mr G Savage** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the analysis of responses to the consultation on the Proposed Victims and Survivors Service will be completed; and if any trends have emerged from the analysis to date.

**(AQO 674/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** Officials have analysed the responses and given a presentation to the Committee for OFMDFM on the key points arising.

Emerging themes include the design of the Service, the introduction of a three-year funding cycle for groups, the comprehensive needs assessment and the Non-Departmental Public Body model proposed for the Victims and Survivors Service.

## OFMDFM: Research Branch

**Mr F Cobain** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what research is currently being carried out under the Equality and Social Needs Research programme within the Research Branch of their Department; and what new policy initiatives have resulted from the work of the Research Branch in the last two years.

**(AQO 675/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** The Research Branch of the Equality Directorate currently provides direct research and statistical support to both the Equality, Rights and Social Need Division, and to the Good Relations and Reconciliation Division.

In relation to the Equality, Rights and Social Need Division, the cross-Departmental Equality and Social Need Research and Information Strategy 2009-2011 is designed to enhance the information and research base upon which equality and social need policies are developed and evaluated.

The majority of the work of the Research Branch within the Equality, Rights and Social Need Division relates to the provision of direct support in connection with Divisional policy responsibilities. That work entails the routine provision of research and statistical analyses and advice to policy officials and to Ministers, liaising and working as appropriate with professional statistical and research colleagues across the Northern Ireland Civil Service, the UK Civil Service, the broader public sector, Academia, non-Departmental Public bodies, and the voluntary, community and independent research sectors.

In addition to this provision of support, a number of discrete Equality and Social Need research and statistical projects are taken forward every year in response to policy priorities identified by Ministers, and in line with the Equality and Social Need Research and Information Strategy. Projects being taken forward currently comprise a mixture of internal research and statistical work and externally commissioned research including:

#### Current internal research and statistical work

- The development of a monitoring framework for the 'Lifetime Opportunities' strategy the Northern Ireland Executive's anti-poverty and social inclusion strategy.
- Statistical and research literature review on the causes, consequences and international perspectives of the gender pay gap.
- Analysis of individual outcomes over time utilising the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS) focused on those population categories identified under Section 75.
- Development of a Ministerial paper on options for the measurement of severe child poverty.
- Statistical overview of the potential impact of the removal of concessionary fees for Further Education for older people.
- Identification and development of key area baseline information in relation to the Older People's Strategy.

#### Current externally commissioned research

- Research on causes and consequences of cognitive, behavioural, educational and health outcomes for disadvantaged young children in Northern Ireland at age 5.
- Transphobic hate crime.
- Economic appraisal of options for the provision of childcare.

Research Branch is responsible for providing research and statistical support to the development, implementation and evaluation of Ministerial identified policies and strategies. As such, the work of Research Branch is driven by the work of all the Business Areas within the Equality, Rights and Social Need Division. Over the past two years, policy developments of note which have illustrated the contribution of Research Branch include:

- The implementation and development of 'Lifetime Opportunities'.
- The development of a monitoring framework for 'Lifetime Opportunities'.
- The development of the UK Child Poverty Bill in respect of the responsibilities identified for the devolved administrations.
- The work of the Promoting Social Inclusion Working Group on disability and the production of the evidence base in the accompanying report.
- The implementation and monitoring of the Gender Equality Strategy.
- Facilitating and supporting the work of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion.
- Facilitating and supporting the Child Poverty Sub Group.
- Draft Bill and consultation document on the appointment of a commissioner for older people.



## Maze Site

**Rt Hon J Donaldson** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made in establishing a development corporation to take forward the regeneration of the Maze site.

**(AQO 676/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** A draft Statutory Rule to establish the Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation was considered by the OFMDFM Committee on 14 October and 25 November 2009 and approved for passage to the Assembly for debate. A date for the Assembly debate will be scheduled as soon as possible.

## Victims and Survivors Service

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the possible creation of a non-departmental public body for the proposed Victims and Survivors Service.

**(AQO 677/10)**

**First Minister and deputy First Minister:** We are currently considering the option of creating a Non Departmental Public Body to administer the new Victims and Survivors Service.

## Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### Flights Booked for Civil Servants

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of flights booked for Civil Servants in her Department which were paid for wholly, or in part, but never used; and (ii) the costs and loss of revenue incurred booking these flights, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 3931/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew):** Flights are booked in DARD by 2 methods: by the business area directly with the airline (usually with 'budget' airlines), or through the appointed travel agent.

For all flights, whatever the booking method, the department has not kept records of the numbers of flights booked but never used, or any subsequent costs and loss of revenue. A small number of business areas have reported that, anecdotally the number of flights never used is minimal.

Flights booked through the appointed travel agent may be refundable in full or in part, if cancelled, ie there may be no loss or a partial loss. Flights booked direct with the airline are not normally refundable unless the flight is cancelled by the airline.

### Hotels Booked for Civil Servants

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of nights in hotels booked for Civil Servants in her Department which were paid for wholly, or in part, but never used; and (ii) the costs and loss of revenue incurred booking these hotel rooms, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 3932/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** DARD business areas arrange their own hotel bookings. Hotel bills are paid direct by business areas, or by staff who reclaim costs via their travel expense claims. The department has not kept records of the number of nights booked but never used, or any subsequent costs or loss of revenue. A small number of business areas have reported that anecdotally the number of hotel nights never used is minimal.

For the period 2005/06 to 2008/09 hotel costs were reported as part of generic subsistence costs, including hotels, daily subsistence, overnight subsistence, etc. Hotel costs are not readily extractable from this data.

From 2009/10, hotel costs are separately identifiable. For the period April 2009 to January 2010, the total hotel costs were £70,614. No records have been kept of the number of nights booked but never used, or any subsequent costs or loss of revenue against this figure.

## EU Grants for Storage Facilities for Poultry Litter

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why the poultry industry did not take advantage of the EU grants made available for the construction of storage facilities for poultry litter, given that grants were made available and secured by farmers for the construction of storage facilities for slurry from pig and cattle livestock.

**(AQW 4139/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** Grants were made available through my Department's Farm Nutrient Management Scheme (FNMS) for slurry and manure storage facilities, including poultry manure and poultry litter. The scheme was funded from national monies and there was no EU funding element.

Some poultry farmers did avail of the FNMS grant. Those who did not may have already had sufficient livestock manure storage facilities or could meet the requirements of the Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) Regulations by storing poultry litter in temporary field heaps.

Prior to implementation of the NAP Regulations in 2007, it was recognised by poultry industry representatives that land spreading of poultry litter is not sustainable at current levels in the long term due to environmental constraints. Therefore, a consortium within the industry proposed to develop a technical alternative to land spreading.

As land spreading is not the long term option identified by the industry, many poultry farmers did not apply for the FNMS grant to invest in permanent facilities to store poultry litter.

## EU Grants for Storage Facilities for Poultry Litter

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development who took the decision, within her Department or elsewhere, not to use EU grants for the construction of storage facilities for poultry litter to ensure poultry farmers comply with the Nitrates Directive.

**(AQW 4140/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** All livestock farmers were eligible to apply to my Department's Farm Nutrient Management Scheme for assistance to comply with the Nitrates Directive. The scheme provided grant support for slurry and manure storage facilities, including those for poultry litter and poultry manure.

As poultry farmers were eligible to apply to the scheme, decisions not to avail of the grant aid were taken by poultry farmers.

The scheme was funded entirely from national monies and some £120million in grant aid has been provided. There was no EU funding of the scheme.

Adequate livestock manure storage capacity is only one of the requirements for compliance with the Nitrates Directive.

## Damage to Crops by the Recent Severe Weather

**Mr P McGlone** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if her Department will conduct an assessment of the level of damage caused to crops and the consequences for the farming industry caused by the recent severe weather.

**(AQW 4147/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** I am well aware that the recent severe weather has caused great difficulties to the farming community and my heart goes out to all those affected.

Currently there are no financial support measures available for the farming industry and in order not to raise expectations, my Department has not assessed the level of damage loss at this time.

I do however intend to make representations to Executive colleagues at the earliest opportunity, and if agreement can be reached and money found, I will direct officials to assess the damage and resulting financial loss suffered by the farming industry from the recent severe weather.

## Farm Modernisation Scheme

**Mr P McGlone** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when the Farm Modernisation Scheme will be open for the next tranche of applications.

**(AQW 4151/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** I will open the second tranche of the Farm Modernisation Programme later this year after consulting with industry representatives about updating the List of Eligible Items and completing a review of the explanatory documentation from the first tranche.

## New Countryside Management Programme

**Mr P McGlone** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development when the New Countryside Management Programme will commence.

**(AQW 4152/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The new Countryside Management Scheme and Organic Farming Scheme opened for applications in 2008 and approximately 1000 new agreements were established with farmers from 1 January 2009. These are in addition to the 11700 existing agreement holders that are being funded through the current Rural Development Plan.

In August 2009 I announced that the Countryside Management Scheme would open again in early 2010. DARD officials are currently working on delivery procedures and associated communication requirements to ensure that the second opening period will go ahead within this timescale.

## Supermarket Ombudsman

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she has any plans to appoint a 'Supermarket Ombudsman' to ensure farmers across Northern Ireland receive fair prices for their produce.

**(AQW 4159/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The appointment of a 'Supermarket Ombudsman' is a reserved matter under the NI Act 1998 and therefore not within my remit. However, I do agree with the concept of fair pricing and welcome the British Government's acceptance in principle of the need for an Ombudsman. Also, the recent announcement that it will now consult on the nature of such a body and what powers it might have as it enforces the Groceries Supply Code of Practice is a significant step forward. I believe that all links in the food chain are dependant on each other and that it is important for retailers to recognise that in the long run it is in their interests, and their customers' interests, to have a sustainable local based supply chain. I, like you, want to see farmers receiving a good price for their produce.

## Integrated Area Control System Payments

**Mr P McGlone** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the number of farmers eligible for Integrated Area Control System payments; and the number of payments made so far in this financial year.

**(AQW 4203/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: 2009 Single Farm Payment (SFP)**

As at 31 January 2010, 38,475 of the 38,699 farm businesses who made a 2009 SFP application are currently considered as eligible for SFP. The number of eligible SFP claims for the 2009 scheme year is subject to change on an ongoing basis as applications continue to be fully validated. As at 31 January 2010, 35,213 farmers have been paid their 2009 Single Farm Payment.

**2009 Aid for Energy Crop Scheme (ECS)**

As at 31 January 2010, all of the 55 farm businesses who made a 2009 ECS application are currently considered as eligible for ECS. The number of eligible ECS claims for the 2009 scheme year is subject to change on an ongoing basis as applications continue to be fully validated. As at 31 January 2010, 46 farmers have been paid their 2009 Aid for Energy Crops.

**2009 Protein Crop Premium (PCP)**

As at 31 January 2010, all of the 38 farm businesses who made a 2009 PCP application are currently considered as eligible for PCP. The number of eligible PCP claims for the 2009 scheme year is subject to change on an ongoing basis as applications continue to be fully validated. As at 31 January 2010, 32 farmers have been paid their 2009 Protein Crop Premium.

**2010 Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (LFACA)**

14,644 farmers applied for the 2010 for the LFACA scheme. It is not possible at this stage to say how many of these are eligible. We aim to start LFACA payments in mid-February 2010.

**2009 Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) and Organic Farming Scheme (OFS)**

In 2009-10, the number of farmers who were eligible to submit a claim for the CMS was 943 and 33 for the OFS. We aim to commence payments in February 2010.

**Farm Modernisation Scheme**

**Mr P McGlone** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many applications have been received under the Farm Modernisation Scheme; (ii) how many applicants have received funding through this scheme; and (iii) how much funding has been allocated to date.

**(AQW 4206/10)**

- (i) Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: 9,271 applications were received under Tranche 1 of the Farm Modernisation Programme (FMP).
- (ii) 1,268 applicants received Letters of Offer of financial support.
- (iii) £6.76m in funding has been allocated in Letters of Offer and as of 22 January 2010, payments totalling £2.28m have been made.

**Average Income of Dairy Farms**

**Mr T Elliott** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the average income of a dairy farm (i) in 2000; (ii) in 2005; and (iii) for the most recent date available.

**(AQW 4214/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The average Farm Business Income for dairy farms recorded in the Farm Business Survey in 2000/01 was £21,265; in 2005/06 it was £28,664; and in 2008/09 (the most recent year available) it was £37,520.

## Investing for Health Strategy

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail any meetings or discussions that she, or her officials, have held with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety within the last year to discuss commitments under the Investing for Health strategy.  
**(AQW 4231/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** You will be aware from a previous written answer that DARD has no formal role within the Investing for Health Strategy but that the Department does take every opportunity to promote awareness of health issues. In particular our Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion framework is contributing to the elimination of poverty and reduction of social exclusion in rural areas. This work includes initiatives to address health and wellbeing related issues such as tackling fuel poverty, providing rural childcare facilities and enhancing rural transport services to vulnerable groups such as those with a disability.

As regards meetings within the last year I can confirm that no meetings or discussions have taken place with DHSSPS to discuss commitments under the Investing for Health Strategy.

## Golden Box and Angus Bonus

**Mr P J Bradley** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the payment regulations that apply when a slaughtered beef animal qualifies for both a Golden Box bonus and an Angus bonus; and if she can confirm that neither bonus is subject to a reduction because of the other's existence.  
**(AQW 4240/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The Golden Box and Angus bonus schemes are operated by the north of Ireland Beef Processors and DARD is not involved.

## Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) which goods and services provided by her Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by her Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods.  
**(AQW 4248/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:**

- i) My department does not have any on-line systems for the payment of DARD goods and services.
- ii) No on-line transactions were processed for goods and services in the last 5 years.
- iii) No on-line transactions were paid by other payment methods.
- iv) The percentage of payments made on-line compared to other payment methods is zero.

## Executive Papers

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to list the subject matter of each of the 26 papers that her Department referred to the Executive between May 2007 and 7 December 2009; and to state whether the Executive agreed each paper.  
**(AQW 4271/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** It is not our practice to disclose details of Executive business. The content of Executive papers and all aspects of Executive business are confidential.

## Rivers Agency Drainage Study, Dromore Road

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the Rivers Agency's drainage study of the Dromore Road area of Banbridge.

**(AQW 4320/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The most recent programme for the study indicates delivery date for a draft report by the end of May 2010. An estimated completion date for the study is therefore early July 2010 allowing time for the Agency to consider findings and finalise the report.

At this time land surveys in the study area are now complete, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveys of culverts and pipelines are underway and the study team is beginning its computer modelling of the watercourses concerned.

## Cruelty and Neglect to Animals

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what her Department is doing to ensure animals are protected from cruelty and neglect.

**(AQW 4351/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** DARD takes an active role in educating livestock keepers in standards of welfare and carries out a programme of animal welfare surveillance.

Veterinary Service carries out routine on-farm inspections as a result of public complaints, information provided by Vets and within a programme of inspections which includes a random element as part of the cross compliance surveillance system.

All complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms are treated as a matter of urgency. DARD also co-operates closely with other organisations such as PSNI and the USPCA.

## Forestry and Woodland

**Mr T Elliott** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many hectares of land owned by her Department are unsuitable for planting forestry or woodland.

**(AQW 4374/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** There are approximately 16,980 hectares of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development land which is unsuitable for planting forestry or woodland. At least 14,350 hectares of this overall total is land owned by DARD. The remainder includes up to 2,630 hectares which is secured by long term leases, i.e. which exceed 99 years.

## Single Farm Payment

**Mr W Irwin** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development the approximate cost to the Department of administering the Single Farm Payment.

**(AQW 4484/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:** The Single Farm Payment Scheme costs approximately £9m per year to administer.

## Farm Modernisation Scheme: Manure Efficiency Technology Sub-programme

**Mr W Irwin** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in relation to the Farm Modernisation Scheme Manure Efficiency Technology sub-programme, to detail (i) the total funding



allocation; (ii) how many applications were received; (iii) how many applications were approved; and (iv) how many successful applicants did not take up their approval.

**(AQW 4579/10)**

**Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:**

- (i) A total of £ 1.68m was allocated to the Manure Efficiency Technology Sub Programme (METS);
- (ii) A total of 853 METS applications were received;
- (iii) A total of 176 METS applications received Letters of Offer for financial support;
- (iv) While all claims have not yet been received, to date 59 successful applicants have not taken up their approval.

## Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

### Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) which goods and services provided by his Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by his Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods.

**(AQW 4289/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr N McCausland):** The principal goods and services provided by my Department for which a charge is made are:

- Angling Permits
- Joint Fishing Licence/Angling Permits
- River Bush Salmon Fishing Day Tickets
- Search Fees, Reprographic Fees, Certification Fees (Public Records Office)

The Department has offered an online payment facility for the purchase of Angling Permits, Joint Fishing Licence/Angling Permits and River Bush Salmon Fishing Day Tickets since October 2005. The facility to pay online for goods and services provided by the Public Records Office is not available.

The requested information in respect of sales of Angling Permits and Joint Fishing Licence/Angling Permits in the past 5 years is listed in Table 1 below.

Table 2 below provides information on transaction numbers and online payments for the sale of River Bush Salmon Fishing Day Tickets. Details of other payment methods used for the purchase of these tickets are not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Information on transaction numbers and payment methods for goods and services provided by the Public Records Office is not readily available and the Department cannot obtain this information without disproportionate effort.

**TABLE 1 ANGLING PERMITS  
JOINT FISHING LICENCE/ANGLING PERMIT**

Year	Total Transactions	Online Payments	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other
2005	3	3	0	0	0	0
2006	118	101	0	0	17	0

Year	Total Transactions	Online Payments	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other
2007	289	275	3	2	9	0
2008	98	91	2	0	5	0
2009	239	220	4	0	15	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>

92% of all payments were made online in the years 2005 to 2009.

**TABLE 2 RIVER BUSH SALMON FISHING DAY TICKETS**

Year	Total Transactions	Online Payments
2005	99	26
2006	804	492
2007	1,767	1,227
2008	1,932	104
2009	1,627	463
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,229</b>	<b>2,312</b>

37% of all payments were made online in the years 2005 to 2009.

## Orange Order

**Mr B McElduff** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, in light of the Orange Order chairing a recent meeting of two unionist political parties, for his assessment as to whether the Order is a solely religious and cultural organisation; and whether the Order will be eligible for funding from his Department.

**(AQW 4421/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:** The Orange Order is a cultural and religious body. However, it proactively lobbies on behalf of its members on issues of concern.

The Order is eligible for funding from DCAL.

## Elite Facilities

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the budget for Elite Facilities in (i) 2007/08; (ii) 2008/09; and (iii) 2009/10; and the expenditure in each year.

**(AQW 4503/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:** The opening budget allocations for the Elite Facilities Programme for the years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 and the expenditure for those years is shown in the table below:

	2007/08 £k	2008/09 £k	2009/10 £k
CSR allocation	Nil	3,000	3,700
Expenditure	Nil	381	830 (projected spend)



## Closure of Libraries

**Ms J McCann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much money will be saved by the closure of each individual library.

**(AQW 4564/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:** Libraries NI's strategic review of the Greater Belfast library estate is focussed on making the best use of the available resources to improve the effectiveness of Public Library Services in the City rather than on generating substantial efficiency savings.

The proposals from the review are currently out for public consultation and the Libraries NI Board have made no final decisions regarding the closure of any library. Libraries NI have extended the consultation period by 1 month (to 5 April 2010) to allow as many people as possible to contribute. I would encourage everyone with an interest to take part in the ongoing consultation.

In the longer term there will be limited savings from reduced running costs (utilities and rates) and ultimately some income from the sale of some of the library buildings which are no longer required. Any resources saved from the closure of a public library will be reinvested in improving library services elsewhere.

Most of the efficiencies released however will not have monetary value. Rather the resources saved (such as staff time, public access computers and stock) will be redeployed to improve services elsewhere in Belfast.

Libraries NI have provided a summary of the resources which would be released if each of the libraries under review were to close (Annex A).

## Irish Language

**Mr G Adams** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when he will bring forward a draft strategy to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.

**(AQW 4575/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:** Since coming into office at the beginning of July 2009, I have given special attention to the development of a minority languages strategy.

It is my intention to bring forward a draft strategy to the Executive by the end of March which can then go out to consultation.

One strand of this strategy will be to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language as set out in Section 28D of the Northern Ireland (St Andrews) Act 2006.

The preparation of this draft Minority Languages Strategy will require engagement with, and commitments from, a number of other Northern Ireland Executive departments - especially in relation to education - and from the United Kingdom government in relation to broadcasting.

## Ulster-Scots Language

**Miss M McIlveen** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when he will bring forward a draft strategy to enhance and develop the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture.

**(AQW 4597/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:** Since coming into office at the beginning of July 2009, I have given special attention to the development of a minority languages strategy.

It is my intention to bring forward a draft strategy to the Executive by the end of March which can then go out to consultation.

One strand of this strategy will be to enhance and develop the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture as set out in Section 28D of the Northern Ireland (St Andrews) Act 2006.

The preparation of this draft Minority Languages Strategy will require engagement with, and commitments from, a number of other Northern Ireland Executive departments - especially in relation to education - and from the United Kingdom government in relation to broadcasting.

## Library Closures

**Ms J McCann** asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for his assessment of whether the the consultation process on library closures will result in meaningful community engagement, given that the consultation document runs to 32 pages yet the consultation period is less than two months.

**(AQW 4629/10)**

**Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:** The public consultation on Libraries NI's vision for the Greater Belfast libraries estate commenced on 11 January 2010 and will finish on 5 April 2010. This is a standard 12 week consultation period. This consultation was initiated and agreed by the Board of Libraries NI. The Libraries NI Board includes elected Councillors from DUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein and UUP all of whom were in agreement.

Libraries NI have also arranged 7 public meetings to provide opportunities for meaningful local community engagement. All the consultation documentation is available in branch libraries and on-line.

Libraries NI are proactively seeking the views of everyone on their proposals and no final decisions have been made on the closure of any library. I would encourage anyone with an interest in public libraries to contribute to this important process.

## Department of Education

### Review of Public Administration

**Mr D Kennedy** asked the Minister of Education (i) for an update on her Department's implementation of the Review of Public Administration; (ii) if she is on target to meet the March 2011 RPA saving targets; and (iii) how staffing levels have been reduced as a result of RPA.

**(AQW 4109/10)**

**Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane):**

- (i) De réir comhairlithe le comhghleacaithe ar an Choiste Feidhmiúcháin, tá mé ag leanúint de dhul sa tóir ar achtú an Bhille Oideachais le bunú údaráis aonadaigh oideachais a éascú chun é a chur in ionad na mbord oideachais agus leabharlainne agus foras eile agus chun athruithe tábhachtacha a chur i bhfeidhm maidir leis an dóigh a mbainistítear scoileanna agus a dtacaítear le scoileanna.
- (i) In consultation with colleagues on the Executive, I am continuing to pursue the enactment of the Education Bill to enable the establishment of a unitary education authority to replace the education and library boards and some other bodies and to bring forward important changes to how schools are managed and supported.

Significant work has continued to create the Education and Skills Authority and the Chairperson (designate) and Chief Executive (designate) have produced a convergence delivery plan to assist the existing bodies with their efforts to achieve a smooth transition to the new arrangements. However, delays at the Executive have meant that it was not possible to achieve the proposed implementation date of 1 January 2010.

I am continuing to press the Executive for early consideration of the issues outstanding to allow me to seek a date for the Consideration Stage of the Bill.

- (ii) The level of RPA savings to be delivered in 2010/11 amount to £13 million and were originally predicated on the establishment of ESA on 1 April 2009. These savings have already been

removed from the Education budget and thus any further delay in the establishment of ESA will require this financial loss to be addressed through alternative means.

In the absence of ESA, a convergence delivery plan has been produced which will remove duplication, streamline management and administration, and create greater efficiencies. It will make an important contribution towards the delivery of those savings that were envisaged being delivered through ESA.

- (iii) The delay in establishing ESA has resulted in planned reductions in posts not yet being achieved. However the convergence plan, which has been developed, aims to identify posts which can be reduced in advance of ESA

## Education Budget Cuts

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Education to detail the impact of the £74 million cut in the education budget, particularly on capital projects of the Education and Library Boards.  
(AQW 4161/10)

**Minister of Education:** De na coigiltí is fiú £74 milliún le bheith soláthraithe ag mo Roinn, soláthrófar £51.7 milliún ó chaiteachas reatha agus tiocfaidh coigiltí de £22 milliún ó infheistiú caipitil. Tá mé ag breathnú ar roghanna faoi láthair chun na coigiltí seo a sholáthar agus ní dhéanfar aon chinneadh go ndéanfar measúnú comhionannais ar gach ceann de na tograí.

Of the £74 million savings to be delivered by my Department, £51.7 million are to be delivered from current expenditure with £22 million savings coming from capital investment. I am currently considering options for delivering these savings and no decisions will be made until an equality assessment is carried out on each of the proposals.

I want to ensure that as far as possible these savings are delivered in a way that minimises the impact on front line services and ensures the best possible use of all available resources for the benefit of all our children and young people.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. I have therefore recently commissioned a review of all current major capital school projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term. This review is still ongoing but any decisions on savings from the capital budget in 2010/11 will be dependant on the outcome of the review.

I hope to be in a position to make final decisions in the coming weeks.

## Education Budget Cuts

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Education to list the capital projects of the Education and Library Boards that will not be progressed due to the £74 million cut in the education budget.  
(AQW 4162/10)

**Minister of Education:** De na coigiltí is fiú £74 milliún le bheith soláthraithe ag mo Roinn, soláthrófar £51.7 milliún ó chaiteachas reatha agus tiocfaidh coigiltí de £22 milliún ó infheistiú caipitil. Tá mé ag breathnú ar roghanna faoi láthair chun na coigiltí seo a sholáthar agus ní dhéanfar aon chinneadh go ndéanfar measúnú comhionannais ar gach ceann de na tograí.

Of the £74 million savings to be delivered by my Department, £51.7 million are to be delivered from current expenditure with £22 million savings coming from capital investment. I am currently considering options for delivering these savings and no decisions will be made until an equality assessment is carried out on each of the proposals.

I want to ensure that as far as possible these savings are delivered in a way that minimises the impact on front line services and ensures the best possible use of all available resources for the benefit of all our children and young people.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. I have therefore recently commissioned a review of all current major capital school projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term. This review is still ongoing but any decisions on savings from the capital budget in 2010/11 will be dependant on the outcome of the review.

I hope to be in a position to make final decisions in the coming weeks.

## Capital Build Programme

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Education which projects are planned for capital build in 2010/11. (AQW 4165/10)

**Minister of Education:** De na coigiltí is fiú £74 milliún le bheith soláthraithe ag mo Roinn, soláthrófar £51.7 milliún ó chaiteachas reatha agus tiocfaidh coigiltí de £22 milliún ó infheistiú caipitil. Tá mé ag breathnú ar roghanna faoi láthair chun na coigiltí seo a sholáthar agus ní dhéanfar aon chinneadh go ndéanfar measúnú comhionannais ar gach ceann de na tograí.

Of the £74 million savings to be delivered by my Department, £51.7 million are to be delivered from current expenditure with £22 million savings coming from capital investment. I am currently considering options for delivering these savings and no decisions will be made until an equality assessment is carried out on each of the proposals.

I want to ensure that as far as possible these savings are delivered in a way that minimises the impact on front line services and ensures the best possible use of all available resources for the benefit of all our children and young people.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. I have therefore recently commissioned a review of all current major capital school projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term. This review is still ongoing but any decisions on savings from the capital budget in 2010/11 will be dependant on the outcome of the review.

I hope to be in a position to make final decisions in the coming weeks.

## Capital Build Programme

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Education which capital projects have been removed from her Department's 2010/11 Capital Build programme as a result of the Executive decision to reduce the Capital Spend programme. (AQW 4166/10)

**Minister of Education:** De na coigiltí is fiú £74 milliún le bheith soláthraithe ag mo Roinn, soláthrófar £51.7 milliún ó chaiteachas reatha agus tiocfaidh coigiltí de £22 milliún ó infheistiú caipitil. Tá mé ag breathnú ar roghanna faoi láthair chun na coigiltí seo a sholáthar agus ní dhéanfar aon chinneadh go ndéanfar measúnú comhionannais ar gach ceann de na tograí.

Of the £74 million savings to be delivered by my Department, £51.7 million are to be delivered from current expenditure with £22 million savings coming from capital investment. I am currently considering options for delivering these savings and no decisions will be made until an equality assessment is carried out on each of the proposals.

I want to ensure that as far as possible these savings are delivered in a way that minimises the impact on front line services and ensures the best possible use of all available resources for the benefit of all our children and young people.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. I have therefore recently commissioned a review of all current major capital school projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence

will be viable and sustainable in the long term. This review is still ongoing but any decisions on savings from the capital budget in 2010/11 will be dependant on the outcome of the review.

I hope to be in a position to make final decisions in the coming weeks.

## Investing for Health

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Education to detail any meetings or discussions that she or her officials have held with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety within the last year to discuss their commitment under Investing for Health.

**(AQW 4175/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Sainaitníonn mo Roinn gur deitármanant sóisialta tábhachtach sláinte é an t-oidéachas agus tá sí go hiomlán tiomanta do straitéis Infheistíochta sa tSláinte. Tá mé i mo bhall den Ghrúpa Idir-Aireachta um Fhoréigean Baile agus Gnéasach, den Ghrúpa Comhordaithe Aireachta um Fhéinmharú a Chosc agus den Fhochoiste Aireachta um Pháistí agus Daoine Óga ina bpléitear saincheisteanna leathana leis an Roinn Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí. Ina theannta sin, bhí cruinnithe agus díospóireachtaí rialta ag m'fheidhmeannaigh le feidhmeannaigh na Roinne Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí ag leibhéal straitéiseach ar athbhreithniú na hInfheistíochta sa tSláinte, tríd an Ghrúpa Aireachta um Shláinte an Phobail.

My Department recognises that education is an important social determinant of health and is fully committed to the Investing for Health strategy. I am a member of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention and the Ministerial Subcommittee on Children and Young People where cross cutting issues with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety are discussed. In addition my officials have had regular meetings and discussions with DHSSPS officials at a strategic level about the review of Investing for Health, through the Ministerial Group on Public Health. However, there are also many underpinning health strategies and reviews which support its aims eg Obesity Prevention Strategy, Promoting Pupils' Emotional Health and Wellbeing (PEHAW), the Suicide Strategy Implementation body, the Ministerial Sub-Group on Safeguarding, the Bamford Review, Mental Health Promotion, Sexual Health Promotion, Domestic and Sexual Violence Group, Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Strategy and the New strategic Direction on Drugs and Alcohol. Officials in the Department, at various levels, have engaged with DHSSPS officials through formal meetings and discussions on these and other related issues.

My Department will continue to work closely with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on all aspects of the Investing for Health Strategy.

## Emotional Well-being in Schools

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education what investment has been made in the promotion of emotional well-being in (i) primary schools; and (ii) post-primary schools in each of the last three years. **(AQW 4197/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The promotion of pupils' emotional health and wellbeing is a critical element in ensuring that all our young people reach their potential thereby supporting the overall drive to improve standards.

The direct investment by my Department which contributes to positive emotional health is made in the context of a range of activities undertaken by schools which have the same objective, such as:

- the inclusion of personal development in the new curriculum with the emphasis on exploring and dealing with emotions;
- inclusive practices to engage all pupils in extra-curricular activities and celebrating success;
- mentoring, peer mediation, circle time;
- school councils and other pupil participation schemes;

- volunteering;
- effective pastoral care systems; and
- effective liaison between schools and pupils' parents.

The actual expenditure by my Department, excluding the expenditure on support services to pupils provided through the Education and Library Boards, is set out in the following table:

Post-primary	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10*
Counselling	1,480	1,932	2,099

\* Estimated

Caitheadh £92,000, áfach, le linn 2008/9 agus 2009/10 ar dhá staidéar taighde. Cuirfidh an chéad taighde, a bhfuil ina iniúchadh ar idirghabhálacha teiripeacha i mbunscoileanna agus i scoileanna speisialta agus an dara taighde, ar an bhealach is éifeachtaí chun teachtaireachtaí cosanta a sholáthar do pháistí ar aois bhunscoile, le forbairt chláir san earnáil bhunoideachais in am trátha.

To date some £92,000 has been spent over 2008/9 and 2009/10 on two research studies. The first, an audit of therapeutic interventions in primary and special schools and the second, on the most effective way to deliver safeguarding messages to pupils of primary age, will contribute to the development of a programme in the primary sector in due course.

My Department is currently developing a Pupils' Emotional Health and Well-Being Programme. It will bring together the range of activities already occurring at school level and provide a consistency of delivery and availability across the education sector, focusing initially on the post primary sector.

A number of working groups, made up of members with a very wide range of experience and expertise drawn from the education sector, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and a number of voluntary organisations with a focus on mental health and wellbeing are taking this work forward. It is expected that the Programme, once established will make a significant contribution to the wider strategies around improving mental health in our community.

## Educational Underachievement

**Mr M Storey** asked the Minister of Education what action she has taken in relation to educational underachievement among working class Protestant boys.  
(AQW 4235/10)

**Minister of Education:** Maireann míbhuntáiste oideachasúil i measc Protastúnach agus Caitliceach, buachaillí agus cailíní araon. Baineann sí le míbhuntáiste socheacnamaíoch agus cuirtear easpa dóchais léi ró-mhinic.

Educational disadvantage exists among Protestants and Catholics, boys and girls, and among our ethnic minorities. Too often, it is related to socio-economic disadvantage and compounded by poverty of aspiration.

Research on the impact of selection shows that preparing children for the transfer tests distorted the curriculum and required teachers to adopt a narrow repertoire of teaching strategies, rather than fully developing literacy and numeracy through more engaging approaches. Pupils not entered for the tests received unequal or less attention than transfer test pupils and some children had classroom experiences that not only failed to meet their needs as learners but left them uninterested, demotivated and misunderstood as learners. I therefore introduced Transfer 2010 to put an end to these detrimental impacts, particularly on our most disadvantaged young people.

My focus is on tackling underachievement wherever it exists and improving outcomes for all our young people, whether they are Catholic or Protestant, boys or girls, or from our newcomer communities, the children from which have so many hurdles to overcome. I am putting in place a jigsaw of inter-



connected policies aimed at ensuring every child fulfils her or his potential – Every School a Good School, Transfer 2010, the revised curriculum, the literacy and numeracy strategy, the review of SEN and Inclusion, the Achieving Belfast and Derry programmes and the establishment of ESA.

## Executive Papers

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Education to list the subject matter of each of the 5 papers that her Department referred to the Executive between May 2007 and 7 December 2009; and to state whether the Executive agreed each paper.

**(AQW 4267/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Níl sé de nós agam sonraí ar ghnó an Tionóil a nochtadh. Tá inneachar pháipéar an Tionóil agus gach gné de ghnó an Tionóil faoi rún.

It is not my practice to disclose details of Executive business. The content of Executive papers and all aspects of Executive business are confidential.

## Enrolment Figures

**Mr T Lunn** asked the Minister of Education (i) how many post-primary (a) controlled schools; (b) maintained schools; and (c) integrated schools are expected to have an enrolment figure of less than 350 pupils in each of the next five years; and (ii) if projected figures are available for enrolment for these schools in each of the next 10 years.

**(AQW 4330/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Níl ar fáil ach na figiúirí fortheilgthe de réir cineál bainistíochta don bhliain atá romhainn. Tá an t-eolas ar fáil sa tábla thíos.

Projected figures are only available broken down by management type for one year ahead. The information is contained in the table below.

Post primary schools that are projected to have less than 350 pupils enrolled by management type - 2010/11

Management type	Total
Controlled	14
Catholic maintained	22
Integrated	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>

**Source:** School census 2009/10

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude three post primary schools that are amalgamating in 2010/11.
2. Figures relate to total projected enrolment of pupils.

## School Closures during the Recent Cold Spell

**Mr M Storey** asked the Minister of Education to list the number of schools in North Antrim which closed due to the recent cold spell.

**(AQW 4332/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Dhíreoinn d'aird ar AQW 4127/10 a chuir An tUasal T Burns CTR síos a d'iarr sonraí ar gach bunskoil agus meánscoil i dtuaisceart na hÉireann a dhruid le linn na haimsire fuair le déanaí.

I would refer you to AQW 4127/10 tabled by Mr T Burns MLA which requested details of all primary and secondary schools in the north of Ireland which closed during the recent cold weather.

A full list of schools closed is available in the Assembly Library.

## **Strategic Education Plan and Entitlement Framework for the Craigavon Area**

**Mr S Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the rejected new capital build at Lurgan College, what steps she has taken to ensure that a strategic education plan and entitlement framework for the Craigavon area is completed.

**(AQW 4340/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Tar éis sráithe cruinnithe idir Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlaine an Oirdheiscirt (SELB) agus an Roinn, scríobh an Roinn chuig an SELB lena mbuarthaí a leagan amach agus le hiarraidh ar an SELB go n-athbhreithneoidh sé riachtanais infheistithe chaipitil Choláiste na Lorgan, laistigh de chomhthéacs níos fairsinge sheachadadh an Chreat Teidlíochta i gceantar Chraigavon, chun plean straitéiseach don cheantar a fhorbairt. Táthar ag feitheamh leis an phlean.

Following a series of meetings between the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) and the Department, the Department has written to the SELB outlining its concerns and asking that the SELB reviews the capital investment needs of Lurgan College, within the wider context of delivery of the Entitlement Framework (EF) in the Craigavon area, with the view to bringing forward a strategic plan for the area. The plan is awaited.

Additionally, schools in the Craigavon Area Learning Community are receiving support from the Entitlement Framework Development Officers based in the SELB and CCMS to draw up an action plan designed to ensure full delivery of the Entitlement Framework by 2013.

## **Capital Build Schemes**

**Mr S Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education why her Department announces capital build schemes for schools which then fail to be taken forward or delayed.

**(AQW 4341/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The Department announces major capital schemes based on identified educational needs of schools and the level of resources available at the time to take forward new schemes.

Under the Investment Delivery Plan (IDP) my Department has been taking forward 108 major capital projects. To date 24 of these projects have been completed and 16 are currently on site. The remaining 68 are at various stages of the planning and approval process.

The timing of construction of announced projects can be affected by a number of factors including changes over time to the long term viability of a school, planning issues and the availability of capital resources.

Since the IDP was published in 2008 no projects have been abandoned. While the majority of the projects have not been taken forward within the timeframe originally envisaged, they have been taken forward when all the necessary appraisal and approval processes have been completed and where funds have been available.

Is riachtanach a chinntiú go bhfuil an t-infheistiú san eastát oideachais i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais atá mé ag cur i bhfeidhm. Ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair, d'fhógair mé, dá bhrí sin, athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil le dearbhú go bhfuil siad go léir i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais agus, mar sin, go mbeidh siad inmharthana agus inbhuanaithe san fhadtéarma.

It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. On 15 October, therefore I announced a review of all capital



projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term.

This review will ensure that available resources are used to secure the best outcomes for children and maximum value for the taxpayer.

## Capital Build Projects

**Mr S Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education what preliminary work is carried out by her departmental officials with (i) schools; (ii) Boards of Governors; (iii) Education and Library Boards; and (iv) education authorities, prior to a school's new build project being included on the list of capital build projects announced by her Department.

**(AQW 4342/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Is próiseas cuimsitheach é an próiseas pleanála caipitil a chuimsíonn gach eochairpháirtí leasmhar ag tráthanna na heochairchinnteoireachta. Go stairiúil, oibríonn uinéirí agus tionscnóirí scoile go gar le príomhoidí scoile, tuismitheoirí agus boird ghobarnóirí chun ollthionscadail chaipitil tógála a aithint le haghaidh bhreithniú na Roinne.

The capital planning process is an inclusive one which involves all key stakeholders at the key decision making points. Historically, school owners and promoters work closely with school principals, parents and Boards of Governors to identify major capital build projects for consideration by the Department.

Under the current process, if, following a technical assessment of the current condition of the building, the need for a capital build project is recognised by the Department then a long-term enrolment and suitable options for consideration in an Economic Appraisal (EA) are agreed with the relevant school owners and promoters. The EA determines the preferred option for any future capital investment. All proposed schemes are scrutinised in the context DE policy including Area-Based Planning, the Sustainable Schools' Policy and equality duties.

## New Build Projects

**Mr S Gardiner** asked the Minister of Education (i) how many school new build projects announced by her Department have been (a) delayed; or (b) abandoned; (ii) what this is as a percentage of the overall number of projects announced; and (iii) the reason for the delay or cancellation in each case, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 4343/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The Department announces major capital schemes based on identified educational needs of schools and the level of resources available at the time to take forward new schemes.

Under the Investment Delivery Plan (IDP) my Department has been taking forward 108 major capital projects. To date 24 of these projects have been completed and 16 are currently on site. The remaining 68 are at various stages of the planning and approval process.

The timing of construction of announced projects can be affected by a number of factors including changes over time to the long term viability of a school, planning issues and the availability of capital resources.

Since the IDP was published in 2008 no projects have been abandoned. While the majority of the projects have not been taken forward within the timeframe originally envisaged, they have been taken forward when all the necessary appraisal and approval processes have been completed and where funds have been available.

Is riachtanach a chinntiú go bhfuil an t-infheistiú san eastát oideachais i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais atá mé ag cur i bhfeidhm. Ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair, d'fhógair mé, dá bhrí sin, athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil le dearbhú go bhfuil siad go léir i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais agus, mar sin, go mbeidh siad inmharthana agus inbhuanaithe san fhadtárma.

It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. On 15 October, therefore I announced a review of all capital projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term.

This review will ensure that available resources are used to secure the best outcomes for children and maximum value for the taxpayer.

## **Additional Resources for Rural Primary Schools**

**Mr J Dallat** asked the Minister of Education what additional resources have been made available to rural primary schools to enable them to deliver (i) the curriculum; (ii) special needs education; and (iii) I.T. **(AQW 4367/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Níor cuireadh aon acmhainní breise do bhunscoileanna tuaithe go speisialta i dtaca leis an churaclam, oideachas riachtanas speisialta ná teicneolaíocht faisnéise.

No additional resources have been made available specifically to rural primary schools in respect of the curriculum, special needs education or information technology (IT).

All grant-aided schools receive delegated budgets through the Common Funding Formula (CFF), ensuring that schools of similar size and similar characteristics are funded on a consistent and equitable basis regardless of their management type, sector or geographical location. Schools in rural areas are funded on the same basis as those with similar characteristics in urban areas.

However, the CFF does include specific factors, and minimum funding levels, that are designed to assist small schools meeting curricular requirements. In terms of IT support for schools, this is delivered by C2K on behalf of the five Education and Library Boards. C2K is responsible for the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) managed service to all grant-aided schools.

The administration of a school's budget is determined by the Board of Governors and Principal who are best placed to make decisions on the most effective use of resources in accordance with their schools' needs and relative priorities. Where there are specific and unavoidable pressures which cannot be addressed by individual schools, there are mechanisms for a school to seek additional support from the centre budget of the relevant Funding Authority.

## **Sparklebox**

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education if she is aware that the owner and operator of the educational resource website 'Sparklebox' was found guilty of downloading abusive images of children; and if so, what steps she is taking to ensure that material from the 'Sparklebox' website is not used by schools.

**(AQW 4381/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Is láithreán gréasáin achmainní do mhúinteoirí bunscoile é Sparklebox agus bhí sé ar fáil ar an líonra C2k. Dhíchumasaigh C2k aon chomhpháirt idirghníomach féideartha laistigh den suíomh.

Sparklebox is a website of resources for primary teachers and was available to schools on the C2k network. C2k has disabled any possible interactive component within this site.

I am aware that the operator of Sparklebox was jailed for 12 months on 8 January 2010 in England, having been found guilty of personally making and possessing indecent images of children.

I am making a full statement to the Assembly outlining the action I am taking in relation to this matter. I will forward you a copy of the final statement.

## Fairtrade Products in School Meals

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education how many schools have a requirement to include Fairtrade products in school meals.

**(AQW 4382/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Is iad na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne atá freagrach as oibriú sheirbhís na mbéilí scoile sna hearnálacha rialaithe agus faoi chothabháil agus scoileanna aonair deonacha gramadaí agus scoileanna aonair imeasctha faoi chothabháil stáit.

The day-to-day operation of the school meals service is a matter for the Education and Library Boards in the controlled and maintained sectors and individual voluntary grammar and grant-maintained integrated schools.

The Department is not aware of any schools which have a requirement to include Fairtrade products in their school meals. However, the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB), has confirmed that Fairtrade tea and coffee are available on the General Groceries Contract which the BELB administers on behalf of the five Boards.

## Urgent School Repairs

**Mr J McCallister** asked the Minister of Education to estimate the cost of completing the most urgent repairs to (i) primary school estates; and (ii) secondary school estates.

**(AQW 4385/10)**

**Minister of Education:** De réir chóras bainistíochta eastát na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne, is é costas ar réadmhaoin a thairgeadh san aicmiú is airde riachtanais a fheabhsú ná £33,987,247.50 do bhunscoileanna agus £26,480,911.00 do mheánscoileanna.

According to the Education and Library Boards' estate management system, the cost of making good the properties recorded as being in the highest classification of need is £33,987,247.50 in primary schools and £26,480,911.00 in secondary schools.

## Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education

**Mr J McCallister** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the proposed start date for the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education programme; (ii) what format the programme will take; (iii) whether voluntary organisations will have access to funding to deliver community relations programmes; and (iv) whether schools will be able to access funding to participate in cross-community projects.

**(AQW 4416/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Tá an beartas um Chaidreamh Pobail, Chomhionannas agus Éagsúlacht ag an chéim fhorbartha go fóill agus tá obair bhreise ag teastáil sula bhfuil sé réidh le cur i bhfeidhm, lena n-áirítear roinnt fachtóirí atá lasmuigh de smacht díreach na Roinne Oideachais. Tá comhairliú leis an Choiste Oideachais ar siúl agus nuair atá an próiseas seo críochnaithe, eiseofar an beartas le haghaidh comhairlithe phoiblí. Faoi réir chríochnú na hoibre breise, meastar go gcuirfí an beartas i bhfeidhm go luath sa bhliain acadúil 2011/12.

The Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy is still at the development stage and further work is required prior to being ready for implementation, including a number of factors which are outside of the direct control of the Department of Education. Consultation with the Education Committee is currently on-going and when this process has been completed the policy will be issued for public consultation. Subject to completion of the additional work, it is anticipated that the policy would be implemented early in the 2010/11 academic year.

While the broad format for the policy has been agreed, this will be subject to public consultation and more detailed work in relation to the funding scheme(s) will need to be completed. It is currently proposed that the policy will focus on three main areas:

- Training and capacity building of the education workforce;
- Support for meaningful interaction between young people across education settings;
- Dissemination of good practice and relevant CRED materials.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation process, it is expected that the new CRED policy will continue to provide opportunities to support meaningful engagement between children and young people across the formal and non-formal education sectors. The exact details of the funding mechanism have not been finalised, but it is expected that the voluntary sector will continue to have a role.

The current policy will terminate on 31 March 2010, but transitional arrangements are being considered to address continuity in provision and to prepare for implementation of the new policy.

## **New Build Primary School at Carrick, Warrenpoint**

**Mr P J Bradley** asked the Minister of Education when the provision of a new build primary school at Carrick, Warrenpoint was first recorded and documented by her Department.  
**(AQW 4433/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The Department's Professional Advisors initially visited Carrick Primary School and agreed that there was a need for capital investment in April 1999.

Tá planáil le haghaidh na scoile nua ar ardghrád, agus tá aighneacht chostais réamhthairisceana á bhreathnú ag an Roinn faoi láthair. Beidh cinneadh ar an scéim seo a fhorbairt go tairiscint faoi réir thoradh an athbhreithnithe reatha ar gach tionscadal caipitil. Is é is aidhm don athbhreithniú ná a chinntiú go bhfuil gach tionscadal tacúil agus i gcomhréir le creat beartais na Roinne agus go mbeidh sé, mar sin, inchothaithe agus inmharthana san fhadtéarma.

Planning of the new school is at a very advanced stage, with a pre-tender cost submission currently under consideration by the Department. A decision to progress this scheme to tender will be subject to the outcome of the current review of all capital projects. The review is designed to ensure that all projects are consistent and supportive of the Department's policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term. .

## **New Build Primary School at Carrick, Warrenpoint**

**Mr P J Bradley** asked the Minister of Education on what date her Department sought tenders for the provision of a new build primary school at Carrick, Warrenpoint.  
**(AQW 4434/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The Department's Professional Advisors initially visited Carrick Primary School and agreed that there was a need for capital investment in April 1999.

Tá planáil le haghaidh na scoile nua ar ardghrád, agus tá aighneacht chostais réamhthairisceana á bhreathnú ag an Roinn faoi láthair. Beidh cinneadh ar an scéim seo a fhorbairt go tairiscint faoi réir thoradh an athbhreithnithe reatha ar gach tionscadal caipitil. Is é is aidhm don athbhreithniú ná a chinntiú go bhfuil gach tionscadal tacúil agus i gcomhréir le creat beartais na Roinne agus go mbeidh sé, mar sin, inchothaithe agus inmharthana san fhadtéarma.

Planning of the new school is at a very advanced stage, with a pre-tender cost submission currently under consideration by the Department. A decision to progress this scheme to tender will be subject to the outcome of the current review of all capital projects. The review is designed to ensure that all projects are consistent and supportive of the Department's policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term. .

## Teachers' Allowance

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Education how many teachers in each Education and Library Board area receive (i) a protected post allowance or; (ii) a reorganisation allowance, and of these how many (a) carry out duties in-line with the payment received; and (b) do not carry out duties in line with the payment received.

**(AQW 4443/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The information requested is as follows:

Féadfaidh múinteoir iarratas a chur isteach ar an Roinn le haghaidh liúntas atheagraithe i gcásanna ina bhfulaingíonn sé/ sí laghdú ar thurastal mar gheall ar atheagrú áiseanna oideachais. Fanfaidh an liúntas atheagraithe bheith iníoctha go dtí go bhfaigheann an múinteoir tuarastal atá ar cóimhéid le, nó níos airde ná, tuarastal an phoist a bhí aige/ aici díreach roimh an atheagrú.

The pay and allowance structure for teachers does not provide for the award of protected post allowances. However, as placement on the leadership salary scale is determined by reference to school enrolment numbers principals and vice-principals may have their salaries protected following a reduction in the number of pupils enrolled at their school.

### NUMBER AND COST OF RE-ORGANISATION ALLOWANCES BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AREA\*

Education and Library Board area	Number at January 2010	Cost per financial year		
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Belfast	24	£79,456.00	£64,914.40	£57,421.42
North Eastern	21	£95,570.05	£88,385.25	£83,675.24
Western	28	£147,064.22	£ 117,761.59	£115,434.40
South Eastern	17	£105,547.86	£58,616.23	£89,704.63
Southern	32	£116,971.74	£118,444.77	£123,926.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>£544,609.87</b>	<b>£448,122.24</b>	<b>£470,162.00</b>

\* Figures exclude voluntary grammar schools

A teacher may apply to the Department for a re-organisation allowance where s/he suffers a reduction in salary as a direct result of a re-organisation of education facilities. The re-organisation allowance remains payable until such time as the teacher secures a post with a salary equal to or higher than that of the post held immediately prior to the reorganisation.

## Teachers' Allowance

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Education the cost to each Education and Library Board area of (i) the protected post allowance and; (ii) the reorganisation allowance, in each of the last three years.  
**(AQW 4444/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The information requested is as follows:

Féadfaidh múinteoir iarratas a chur isteach ar an Roinn le haghaidh liúntas atheagraithe i gcásanna ina bhfulaingíonn sé/ sí laghdú ar thurastal mar gheall ar atheagrú áiseanna oideachais. Fanfaidh an liúntas atheagraithe bheith iníoctha go dtí go bhfaigheann an múinteoir tuarastal atá ar cóimhéid le, nó níos airde ná, tuarastal an phoist a bhí aige/ aici díreach roimh an atheagrú.

The pay and allowance structure for teachers does not provide for the award of protected post allowances. However, as placement on the leadership salary scale is determined by reference to

school enrolment numbers principals and vice-principals may have their salaries protected following a reduction in the number of pupils enrolled at their school.

#### **NUMBER AND COST OF RE-ORGANISATION ALLOWANCES BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AREA \***

Education and Library Board area	Number at January 2010	Cost per financial year		
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Belfast	24	£79,456.00	£64,914.40	£57,421.42
North Eastern	21	£95,570.05	£88,385.25	£83,675.24
Western	28	£147,064.22	£ 117,761.59	£115,434.40
South Eastern	17	£105,547.86	£58,616.23	£89,704.63
Southern	32	£116,971.74	£118,444.77	£123,926.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>£544,609.87</b>	<b>£448,122.24</b>	<b>£470,162.00</b>

\* Figures exclude voluntary grammar schools

A teacher may apply to the Department for a re-organisation allowance where s/he suffers a reduction in salary as a direct result of a re-organisation of education facilities. The re-organisation allowance remains payable until such time as the teacher secures a post with a salary equal to or higher than that of the post held immediately prior to the reorganisation.

### **Class Sizes**

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Education for her assessment as to whether class sizes in primary schools of 25 to 30 pupils is detrimental to the education of children.  
**(AQW 4445/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Tá cáilíocht na múinteoirí agus an treoir a sholáthraíonn siad ar na príomh-thionchair ar thorthaí foghlama, cé go bhfuil fianaise a léiríonn gur féidir le méideanna níos lú ranga sna luath-bhlianta dul i bhfeidhm go dearfach ar thorthaí.

The quality of teachers and the instruction they provide is the key influence on learning outcomes. There is also evidence that smaller class sizes in early years learning can have a positive impact on outcomes.

In view of this evidence and the importance of early years development, funding to specifically support the Foundation Stage of the revised curriculum is fully delegated to primary schools. In 2009-10, this amounted to some £22.3 million and builds on and increases the funding previously available under the Making a Good Start programme. The inclusion of Foundation Stage funding within primary schools' delegated formula allocations provides them with the flexibility to ensure that classroom assistance and classroom resources are deployed to deliver the Foundation Stage curriculum to primary 1 and primary 2 pupils to best effect.

The Department's policy is to keep classes for our youngest children at 30 or fewer. This policy was initiated with P1 classes in September 1998. It was extended to P1 and P2 classes in September 1999 and from September 2000 it covers Years 1-4.

I believe that the pupil:teacher ratio has a key role to play.

### **Grant-aid Funding**

**Lord Browne** asked the Minister of Education if she will detail any legal advice she received from the departmental solicitor regarding the legality of withdrawing grant-aid funding from preparatory schools,



which she announced on 15 December 2009, and if she has not sought legal advice, whether she intends to do so.

**(AQW 4458/10)**

**Minister of Education:** D'iarr mo roinn comhairle dhleathach ó Oifig Aturnaetha na Roinne (DSO) i dtaca le dlíthiúlacht an mhaoinithe deontais a tharraingt as rannóga ullmhúcháin scoileanna gramadaí. Is í an chomhairle a thug an DSO ná go mbeadh a leithéid de tharraingt siar maoinithe dleathach faoi Airteagal 4 (7) (b) den Ord um Oideachas agus Leabharlanna.

My Department has sought legal advice from the Departmental Solicitors' Office (DSO) regarding the legality of withdrawing grant-aid funding from preparatory departments of grammar schools. The advice given by the DSO was that, under Article 4 (7) (b) of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003, such a withdrawal of funding would be legal.

## Transfer Tests

**Mr T Lunn** asked the Minister of Education what is the latest date for the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment to commence work on a 'two test' English and Maths transfer test for examinations in November 2010.

**(AQW 4514/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Bhí an scrúdú aistriithe státurraithe deireanach sa bhliain 2008. Níl aon phleananna ar fhoirm ar bith de thástáil státurraithe sa bhliain 2010 ná sna blianta atá le teacht le haghaidh páistí a aistriú ó Bunscoilíocht go hiarbhunscoilíocht.

The last state sponsored transfer test was in 2008. There are no plans for any form of state sponsored testing in 2010 in support of transferring children from primary to post primary school or for any future years.

## Pupils Cheating in Exams

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of recorded incidents of pupils cheating in (a) GCSE; and (b) A level exams in each of the last five years; and (ii) to provide a summary of the methods of cheating most frequently used.

**(AQW 4517/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Tugann an tábla seo a leanas sonraí ar mhíchleachtas i scrúduithe GCSE agus GCE i ngach bliain de na 5 bliana a chuaigh thart a thaifead an Chomhairle Churaclaim, Scrúduithe agus Measúnachta (CCSM). Soláthraíonn sé miondealú ar líon na gcásanna a aimsíodh le linn gach sráith scrúduithe Samhraidh de réir chatagóir mhíchleachtais.

The following table presents data on malpractice in GCSE and GCE examinations for each of the last 5 years recorded by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). It provides a breakdown of the number of cases detected during each summer examination series by category of malpractice.

CCEA is the main awarding body for the north of Ireland. It has 68% of the market share at A level and 65% at GCSE. Other awarding bodies offering A level and GCSE qualifications here have a much smaller share of the market. Although these bodies each hold data on malpractice, data specific to the north of Ireland is not currently available. Whilst CCEA offers a small number of A level and GCSE qualifications in England and Wales, the statistics detailed in the table below provide a reliable indicator of the trend in malpractice across examination centres here.

Type of Offence	Summer 2009		Summer 2008		Summer 2007		Summer 2006		Summer 2005	
	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)
The alteration or falsification of any results document, including certificates.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A breach of the instructions or advice of an invigilator, supervisor, or the awarding body in relation to the examination rules and regulations.	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Failing to abide by the conditions of supervision designed to maintain the security of the examinations.	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
Collusion: working collaboratively with other candidates beyond what is permitted.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copying from another candidate (including the misuse of ICT).	3	2	13	6	12	0	4	0	2	7
The deliberate destruction of work.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Disruptive behaviour in the examination room or assessment session (including the use of offensive language).	3	0	1	0	4	0	8	0	0	0
Exchanging, obtaining, receiving or passing on information which could be examination related (or the attempt to):										



Type of Offence	Summer 2009		Summer 2008		Summer 2007		Summer 2006		Summer 2005	
	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)
Talking	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Written communication	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Making a false declaration of authenticity.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misuse of, or attempted misuse of, examination material and resources.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bringing into the exam room notes in the wrong format or prohibited annotations.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Type of Offence	Summer 2009		Summer 2008		Summer 2007		Summer 2006		Summer 2005	
	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)
The inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene material in scripts, controlled assessments coursework or portfolios.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personation.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism: unacknowledged copying from published sources (including the internet); incomplete referencing.	24	32	9	9	4	8	0	3	0	3
Theft (where the candidate's work is removed or stolen).	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Type of Offence	Summer 2009		Summer 2008		Summer 2007		Summer 2006		Summer 2005	
	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)	GCSE (G)	GCE (A)
Introduction of unauthorised material into the examination room, for example:										
Notes, study guides and personal organisers.	2	9	0	8	6	2	2	8	2	4
Own blank paper.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Calculators, dictionaries (when prohibited).	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Personal stereo (including MP3, iPod) or and other similar electronic/digital devices.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mobile phone or other electronic communicating devices.	11	9	6	1	20	4	11	5	15	3
Behaving in a way as to undermine the integrity of the examination.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total No of Cases</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>

The percentages of total entries across England, Wales and the north of Ireland at GCSE and A level accounted for by CCEA entries are:

- GCSE – 3%.
- GCE – 2%.

The number of instances of malpractice as a percentage of the number of GCSE and A level entries/candidates (CCEA statistics only) is as follows:

- 2009 – 0.02%.
- 2008 – 0.01%.

The sanctions taken against offending candidates typically include:

- a warning.
- loss of marks.
- loss of aggregation or certification opportunity.

## Transfer Tests

**Mr D Bradley** asked the Minister of Education if the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has assessed the unregulated transfer tests from 2009/10; and if so, whether any elements of these tests could be used create a new official transfer test; and to provide details of any that could be used.

**(AQW 4519/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Is é Aistriú 2010 beartas mo Roinne ar pháistí a aistriú go hiar-bhunoideachais i mí Mheán Fómhair 2010, agus molann sé go láidir nár chóir do scoil ar bith critéir acadúla iontrála ná scrúduithe iontrála a úsáid a thacódh le feidhmiú critéar den chineál seo. Níor coimisiúnaíodh an Chomhairle Churaclaim, Scrúduithe agus Measúnachta (CCSM) ag an Roinn Oideachais le scrúduithe neamhrialaithe a mheas atá á ndéanamh le linn 2009/10 ag roinnt scoileanna díchleamhnaithe gramadaí, mar go bhfuil siad taobh amuigh de bheartas na Roinne ar aistriú iar-bhunscoile agus ní thacaítear leo ag an Roinn ar bhealach ar bith. Níl aon phleananna ar aon fhoirm de scrúdú státturraithe a fhorbairt mar gheall ar shocrúithe Aistriú 2011.

Transfer 2010 is my Department's policy for transferring children to post-primary in September 2010, and it strongly recommends that no school should use academic admissions criteria or entrance tests that would support the application of such criteria. The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) has not been commissioned by the Department of Education to engage in any assessment of the unregulated tests being used by a number of breakaway grammar schools as these lie outside the Department's policy on post-primary transfer and are not supported by the Department in any way. There are no plans to develop any form of state sponsored test in support of Transfer 2011 arrangements.

## Transfer Tests

**Mr A Attwood** asked the Minister of Education if a transfer test was prepared by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment for 2008/09, and if so, how this differs, if at all, from the transfer tests of 2009/10.

**(AQW 4520/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Ba é an bhliain 2008/09 an bhliain dheireanach inar cuireadh scrúdú aistrithe státturraithe ar fáil, rud a coimisiúnaíodh tríd an Chomhairle Churaclaim, Scrúduithe agus Measúnachta (CCSM). Níor coimisiúnaíodh CCSM ag an Roinn Oideachais le scrúduithe neamhrialaithe a mheas atá á ndéanamh le linn 2009/10 ag roinnt scoileanna díchleamhnaithe gramadaí, mar go bhfuil siad taobh amuigh de bheartas Aistriú 2010 ar aistriú iar-bhunscoile. Níl aon phleananna ar aon fhoirm de scrúdú státturraithe a fhorbairt mar gheall ar shocrúithe Aistriú 2011.

2008/09 was the final year in which a state sponsored transfer test was made available, commissioned through the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA). CCEA has not been commissioned by the Department of Education to engage in any assessment of unregulated tests being used during 2009/10 by a number of breakaway grammar schools, as these lie outside the Department's Transfer 2010 policy on post-primary transfer. There are no plans to develop any form of state sponsored test in support of Transfer 2011 arrangements.

## Computer Adaptive Testing

**Mrs M Bradley** asked the Minister of Education if the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has assessed the (i) desirability; and (ii) feasibility of Computer Adaptive Testing; and if so, to detail the outcome and the advice given to her Department.

**(AQW 4521/10)**

**Minister of Education:** The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has not assessed the desirability or feasibility of Computer Adaptive Testing.

Legislation requires that pupils in years 4-7 are assessed in the autumn term in reading and mathematics using a method of computer-based assessment specified by the Department of Education. CCEA has carried out trials and evaluated computer adaptive tools for the purpose of supporting those statutory assessment arrangements, the purpose of which is to provide information for teachers which can be used for diagnostic purposes. The two systems on which CCEA focused its trialling and evaluation were the Interactive Computerised Assessment System (InCAS) for Reading and General Mathematics and the Alta Mathematics assessment tool.

Trials of both systems were carried out in schools and evaluated to assess manageability and fitness-for-purpose. For each system CCEA advised that they could be valuable in supporting strategies to improve standards in literacy and numeracy. The tools were recommended on the basis that they:

- provided information which could be used by teachers for diagnostic purposes
- were specifically tailored to the revised Curriculum
- adapted to the level of ability of each pupil
- were computer marked/scored.

As a result of this work, InCAS was specified as the diagnostic assessment tool for statutory diagnostic assessment in Years 4-7. Additionally, Alta has been made available to all grant-aided primary and post-primary schools as a second (non-statutory) assessment tool for mathematics and many schools make use of it to inform their teaching and learning in mathematics. It is important that I stress that these are, by their nature, diagnostic assessment tools designed to help teachers in planning their teaching and learning and are neither designed nor approved for any use beyond that.

Chomh maith leis sin, agus tar éis earráidí a chuaigh i bhfeidhm ar thuairiscí measúnaithe InCAS roinnt scoileanna san fhómhar a chuaigh thart, chuir mé grúpa oibre ar bun le comhairle bhreise a sholáthar ar an dóigh is fearr le tacú le scoileanna chun úsáid a bhaint as an uirlís dhiagnóiseach mheasúnaithe seo.

Additionally, and following the recent errors that affected some schools' InCAS assessment reports last autumn, I have established a working group to provide further advice on how we can best support schools in making use of this diagnostic assessment tool.

## Transfer Tests

**Mr T Lunn** asked the Minister of Education whether the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has (i) the manpower; (ii) the expertise; and (iii) the finance and resources to deliver a 'two test' English and Maths transfer test; and if not, what steps is it taking to ensure that it can deliver.

**(AQW 4526/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Bhí an scrúdú aistrithe státturaithe deireanach sa bhliain 2008. Níl aon phleananna ar fhoirm ar bith de thástáil státturaithe sa bhliain 2010 ná sna blianta atá le teacht le haghaidh páistí a aistriú ó Bunscoilíocht go hiarbhunscoilíocht.

The last state sponsored transfer test was in 2008. There are no plans for any form of state sponsored testing in 2010 in support of transferring children from primary to post primary school or for any future years.

## GSCE Examination Results

**Mr K Robinson** asked the Minister of Education to detail GSCE examination results achieved by (i) Protestant girls; and (ii) Roman Catholic girls; (iii) Protestant boys; and (iv) Roman Catholic boys, broken down by (a) subject; and (b) grade in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

**(AQW 4541/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Ós rud é go bhfuil torthaí scrúduithe i níos mó ná 50 ábhar, tá socraithe agam go gcuirfean an t-eolas a iarradh i Leabharlann an Tionóil. Níl an t-eolas ar fáil de réir chúlra pobail na ndaltaí agus, mar sin de, miondealaítear é de réir chineálacha bainistíochta scoile.

As there are examination results for over 50 subjects I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Assembly Library. The information is not available by community background of pupils and so has been broken down instead by school management types.

## Irish GCSE

**Mr K Robinson** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AÑO 623/10, to detail the number of (i) Roman Catholic boys; (ii) Protestant boys; (iii) Roman Catholic girls; and (iv) Protestant girls who sat an Irish GCSE exam in 2007/08 and 2008/09.

**(AQW 4542/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Níl eolas ar chúlra pobail iontrálacha i nGCSE Gaeilge ar fáil. Sannadh

chineál bainistíochta scoile do gach iontráil, atá bunaithe ar an scoil ina bhfuil an dalta rollaithe. Soláthraítear sna táblaí thíos líon na n-iontrálacha do GCSE Gaeilge de réir chineál bainistíochta scoile agus inscne.

Information on the community background of GCSE Irish entries is not available. Each entry has instead been assigned a school management type based on the school at which the pupil is enrolled. The number of entries for GCSE Irish by school management type and gender is provided in the tables below:

### ENTRIES IN GCSE IRISH BY SCHOOL MANAGEMENT TYPE AND GENDER, 2007/08 – 2008/09

School management type	Entries in GCSE Irish (Total)	
	2007/08	2008/09
Catholic managed	2,015	1,693
Other managed	132	108

School management type	Entries in GCSE Irish (Male)	
	2007/08	2008/09
Catholic managed	875	709
Other managed	60	49

School management type	Entries in GCSE Irish (Female)	
	2007/08	2008/09
Catholic managed	1,140	984
Other managed	72	59

**Notes:** School management type groups schools according to their scheme of management. 'Catholic managed' includes Catholic maintained non-Grammar schools and Catholic managed voluntary Grammar schools. 'Other managed' includes controlled, controlled integrated, and grant maintained integrated non-grammar schools and other managed voluntary Grammar schools. In some cases, this means a male or female pupil with a Protestant community background being included under the Catholic managed sector, and vice versa.

## New Build at Glastry College, Ballyhalbert

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 3328/10, to confirm the start date for the new build at Glastry College, Ballyhalbert; and if she has considered that delays will add to rising costs of boiler and roof repairs in the short-term.

**(AQW 4545/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Ós rud é go bhfuil an t-athbhreithniú ar thionscadail chaipitil leanúnach, níl rud ar bith eile agam le cur leis an fhreagra a thug mé ar dhul chun cinn an tionscadail seo ag an am seo. Comhairleofar Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirdheiscirt, atá freagrach as Coláiste Ghlasraigh, ar thoradh an athbhreithnithe in am trátha.

As the review of capital projects is on-going, I therefore have nothing further to add to the previous response I gave about progress on this project at this time. The South Eastern Education and Library Board, which has responsibility for Glastry College, will be advised of the outcome of the review in due course.

Any interim concerns about health and safety or urgent maintenance works needed at the school should be brought to the attention of the South-Eastern Education and Library Board which should consider the request and the associated costs.

## Pupil Numbers in Each Education and Library Board Area

**Mr T Elliott** asked the Minister of Education how many pupils there were in each Education and Library Board area in (i) 2007; (ii) 2008; and (iii) 2009.

**(AQW 4557/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Solathraítear na figiúirí sna táblaí thíos.

The figures are provided in the tables below.

### PUPILS AT SCHOOLS BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AREA 2007/08

School type	Education and Library Board					Total
	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB	
Nursery schools	1,561	1,363	1,020	1,121	790	5,855
Primary schools	24,983	37,681	35,094	38,602	30,279	166,639
Post-primary schools	30,285	32,274	25,634	33,037	26,712	147,942
Special schools	1,275	1,012	1,166	418	740	4,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,104</b>	<b>72,330</b>	<b>62,914</b>	<b>73,178</b>	<b>58,521</b>	<b>325,047</b>

### PUPILS AT SCHOOLS BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AREA 2008/09

School type	Education and Library Board					Total
	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB	
Nursery schools	1,563	1,376	1,020	1,130	780	5,869
Primary schools	24,617	37,085	34,858	38,455	29,591	164,811
Post-primary schools	29,965	32,528	25,731	33,163	26,599	147,986
Special schools	1,280	996	1,181	423	718	4,598
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,425</b>	<b>71,985</b>	<b>62,790</b>	<b>73,171</b>	<b>57,688</b>	<b>323,264</b>

**PUPILS AT SCHOOLS BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD AREA 2009**

School type	Education and Library Board					Total
	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB	
Nursery schools	1,563	1,369	1,018	1,124	783	5,857
Primary schools	24,245	37,013	34,666	38,551	29,101	163,782
Post-primary schools	29,923	32,438	25,672	33,207	26,532	147,772
Special schools	1,248	992	1,115	446	642	4,443
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,979</b>	<b>71,812</b>	<b>62,471</b>	<b>73,328</b>	<b>57,058</b>	<b>321,854</b>

**Source:** School census

**Note:**

Figures relate to the areas in which the schools attended are located.

**Safer Internet Use for Children and Young People**

**Mr J McCallister** asked the Minister of Education what steps her Department is taking to promote safer internet use for children and young people.

**(AQW 4563/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Safeguarding children in all aspects of their education is of paramount importance and for this reason I made a statement to the Assembly on 8 February 2010 about the Sparklebox Teacher Resource Website.

Scríobh mo Roinn chuig Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Iarthair lena iarraidh air iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an dóigh ar bainistíodh saincheist Sparklebox agus moltaí a dhéanamh ar cad iad na ceachtanna is féidir a fhoghlaim ón cheist maidir le polasaithe agus nósanna imeachta um chosaint a fheabhsú agus a fhorbairt. D'iarr mé air tuarascáil a thabhairt isteach roimh 24 Márta 2010.

My Department has written to the chief executive of the Western Education and Library Board to instruct him to investigate the manner in which the Sparklebox situation was handled and to make recommendations on what lessons can be learned from that to enhance further the policies and procedures for protecting

I have asked for a report by 24 March 2010.

In 2007, the Department issued a circular and guidance on the acceptable use of the internet and digital technologies. Schools must have policies on the safe and effective use of the internet.

The guidance, which includes resources about internet safety specially designed to be used by teachers, parents and pupils, is available on the DE website and is kept under review as new challenges, threats and legal requirements emerge.

In my statement to the Assembly on 8 February I announced that, as part of my response to the discovery that the owner of Sparklebox, a website available to schools through C2k, had been jailed in England for paedophile offences, my Department would issue follow-up guidance to the 2007 Circular. This new guidance will specifically allude to safeguarding arrangements in light of the Sparklebox experience. My Department is also fully engaged with the Inter-Departmental Group on Safeguarding. This group is progressing work on an action plan which will set in place measures to enhance even further e-safety for young people.

Internet safety is also taught through the revised curriculum, now in place for all pupils here. Teachers have received support and guidance on integrating teaching about internet safety and online communication generally. This contributes to the area of Personal Development and Mutual

Understanding, which looks at developing a proactive and responsible approach by pupils to safety, including the internet.

## New Transfer Tests

**Mr T Lunn** asked the Minister of Education if the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has sufficient finance to deliver the new transfer tests this year, and if not, what additional funding is required.

**(AQW 4570/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Bhí an scrúdú aistrithe státturraithe deireanach sa bhliain 2008. Níl aon phleananna ar fhoirm ar bith de thástáil státturraithe sa bhliain 2010 ná sna blianta atá le teacht le haghaidh páistí a aistriú ó Bunscoilíocht go hiarbhunscoilíocht.

The last state sponsored transfer test was in 2008. There are no plans for any form of state sponsored testing in 2010 in support of transferring children from primary to post primary school or for any future years.

## Intercultural Tolerance and Awareness

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education (i) for her assessment of the work of the South Belfast Area Project in building intercultural tolerance and awareness amongst vulnerable and marginalised young people across seven disadvantaged communities who may have been involved in sectarianism and racism; and (ii) what steps she intends to take to protect the two posts delivering this project which are currently on a 90 day notice.

**(AQW 4571/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Bainistítear Tionscadal Cheantar Dheisceart Bhéal Feirste ag Seirbhís don Ógra Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne Bhéal Feirste (BOLBF). Chomhairligh Príomhfheidhmeannach BOLBF gurb é is aidhm don tionscadal a thacú le forbairt phearsanta agus shóisialta na ndaoine óga sa cheantar, go háirithe na daoine sin atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste nó atá eisiata go sóisialta, agus soláthraíonn sé réimse tionscnamh atá i gcomhréir le Curaclam na Seirbhíse don Ógra chun na daoine óga atá bainteach leis a chumasú lena gcreidimh phearsanta agus luachanna pearsanta a thástáil agus chun glacadh agus tuiscint ar dhearcaí daoine eile a bhaint amach fosta.

The South Belfast Area Project is managed by the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) Youth Service. The Chief Executive of the BELB has advised that the project aims to support the personal and social development of young people in the area, particularly those who are disadvantaged or socially excluded and delivers a range of initiatives in line with the Youth Service Curriculum to enable the young people involved to test their personal beliefs and values and also to gain an acceptance and understanding of the views of others.

The Chief Executive has also advised that the project has carried out a number of initiatives aimed at building intercultural tolerance and understanding, including an intensive community relations programme between young people from Donegal Pass and the Ormeau Road area and an 'Exploring Cultures Programme', which established a four-way partnership between the project, the Chinese Welfare Association, Finaghy Youth Centre and ArtsEkta.

The Education and Training Inspectorate has recently carried out an evaluation of outreach work in the BELB area, for the Department of Education. The evaluation included the outreach provided by youth workers as part of the South Belfast Area Project. An oral report has been given to the BELB indicating that the work is satisfactory; the full report will be published in the next few weeks.

ii) It is the responsibility for the BELB to determine how it allocates resources for youth provision within its area. The BELB has confirmed that it has given the two outreach/detached workers involved in the South Belfast Area Project 90-day protective notice, which is normal practice when funding for posts is drawing to an end and decisions about on-going funding have not yet been made. BELB will make



a decision on the future of these posts when they have been notified of their 2010/11 youth service budget.

My officials are working to ensure that Boards are notified of all budget allocations as quickly as possible.

## Unemployed School Leavers

**Mr S Moutray** asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of school leavers who were unemployed and not in further or higher education six months after leaving school, broken down by council area, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 4592/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Tá an freagra cuimsithe sa tábla thíos. Bailítear na sonraí seo mar chuid de Suirbhé ar Fhágáilthe Scoile i mí na Samhna, tuairim is 5 mhí tar éis dheireadh na bliana acadúla roimhe. Taifeadann an scoil an t-eolas nuair a iarradh ar na sonraí.

The answer is contained in the table below. These data are collected as part of the School Leavers Survey in November, approximately 5 months after the end of the previous academic year. The information is recorded by the school at the time of the data request.

### NUMBER OF SCHOOL LEAVERS WITH A DESTINATION RECORDED BY THE SCHOOL AS UNEMPLOYED BY COUNCIL AREA OF RESIDENCE 2005/06 TO 2007/08

Council Area Of Residence	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
	Number Unemployed	Total School Leavers	Number Unemployed	Total School Leavers	Number Unemployed	Total School Leavers
Antrim	11	532	23	645	16	663
Ards	22	1007	15	971	25	945
Armagh	13	940	10	842	12	860
Ballymena	42	881	32	738	27	748
Ballymoney	5	424	6	381	10	400
Banbridge	30	677	28	648	22	603
Belfast	188	3535	222	3497	189	3306
Carrickfergus	30	564	27	516	11	577
Castlereagh	18	855	23	845	17	854
Coleraine	35	791	19	821	34	710
Cookstown	20	584	16	516	15	527
Craigavon	68	1262	23	1267	31	1262
Derry	70	1793	51	1843	80	1727
Down	21	1053	25	947	33	994
Dungannon	23	842	22	787	26	767
Fermanagh	17	904	22	862	21	793
Larne	18	399	23	451	19	387
Limavady	13	527	11	502	9	457

Council Area Of Residence	2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
	Number Unemployed	Total School Leavers	Number Unemployed	Total School Leavers	Number Unemployed	Total School Leavers
Lisburn	33	1587	37	1583	58	1588
Magherafelt	16	658	19	673	21	631
Moyle	*	244	*	243	*	250
Newry & Mourne	38	1544	23	1502	41	1400
Newtownabbey	41	1112	52	1076	40	1025
North Down	14	917	33	957	29	931
Omagh	15	803	16	729	12	718
Strabane	13	659	14	536	19	575
Missing/Invalid Postcodes	#	434	#	425	#	393

**Source:** School Leavers Survey

\* enotes fewer than five pupils

# figure has not been provided due to rules of statistical disclosure

## Sparklebox

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the terms of reference; (ii) the timescale; and (iii) who will be conducting the investigation into the handling of the Sparklebox case by her Department and the Western Education and Library Board.

**(AQW 4641/10)**

**Minister of Education:** Seolfaidh Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Iarthair, Barry Mulholland, ar a bhfuil C2k ina stiúrthóireacht, iniúchadh ar láimhseáil an cháis ó C2k. Seo a leanas tearmaí tagartha a iniúchta.

Barry Mulholland, Chief Executive of the Western Education and Library Board, of which C2k is a directorate, will conduct the investigation into C2k's handling of the case.

The terms of reference of his investigation are as follows.

1. To establish and explain the actions of C2k from the time it became aware of the trial of the owner of Sparklebox to the point at which it removed access to Sparklebox from the system.
2. To report on the protocols, procedures and processes used by C2k in respect of child protection issues relating to schools' use of the C2k system and to assess whether they were appropriate and effective. In particular to give an assessment of whether C2k's responses were proportionate and timely.
3. To report on C2k's reporting procedures to the Department around child protection issues.
4. To determine if the Sparklebox website contained any content or interactive elements that would have been harmful to children? If so, to explain what action was taken regarding these elements?
5. To determine how many schools in the north of Ireland used the Sparklebox website.
6. To determine how this matter can be brought to the attention of service providers and users.
7. To make recommendations on what lessons can be learned from this case in terms of enhancing further policies and procedures for protecting the safety of children. The recommendations should

identify cross-cutting issues which affect other departments in the north of Ireland, as well as any north/south and British/Irish issues.

The Chief Executive of the Western Education and Library Board has been instructed to report to the Department by 24 March.

The Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education will oversee an examination of the Department's internal procedures and protocols.

## Department for Employment and Learning

### Efficiency Saving Measures

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning why efficiency saving measures within his Department are directed at the delivery of courses rather than reducing the cost of administration. **(AQW 4154/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning (Sir Reg Empey):** There are three key factors impacting upon the administration budget within my Department in 2010/11:

- The gross administrative budget allocation for Budget 2008-11 was flat, hence pay inflation has had to be absorbed within a fixed baseline;
- The Department for Employment and Learning must deliver cumulative cash releasing efficiencies from the administrative budget, as part of the Budget 2008-11 process - the budget in 2010/11 will be £1.0m (3.8%) lower than as at April 2008. This is detailed in our Efficiency Delivery Plan, which is on the Department's website;
- The impact of the NICS Equal Pay claim negotiations will create a further pressure upon the administration budget of c£0.5m in 2010/11.

Therefore my Administrative budget is making a significant contribution to the overall savings requirement from my Department. The additional savings in 2010/11 are not directed at the delivery of courses: there are no plans to reduce the recurrent funding available to the Further Education sector and the Higher Education sector's proposed allocation in 2010/11 still shows growth of 3.9%.

### Learner Access and Engagement Pilot Programme

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning in relation to the Learner Access and Engagement Pilot programme for 2009/10 (i) what was the budget on 1 April 2009; (ii) if any changes have been made to this budget; and (iii) what was the expenditure up to 31/12/09. **(AQW 4168/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** The expenditure on Learner Access and Engagement pilot programme is dependent upon the engagement and enrolment of learners by third party organisations. Based on delivery to date, a budget of £500k was allocated for the programme at 1 April 2009; this budget remains unchanged. Up to 31 December 2009 £137,675 has been expended.

### Learner Access and Engagement Pilot Programme

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what is the expected cost to his Department of the Learner Access and Engagement Pilot programme for 2009/10. **(AQW 4170/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** The expenditure on Learner Access and Engagement pilot programme is dependent upon the engagement and enrolment of learners by third party organisations. Projected expenditure for the programme during the 2009/10 financial year is £500,000.

## Investing for Health Strategy

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail any meetings or discussions that he, or his officials, have held with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety within the last year to discuss commitments under the Investing for Health strategy.

**(AQW 4183/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** I would refer you to my response to Assembly Question 3517/10 where I indicated that my Department is actively engaged with a number of the strategies which underpin the Investing for Health Strategy. In addition to attendance at interdepartmental meetings held in the past year related to some of these strategies i.e. Suicide, Domestic and Sexual Violence, Drugs and Alcohol, Tobacco Action Plan, Mental Health and Learning Disability, Physical and Sensory Disability, the Department for Employment and Learning has had direct discussions with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) on a number of others including the Bamford Review, work in relation to care leavers, and also the Obesity Strategy that is in process of development.

This represents a high level of commitment and co-operation in pursuit of key strategic aims and objectives and therefore no meetings or discussions with DHSSPS within the last year specifically about the overarching Investing for Health Strategy have been required. In relation to the current review of the strategy, to date my Department has been updated on and has contributed to it through correspondence.

## IT Skills Courses

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what consideration he has given to increasing the number of I.T skills courses available for unemployed people in conjunction with community groups.

**(AQW 4192/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** My Department places considerable emphasis on the provision of IT skills courses, many of which are delivered in conjunction with community groups. For example, ICT was formally adopted as a third Essential Skill in August 2009, adding to the existing Essential Skills of Literacy and Numeracy. As such, anyone seeking to undertake a Level 1 or Level 2 Essential Skills ICT qualification can enrol, free of charge, with their local further education college. The colleges deliver many of these courses in community settings, subject to the availability of ICT suites in the colleges' outreach centres. While college lecturers deliver these courses, colleges contract with a range of community organisations, whose role is to encourage "hard to reach" adults to avail of these opportunities. The provision of ICT Essential Skills is also available, where necessary, to participants in the Department's training and further education programmes.

In addition, the Department's Steps to Work programme provides a range of assistance, including access to IT skills courses, to the unemployed and those who are economically inactive. The programme is delivered through a network of Lead Contractors, a number of whom are from the community and voluntary sector.

## Courses for People Aged 60 and Over

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the uptake by people aged 60 and over for courses in each Further Education College in 2008/09.

**(AQW 4243/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** The table below details the uptake of enrolments of those aged 60 and over in each Northern Ireland Further Education College in 2008/09.

<b>College</b>	<b>Professional/ Technical Enrolments</b>	<b>Non Professional/ Technical Enrolments</b>	<b>Total</b>
Belfast Metropolitan College	1,497	4,466	5,963
Northern Regional College	507	1,095	1,602
South Eastern Regional College	1,529	578	2,107
Southern Regional College	510	1,191	1,701
South West College	152	1,207	1,359
North West Regional College	747	1,000	1,747
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,942</b>	<b>9,537</b>	<b>14,479</b>

**Source:** Further Education Statistical Record.

## Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) which goods and services provided by his Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by his Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods.

**(AQW 4244/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** None of the goods and services provided by my Department can be paid for online. The Department for Employment and Learning provides a very limited number of services for which a charge is levied. The Department's focus is to promote learning and skills, to prepare people for work and to support the economy. In pursuing this aim the key objectives for the Department are to promote economic, social and personal development through high quality learning, research and skills training; and to help people into employment and promote good working practices. Hence an online payment facility would be inappropriate and is therefore not in operation.

## Arts and Humanities Subjects

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action his Department has taken to promote Arts and Humanities subjects within universities.

**(AQW 4262/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** As you may be aware, course provision is a matter for the respective Higher Education Institutions to determine. However, you should note that for the academic year 09/10, the University of Ulster received approximately 2800 applications for courses in the Arts and Humanities, of which just fewer than 500 were admitted. This represents 10% of the annual intake to the University. Queen's University received just over 4900 applications for Arts and Humanities courses, of which just over 880 were accepted onto a course, representing 25% of undergraduate admissions.

Therefore, as these courses are currently oversubscribed, I have no plans to further promote Arts and Humanities subjects.

You may also wish to note that, in addition to their numerous degree level and other courses, Northern Ireland's universities and colleges currently provide a wide range of recreational arts related courses.

I trust you find this information helpful.

## PHD Research Students

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning if the Programme For Government target to increase the number of PHD research students by 300, by 2010, will be met.

**(AQW 4300/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** My Department is on course to meet this target. The first two tranches of 100 additional places were allocated and filled in Academic Years 2008/09 and 2009/10. The final tranche of 100 additional places will be allocated in Academic Year 2010/11.

## Students Studying STEM Subjects

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning if there has been an increase in the number of students at graduate and postgraduate level studying STEM subjects in the last year, especially those from disadvantaged communities.

**(AQW 4301/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** In the 2008/09 academic year there were 21,190 first degree and postgraduate students enrolled on STEM related courses at Northern Ireland Higher Education institutions. This represents a 2% increase from the corresponding 2007/08 figure.

Of those students enrolled on STEM related courses at Northern Ireland Higher Education institutions in the 2008/09 academic year, who had known Socio Economic Classification, 26% were from groups 5, 6 and 7. This figure is the same as the 2007/08 figure, although the figures are not directly comparable.

**Source:** Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

**Notes:**

- (1) Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
- (2) The latest available data are for 2008/09.
- (3) Information about students from disadvantaged communities is monitored using Socio Economic Classification (SEC) data from HESA (which includes UCAS data). However, UCAS changed the SEC question asked of applicants between 2007 and 2008 to take account of changing age legislation and the 2008/09 figure cannot therefore be directly compared to the 2007/08 figure.
- (4) Data on SEC is only available for 53% of the 21,190 first degree and postgraduate students.

## Programme-led Apprenticeships Scheme

**Lord Browne** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) how many people have enrolled in the Programme-led Apprenticeships scheme; and (ii) how many places have been secured for employer placements.

**(AQW 4309/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** As at 1 February 2010, the total enrolment on Programme-Led Apprenticeship programme was 2,927. On the basis of available information from training providers, including Further Education colleges, the Department has determined that approximately 50% of participants have an employer placement.

The Department is currently considering what further measures could be taken to help providers to secure additional work placements for participants on the programme.

## Papers Referred to the Executive

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to list the subject matter of each of the 13 papers that his Department referred to the Executive between May 2007 and 7 December 2009; and to state whether the Executive agreed each paper.

**(AQW 4331/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** It is not our practice to disclose details of Executive business. The detailed content of Executive papers including the agenda and minutes of the meeting are confidential.

## Hughes Christensen

**Ms D Purvis** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) what action his Department plans to take to assist workers facing redundancy at Hughes Christensen in East Belfast to ensure they receive fair compensation and legal protection; and (ii) what services his Department will provide to assist these workers back into employment. .

**(AQW 4533/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:**

- (i) The Department has produced and updated a range of guidance materials, to provide information for workers on their employment rights, including in the case of redundancy. Companies may often have in place an agreed corporate redundancy payment scheme, which provides workers with compensation above what is statutorily required. Where this is not the case, under the Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, employees who are being made redundant may be entitled to a statutory redundancy payment from their employer. Employees may qualify for such a payment if they have been working under a contract of employment and have at least two years' continuous service. The final amount of any such payment depends on how long the employer has been continuously employed by his/her employer; how the employee's years of continuous service relate to a particular age band; and the employee's weekly pay, up to a maximum limit.

The Department has recently updated a guidance booklet (available at the link below or from all Jobs and Benefits Offices), which provides full details of employees' entitlements under the statutory redundancy payments scheme:

[http://www.delni.gov.uk/er3\\_redundancy\\_entitlement\\_statutory\\_rights\\_1st\\_october\\_2009.pdf](http://www.delni.gov.uk/er3_redundancy_entitlement_statutory_rights_1st_october_2009.pdf)

Where an employee disagrees with his/her employer about entitlement to a redundancy payment, then the employee can take the matter to an Industrial Tribunal. The booklet also provides full details of the necessary steps in this process. The booklet also provides details of the statutory provisions that are in place, which may allow an employee who is given notice of dismissal because of redundancy to have reasonable time off with pay during work hours, to look for another job or make arrangements for training for future employment.

The Employment Rights (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 also places a duty on an employer proposing to make collective redundancies to consult in advance with representatives of the employees. No notices of dismissal can be issued until the consultation has been completed. Where the employer is proposing to dismiss more than 100 employees (as is the case with Hughes Christensen), then consultation must begin at least 90 days before the redundancy notices take effect. Employee representatives, trade unions, or employees who feel they have not been properly consulted or received adequate notice, may make a complaint to an Industrial Tribunal. If the Tribunal finds in the employees' favour, it may make a protective award of up to 90 days' pay. The Department's booklet at the link below contains full details of the rights and protections of employees and their representatives, to enable them to participate fully in the process of consultation, as well as information on redress, where the rights of employee representatives may have been infringed:



[http://www.delni.gov.uk/er4\\_redundancy\\_consultation\\_and\\_notification\\_october\\_2009.pdf](http://www.delni.gov.uk/er4_redundancy_consultation_and_notification_october_2009.pdf)

- (ii) When companies face redundancies, the DEL district management team works in partnership with organisations such as the local Further Education College, lead Training Providers, Education and Guidance Service, and the Social Security Agency to offer a full range of services to those affected by the redundancy. These services include advice on employment, education, training, reskilling, job search and benefit advice.

In previous redundancy situations within this company, DEL organised redundancy clinics to offer support and advice to those employees affected. DEL's district management team is currently in discussions with Hughes Christensen, to arrange a suitable date for a similar Redundancy Clinic.

The Further Education Sector's Rapid Response NI programme, which is funded by the Department, has already provided a range of support services to Hughes Christensen. To date, the programme has engaged with 46 of the company's employees and, as a result, a range of support programmes have been scheduled for delivery.

## Executive Papers

**Mr J O'Dowd** asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) how many policy and discussion papers he has brought before the Executive in relation to Further and Higher Education; (ii) the date the papers were brought forward; and (iii) how many of these papers resulted in legislation going before the Assembly. **(AQW 4610/10)**

**Minister for Employment and Learning:** It is not our practice to disclose details of Executive business. The detailed content of Executive papers, including the agenda and minutes of the meeting, are confidential.

## Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

### Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) which goods and services provided by her Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by her Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods.

**(AQW 4293/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster):** My Department's Insolvency Service and Invest Northern Ireland both operate an online purchase facility for certain services.

DETI's Company Registry Branch also offered the purchase of company documents online. This is now provided by Companies House, Cardiff following the transfer of this function from DETI in Oct 2009.

The number of transactions and method of payment for each service is set out in the following tables.

### Invest NI

Invest NI provides one service with an online payment option, a series of workshops called 'Passport to Export'. This is a one day export skills training workshop open to all companies.

**TABLE 1**

(i) goods and services provided which can be paid for online	(ii) total no. of transactions processed				
	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10 to Dec09
Invest NI workshop event bookings (no. of delegates booked)	408	304	455	429	318

**TABLE 2**

(iii) Method of payment and percentage for each of the transactions					
	On-line Payments*	Cheque*	Postal Order	Cash	Other
2005/06	148	260	-	-	-
2006/07	173	131	-	-	-
2007/08	203	252	-	-	-
2008/09	139	290	-	-	-
2009/10	103	215	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>1148</b>	-	-	-
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>60%</b>	-	-	-

\* Number of delegates paid for by this method

**Insolvency Service****TABLE 1**

(i) goods and services provided which can be paid for online	(ii) total no. of transactions processed				
	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
Deposits in respect of bankruptcy and winding up petitions (available from November 2006).	1228	1512	1638	1952	1324

**TABLE 2**

(iii) Method of payment and percentage for each of the transactions					
	On-line Payments	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other
2005/06	System only in place from 01/11/06	See note below	Nil	See note below	Nil
2006/07	Nil	See note below	Nil	See note below	Nil
2007/08	Nil	See note below	Nil	See note below	Nil
2008/09	Nil	See note below	Nil	See note below	Nil

<b>(iii) Method of payment and percentage for each of the transactions</b>					
	<b>On-line Payments</b>	<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Postal Order</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Other</b>
2009/10	Nil	See note below	Nil	See note below	Nil
Total	Nil	See note below	Nil	See note below	Nil
Percentage	0%	See note below	0%	See note below	0%

The cost of ascertaining the method of payment would involve manually checking through over 7,500 individual payments and would, therefore, be disproportionate.

## Companies Registry

**TABLE 1**

<b>(i) goods and services provided which can be paid for online</b>	<b>(ii) total no. of transactions processed</b>				
	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10
Purchase of copy company documents. (1)	6,376	15,169	18,661	20,791	10,337

**Note 1:**

Service commenced during November 2005 and ceased with effect from 1 Oct 2009 following transfer of all Company Registry functions from DETI to Companies House, Cardiff

**TABLE 2**

<b>(iii) Method of payment and percentage for each of the transactions</b>					
	<b>On-line Payments</b>	<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Postal Order</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Other</b>
2005/06	3,473	See note (2)	See note (2)	See note (2)	2,903
2006/07	14,598	See note (2)	See note (2)	See note (2)	571
2007/08	18,324	See note (2)	See note (2)	See note (2)	337
2008/09	20,507	See note (2)	See note (2)	See note (2)	284
2009/10	10,145	See note (2)	See note (2)	See note (2)	192
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,047</b>	<b>See note (2)</b>	<b>See note (2)</b>	<b>See note (2)</b>	<b>4,287</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>6%</b>

**Note 2:**

No information on method of payment is available. Figures shown as "Other" represent number of payments made for copy documents via the Public Office.

## Avanti Communications

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) for her assessment of the performance of Avanti Communications in delivering the services agreed under the terms of the satellite broadband contract; (ii) whether Avanti Communications has sufficient satellite broadband capacity to meet current user needs; and (iii) the number of complaints Avanti Communications has

received regarding access to satellite broadband from (a) businesses; and (b) home users since it took over the contract from British Telecom.

**(AQW 4359/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** DETI has commissioned consultancy firm Analysys Mason to independently monitor Avanti Communication's performance in delivering the services specified in its contract with the Department. Analysys Mason has submitted three reports to date and noted that Avanti is delivering services in line with the contract.

With regard to bandwidth capacity, DETI has sought and has received assurances from Avanti that it has sufficient capacity to meet the needs of its current users. Avanti monitors and forecasts capacity requirements on an ongoing basis and will increase network capacity as required to ensure that it complies with the performance criteria of its contracts with end-users. The last capacity increase was conducted in December 2009 flowing from Avanti's consideration of forecast requirements for the first half of 2010.

In relation to the number of complaints received, since installation of Avanti services commenced in February 2009, 87 complaints have been received from 43 customers located in Northern Ireland. These are not high numbers when taken in the context that, to end December 2009, Avanti had installed services for 787 customers in NI. It is not possible to show the complaints figure separately for business and home users as many home packages are being used by small businesses.

## People Aged 50 and Above Currently in Employment

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the percentage of people aged 50 and above currently in employment; and for the equivalent figure in each of the last five years.  
**(AQW 4390/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** The table below provides estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the proportion of those aged 50 and over who are in employment in each of the last five years. Estimates for those aged 50 to state pension age are also provided for information.

### EMPLOYMENT RATES<sup>1</sup> FOR THOSE AGED OVER 50, 2005 - 2009

Period	Proportion in employment Aged 50+	Proportion in employment Aged 50 - 59/64 <sup>2</sup>
Jul-Sep 2005	33.9%	62.1%
Jul-Sep 2006	33.7%	61.1%
Jul-Sep 2007	32.7%	59.9%
Jul-Sep 2008	32.3%	59.7%
Jul-Sep 2009	33.1%	61.2%

**Source:** Northern Ireland Labour Force Survey (LFS).

- 1 The LFS is a sample survey and the estimates from it are therefore subject to sampling error.
- 2 Pre 2010 the state pension age was 59 for females and 64 for males.

## Vision for the North East Area

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment why the Northern Ireland Tourist Board did not invite a representative from Moyle District Council to attend the meeting about a 'Vision for the North East area' on 19 January 2010, when representatives from Larne, Ballymena and Coleraine Councils were invited.

**(AQW 4423/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** The recent meeting was an informal discussion around a range of issues and just one part of NITBs ongoing engagement programme with tourism partners across Northern Ireland to assist in better understanding local priorities, key product strengths and how everyone can work better together to maximize opportunities. Tourism is a huge industry with a broad range of stakeholders, and it is impossible to meaningfully meet with every partner in one meeting which is why there is an ongoing programme of both formal and informal meetings and events.

At the meeting on 19th January several tourism businesses within the Moyle area were represented. There will be further meetings and events in the future as part of NITBs ongoing engagement strategy with as many stakeholders in the area as possible, including Moyle District Council.

## Vision for the North East Area

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) if the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has apologised, or intends to apologise, to Moyle District Council for excluding it from the 'Vision for the North East area' meeting on 19 January 2010; (ii) if a reasonable explanation has been given; and (iii) to outline the criteria used when drawing up the invitation list.

**(AQW 4424/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** The recent meeting was an informal discussion and just one part of NITBs ongoing engagement programme with tourism partners across Northern Ireland to assist in better understanding local priorities, key product strengths and how everyone can work better together to maximize opportunities.

The NITB Chief Executive spoke with the Chief Executive of Moyle District Council on 29th January 2010 to outline the steps NITB is taking to try and increase its engagement with stakeholders across Northern Ireland. Tourism is a huge industry with a broad range of stakeholders and when meeting for discussion or at events it is not possible to include every partner on every occasion.

At the meeting on 19th January 2010 NITB sought to meet with a mix of public and private sector tourism partners and representative bodies from across the sector, and several tourism businesses within the Moyle area were represented.

## Tourism Meetings

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment on its policy of inviting relevant parties and groups for tourism meetings and events held by the Chief Executive.

**(AQW 4425/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** NITB does not operate a specific policy regarding invitees to meetings and events. In response to recent stakeholder research NITB is seeking to increase its ongoing programme of engagement particularly in the regions across Northern Ireland.

The context for our engagement is to maximise the opportunities for local and regional tourism development within a national framework of identified priorities. Tourism offers unparalleled potential to generate growth and jobs for Northern Ireland but faces the challenge of getting the vast range of government and industry agencies and organisations involved in tourism delivery to work better together in partnership with the private sector to pool efforts and resources to a common vision and goal.

NITB always attempts to engage as a wide a spectrum interests and providers within the tourism sector including, but not limited to, local councils, accommodation providers, event organisers, carriers, visitor attractions and developers.

## Geothermal Energy

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what contact she has had with the Utility Regulator regarding (i) geothermal energy; and (ii) the need for the regulator to accommodate the setting up of a geothermal energy network.

**(AQW 4455/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** My Department has had no discussions with the Utility Regulator on geothermal energy specifically or the setting up of a geothermal energy network.

DETI is however engaged with the Utility Regulator and other Departments on a project to examine the potential for renewable heat in Northern Ireland, which includes scoping out any potential contribution from geothermal energy.

DETI also chairs a cross departmental group on renewable heat which brings together expertise in the field and this group may consider geothermal issues as they emerge.

## Geothermal Energy

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if and when she will introduce a regulatory regime for the development of geothermal energy.

**(AQW 4456/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** My Department has no plans to introduce a regulatory regime to assist in the development of geothermal energy.

Current work underway in my Department to assess the potential for renewable heat in Northern Ireland needs to be completed so that the contribution that geothermal energy might play in the energy mix here can be fully identified.

## Geothermal Energy

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she expects all barriers to the development of geothermal energy to be removed by 2012.

**(AQW 4457/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment recognises that there are a number of legislative, technical and financial barriers to the development of geothermal energy in Northern Ireland.

Work to date on deep geothermal energy has been led by the Department's Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) and has addressed the issues of regulatory barriers and the risks associated with inadequate knowledge of the potential deep geothermal energy resource. GSNI is currently carrying out geophysical and geological research, under the Innovation Fund, aimed at reducing these risks.

GSNI has been a partner in an EU-funded project, Geothermal Regulations – Heat (GTR-H), which produced a Geothermal Energy Regulatory Framework, in November 2009, for use as a template for those countries without adequate legislation for geothermal energy exploration, development and production.

DETI is currently undertaking research into the potential for the development of a renewable heat market in Northern Ireland. The research will consider all types of renewable heat, including geothermal, and the measures needed to develop such a market.

## Fuel Bills

**Mr G Adams** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she has any plans to introduce a mandatory social tariff to permit money off fuel bills for people who are eligible, including vulnerable cancer patients.

**(AQW 4492/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** In response to Executive concerns about the impact of high energy costs on vulnerable consumers the Utility Regulator agreed to take forward work to establish the scope for regulatory action to make tariff changes aimed at helping to address fuel poverty. On 18 January 2010, the Regulator's Office issued a consultation paper entitled 'Assisting with Affordability Concerns for Vulnerable Energy Consumers' The consultation, which runs until 12 April, aims to identify the key issues that need to be debated and considered in the formulation of policy options for introducing 'affordability tariffs' within the Northern Ireland energy sector.

However, the impact of any tariff changes in Northern Ireland will need to be considered carefully, not least with regard to the proportion of consumers in need of assistance and the stage of development of competition in the energy market.

## Social Economy Enterprises

**Ms J McCann** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on the application by the Ulster Community Investment Trust to Invest NI to secure investment for social economy enterprises.

**(AQW 4527/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** Invest NI met the Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) in January to discuss the business case they had presented for additional loan fund capital and to identify other possible options for UCIT to consider taking forward. These options include broader Departmental interest, consolidation with other loan funds and an interest in a new EU Microfinance facility.

I understand that Invest NI are scheduled to meet UCIT again on 15 February 2010 to update on progress and advise of Invest NI's position.

## Hughes Christensen

**Ms D Purvis** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) what action her Department took to prevent the recent job losses at Hughes Christensen in East Belfast; and (ii) what action her Department is taking to ensure that workers are able to secure new employment.

**(AQW 4568/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:**

- (i) Invest NI, on my behalf, has been in close liaison with the Local Management Team of Hughes Christensen throughout, and prior to, the current period of recession. In 2007, Invest NI provided assistance to attract a new mobile project to the Plant. The introduction of the Polydiamond Carbonate Drill Bit Production Line was intended to strengthen the Plant's competitive position within the Group by widening its product portfolio beyond Tri-cone Drill Bits.

Since then, up until the end of December 2009, a number of different schemes were discussed with the local management team in an effort to minimise the impact of global recession on the plant. However, despite this due to significant ongoing overcapacity in the market, the Senior US Management Team was forced into instigating redundancies in 2009. Invest NI Officials and those from the Department for Employment and Learning continued to liaise with the Local Management Team during this period with a view to intervening as appropriate.

Regrettably, on the 28th January 2010, representatives from the Senior US Management Team informed Invest NI that they had decided to enter into 90 day consultation with a view to possible factory closure. Invest NI are continuing to liaise with the Senior US Management Team in relation to this. No further comment can be made at this stage.

- (ii) Invest NI in association with the Department for Employment and Learning are continuing to liaise with the local management team and have already offered to assist employees explore other employment options. The Local Management Team have indicated that they will draw down on these services when appropriate.



## Land at Melmount Road, Strabane

**Mr P Doherty** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide a timescale for the completion of the acquisition of the 11.5 hectares of land at Melmount Road, Strabane, for the development of a Business Park.

**(AQW 4569/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** In seeking to address the lack of available industrial land in the Strabane district Invest NI is actively progressing a strategic project to acquire new land.

In August 2009 the agency submitted two planning applications (full and outline) seeking approval for the development of a new business park in the district. A c44 acres gross site at Melmount Road has been identified as the preferred location, its acquisition, however, is dependent upon Invest NI achieving acceptable planning approval and expiry of the statutory juridical review period for the proposed development.

Prior to the submission of the applications Invest NI engaged with both Planning Service and other key stakeholders through the Pre Application Discussion process. Invest NI is hopeful that this engagement will assist Planning Service with its consultation process and enable an early decision to be provided.

Invest NI will continue to work with Planning Service, the council and key stakeholders to achieve a successful outcome.

## Avaya

**Mr A Ross** asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if her Department has given any financial assistance to the U.S. company Avaya.

**(AQW 4572/10)**

**Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:** No financial assistance agreement was ever entered into between Avaya and Invest NI. As such, no grant assistance has ever been paid by Invest NI to Avaya.

## Department of the Environment

### Impact of Salting and Gritting on Fresh Waterways

**Mr W Clarke** asked the Minister of the Environment what is the environmental impact on fresh waterways of the prolonged periods of salting and gritting of roads.

**(AQW 4303/10)**

**Minister of the Environment (Mr E Poots):** There are minimal short-term impacts to the ecology of watercourses, from de-icing/gritting and the salt input to rivers is not prolonged enough to cause significant long-term damage. As salt from roads tends to enter watercourses during a thaw, it is diluted relatively quickly. Northern Ireland Environment Agency carries out an extensive freshwater biological monitoring programme, sampling rivers and streams, and have found no evidence of significant impact on aquatic wildlife from the addition of salt and grit to roads.

### Developments Owned by Fred Fraser

**Mr B Wilson** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any planning enforcement actions initiated on developments owned by Fred Fraser or associated companies, in each of the last 20 years.

**(AQW 4345/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** My Department's records indicate that since 2000 no enforcement action has been taken against the late Mr Fred Fraser or any of his known associated companies.

To provide accurate figures for the information requested over the last 20 years would require a manual check of records which is disproportionate in terms of time and cost.

## Planning Applications

**Mr B Wilson** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any representations made by Peter Robinson MP, MLA to his Department since 2000, in relation to planning applications by (i) Ken Campbell or associated companies; and (ii) Fred Fraser or associated companies.

**(AQW 4346/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** My Department's records indicate that since 2000 Mr Peter Robinson made no representations to planning applications by Ken Campbell or associated companies and no representations to planning applications by Fred Fraser or associated companies.

It should be noted that the details of the Directors of a company are seldom relevant to the processing of a planning application as planning permission relates to land rather than an individual.

As it is not uncommon for developers to establish a company to deal with a specific development proposal to provide accurate figures for the information requested would require both a company search and manual checking of files which is disproportionate in terms of time and cost.

## Release of Whitelands at Millmount, Dundonald

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment to detail any representations made by Peter Robinson MP, MLA to his Department, in relation to the release of Whitelands at Millmount, Dundonald, for housing development.

**(AQW 4347/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** According to the report on the Public Inquiry under Article 31 on the major planning applications for housing development on Belfast Urban Area Plan Whiteland between the development limit and inner edge of the Green Belt no representations were submitted by Peter Robinson MP, MLA.

## Craigmore Landfill Site

**Mr J Dallat** asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many site inspections has the Northern Ireland Environment Agency carried out on the Craigmore landfill site, near Garvagh, in the last three months; and (ii) how many complaints have been received about the site.

**(AQW 4366/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:**

- 1) NIEA has carried out 5 site inspections on the Craigmore landfill site, in the last three months. Odour has been detected on 4 occasions and the operator has been asked to submit a gas management plan.
- 2) NIEA has received 16 complaints since the site opened in October 2008. One complaint in 2008 regarding a tear in the netting system which was quickly repaired. There were 12 complaints in 2009, 7 of which were about odour. Agency staff recorded a slight odour on the site however there was no evidence of off-site odour. The other complaints were about out-of-hour's activity and these were passed to the Planning Service for their attention. Since the start of 2010 there have been 3 complaints all in relation to odour. The operator has been asked to submit capping and gas proposals.

## Council Chief Executives

**Mr A Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment what plans he has to make council Chief Executives more accountable to him for their actions and decisions.

**(AQW 4369/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** Council Chief Executives are employed by the individual councils and as such, they are fully accountable to their employing council for their actions and decisions. I am willing to consider proposals for change as part of RPA.

## George Best Belfast City Airport

**Mr A Easton** asked the Minister of the Environment when he will make a final decision on whether to hold a public enquiry on the extension of the runway at the George Best Belfast City Airport.

**(AQW 4371/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** The application to extend the runway at George Best Belfast City Airport is still under consideration by my officials in Planning Service and I await their report. I hope to be in a position to make a decision on the procedural route that will be taken shortly.

## Preventative and Early Intervention Measures

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment for an estimate of the percentage of his annual budget which is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.

**(AQW 4388/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** During this year approximately 48% (£83,792,950) of my Department's gross annual budget (£174,423,000) will be directed towards preventative and early intervention measures. Measures taken include monitoring of water quality and waste management in order to prevent environmental damage, the provision of grants to prevent deterioration of built heritage and the environment, prevention of unauthorised development through the development management process and improving road safety which contributes to the prevention of road casualties and reduction of vehicle crime.

## Green Grave Burial System

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of the Environment if the new pre-formed Green Grave burial system complies with burial regulations.

**(AQW 4406/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** While my Department has responsibility for the Burial Ground Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992, it is not for my Department to determine whether the new pre-formed Greengrave burial system would comply with those Regulations. The Regulations require district councils to comply with certain conditions of burial and it is for them to decide if such pre-formed burial systems would meet those conditions.

## Landfill Sites in the Ringsend Area of County Derry

**Mr B Leonard** asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the need for three landfill sites in the Ringsend area of County Derry in the context of (i) recessionary pressures; and (ii) increased recycling resulting in less landfill waste.

**(AQW 4426/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** There is currently one landfill in the Ringsend area which is being operated by a private sector contractor. A further two applications for landfills are with planning service and are being processed.

One of the two applications relates to the Cam Road site which has been identified by the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) in its waste management plan as the preferred option for disposal of municipal waste in this region, following a rigorous site selection process which included public consultation and meetings.

The other application relates to a proposed inert landfill to be operated by another private sector contractor. This application has to fulfil the need criteria set out in Policy WM 3 (Waste Disposal) of Planning and Policy Statement 11.

Recycling rates in Northern Ireland have increased from some 5% in 1999 to some 35% currently, and must reach a minimum of 50% by 2020. Increased recycling will undoubtedly further reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

This reduction and the potential impact of the recession are factors that the NWRWMG and the private sector contractor will need to take into account when considering the need for additional landfill facilities

## Planning Applications

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of planning applications submitted where the proposed site was in an area of high scenic value in each of the last 10 years; and (ii) the number of these applications which were approved.

**(AQW 4440/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** Areas of high scenic value are designated to protect areas of landscape merit and are currently found in the following Development Plans:-

- Draft BMAP 2015
- Derry Area Plan 2011
- Draft Magherafelt Area Plan 2015
- Ards and Down Area Plan 2015

In each of the last 10 years the number of applications submitted where the site was in an area of high scenic value and the number of these which were approved, refused, withdrawn and which are currently being processed are as follows:-

### APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED WITHIN AREAS OF HIGH SCENIC VALUE

Year Received	Volume Received	Withdrawn	Approved	Refused	Live
2000	197	20	142	34	1
2001	201	29	146	24	0
2002	213	17	169	26	1
2003	238	27	162	48	0
2004	243	27	165	48	1
2005	190	19	147	23	0
2006	198	19	166	10	2
2007	218	20	170	9	19
2008	167	11	137	4	15
2009	129	6	91	5	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1495</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>66</b>

**Source:** MVM 20/20 Planner

1. Withdrawn, Approved, Refused and Live application figures are based on the applications received within that year.
2. Only full, outline and reserved matters have been included in the above figures.
3. These figures have been extracted from a live dataset which is continuously updated and validated. They should therefore be regarded as indicative only at this point in time and should not be compared with any previous figures published by the Agency.

## Road Deaths

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of the Environment what new initiatives his Department is considering to address the problem of road fatalities.

**(AQO 683/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** In the near future, I will be consulting on the development of a new road safety strategy to be introduced before the end of the year. The draft paper is with the Executive and I will be discussing it with the Environment Committee on Thursday.

Officials have engaged with road safety partners and other interested parties in developing over 170 possible measures to improve safety on our roads. These measures, along with proposed new targets and performance indicators will inform the upcoming public consultation.

My officials are working on a programme of proposals to change our driver training and testing systems. The key objective of the "Learning To Drive" proposals is to reduce the number of young and novice drivers killed or seriously injured by better preparing them to cope with the challenges of driving unsupervised in modern conditions.

I also intend to consult shortly on Graduated Driver Licensing to reduce the exposure to risk for new drivers and to improve driving standards in Northern Ireland. These measures could place certain restrictions on learner and restricted drivers which will gradually be lifted as the driver gains more experience. Amongst the measures, I am considering would be changes to the current 45 mph speed restriction on learner and replacing the current 'R' driver scheme.

I was heartened by the strong support for lowering the limits following the public consultation on drink driving carried out last year. I have already indicated my willingness to reduce the limit.

Earlier this month the PSNI called for powers to seize vehicles from drink drive offenders and referred to powers already in place in Scotland. I am prepared to look at this and have already asked my officials to work with the NIO, PSNI and the Courts Service to determine the experience in Scotland with such powers and the nature and extent of any powers that might be applicable here.

## Planning Reform

**Ms A Lo** asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on planning reform.

**(AQO 689/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** Members will be aware that the wide-ranging proposals for reform of the planning system, including the measures necessary to transfer planning functions to the new district councils in 2011, were subject to public consultation from July – October last year.

Almost 500 people, representing a wide-range of sectors and organisations, attended one or more of the consultation events and 264 formal written responses were received. As you can imagine, the comments and responses received reflected a vast array of, often conflicting, viewpoints. Nevertheless, in general terms there was broad support for the vast majority of the reform proposals.

Following the public consultation I have now formulated my final policy position, taking full account of the views expressed through the consultation, and subsequently submitted these policy proposals to Executive colleagues for consideration on 7 January 2010, with a view to seeking clearance at an

Executive meeting as soon as possible thereafter. Members will appreciate that I am not in a position to advise on the detailed final policy position in advance of Executive clearance. Subject to Executive agreement, the final policy position will be made public thereafter and we can then move forward with the legislative process.

Given the extremely tight legislative timescale to which we are working it is essential that Executive clearance of the final policy is secured in the coming weeks if we are to remain on course to deliver the reforms by the 2011 deadline.

## Clean Neighbourhoods

**Lord Browne** asked the Minister of the Environment when consultation will begin on the clean neighbourhoods legislation.

**(AQO 690/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** Subject to Executive clearance I would very much like to commence the consultation exercise on a draft Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill in February.

## Road Safety: Speed Cameras

**Mr P Maskey** asked the Minister of the Environment how Speed Enforcement Camera Systems have improved road safety.

**(AQO 692/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** The Northern Ireland Safety Camera Scheme was launched on 1st July 2003. As part of the first phase of the scheme there were 4 fixed camera sites, 31 mobile camera sites and 33 mobile camera routes.

Data was collected over the 3 years immediately prior to the launch and compared with the 3 years subsequent to the launch. These data demonstrated a 41% reduction in the number of fatal or serious injury collisions and a 36% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured at these sites.

The decline in the number of fatal or serious injury collisions at sites not covered by the scheme was around 20.5% over the same period.

In the 2002/03 Financial Year there were 169 fatal or serious injury collisions at the sites. In 2008/2009 there were 76 fatal or serious injury collisions; a reduction of 55%. The decline in the number of fatal or serious injury collisions in Northern Ireland generally, was around 24.5% over the same period.

These are significant reductions and a clear demonstration that safety cameras, both fixed and mobile, reduce fatal or serious injury collisions.

## Illegal Instruction of Learner Drivers

**Mr A Ross** asked the Minister of the Environment how many incidents of illegal instruction of learner drivers have been detected in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 4485/10)**

**Minister of the Environment:** Since the PSNI is the prosecuting authority for cases of illegal driving instruction, my Department may not be aware of every incident. However, the Driver & Vehicle Agency, which maintains the register of approved driving instructors, is aware of two cases of illegal or unregistered instruction that were detected and prosecuted in 2007 and of one further case that is now pending.

## Department of Finance and Personnel

### Central Procurement Directorate Staff

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many staff within Central Procurement Directorate have been subject to (i) internal investigation; (ii) disciplinary measures; (iii) demotion; or (iv) termination of contract, in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 4073/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr S Wilson):** The information requested is as follows:

(i)\* NIL

(ii) NIL

(iii) NIL

(iv) NIL

\* includes Dignity at Work and discipline investigations.

Response period 1 February 2007 – 31 January 2010.

### Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) which goods and services provided by his Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by his Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods.

**(AQW 4246/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Details of the relevant goods and services, together with the transaction data and percentages requested for the Department of Finance and Personnel (including its agencies) for the last five financial years are provided in the attached tables.

The information is provided on the basis of the last five complete financial years representing the basis of preparation of the Department's accounts.

#### 2008/09

Type of goods/ services provided by DFP that can be paid for online	Total number of these transactions processed during 2008/09						% of payments made online
	Online	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other Method	Total	
General Register Office Certificate Applications	6,001	10,214	4,387	16,358	28,886	65,846	9.11
LandWeb Direct Services	317,920	3,523	0	880	0	322,323	98.63
Supply of Mapping Products*	11,180	5,600	0	0	1,000	17,780	62.88

\* Information on the numbers of mapping transactions made via other payment methods is not readily available. Data provided above is based on a manual exercise providing a best estimate.



**2007/08**

Type of goods/ services provided by DFP that can be paid for online	Total number of these transactions processed during 2007/08						% of payments made online
	Online	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other Method	Total	
General Register Office Certificate Applications	12,577	12,744	5,884	18,661	24,618	74,484	16.89
LandWeb Direct Services	382,574	4,428	0	1,106	0	388,108	98.57
Supply of Mapping Products*	18,248						

\* Information on the numbers of mapping transactions made via other payment methods is not readily available.

**2006/07**

Type of goods/ services provided by DFP that can be paid for online	Total number of these transactions processed during 2006/07						% of payments made online
	Online	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other Method	Total	
General Register Office Certificate Applications	15,357	15,474	7,110	21,154	18,912	78,007	19.69
LandWeb Direct Services	362,177	5,891	0	1,496	0	369,564	98.00
Supply of Mapping Products*	9,562						

\* Information on the numbers of mapping transactions made via other payment methods is not readily available.

**2005/06**

Type of goods/ services provided by DFP that can be paid for online	Total number of these transactions processed during 2005/06						% of payments made online
	Online	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other Method	Total	
General Register Office Certificate Applications*	*	14,102	6,339	19,477	25,460*	65,378	*

Type of goods/ services provided by DFP that can be paid for online	Total number of these transactions processed during 2005/06						% of payments made online
	Online	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other Method	Total	
LandWeb Direct Services	283,967	5,680	0	1,420	0	291,067	97.56
Supply of Mapping Products	Mapping services did not become available online until 2006/07						

\* All telephone and online general register office certificate applications during the 2005/06 financial year were recorded as credit card payments, and hence fall within the "other method" category.

### 2004/05

Type of goods/ services provided by DFP that can be paid for online	Total number of these transactions processed during 2004/05						% of payments made online
	Online	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other Method	Total	
General Register Office Certificate Applications*	Breakdown by transaction type not readily available.						
LandWeb Direct Services	190,216	6,884	0	1,721	0	198,821	95.67
Supply of Mapping Products	Mapping services did not become available online until 2006/07						

## Consultations on Building Regulations

**Mr D O'Loan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the consultations carried out by his Department since August 2009 on (i) existing Building Regulations; and (ii) new Regulations introduced in 2009.

**(AQW 4274/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** There have been no consultations carried out on existing Building Regulations since August 2009.

There were no new Regulations introduced in 2009, however the Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (SR 2010 No. 1) were made on 4 January 2010, and will come into effect on 31 March 2010.

## Building Regulations (NI) 2000

**Mr D O'Loan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if he plans to alter Part F (Conservation of Fuel and power) of the Building Regulations (NI) 2000 to provide for further reductions in the Carbon Emission Rate of 25% by 2010 and 44% by 2013, as is planned for the rest of the UK.

**(AQW 4275/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** The figures quoted above are the regulatory targets proposed for the England & Wales building regulations. My officials continue to work closely with their counterparts in the Department of Communities and Local Government to examine the outcome of their consultation paper on this proposal for England & Wales and to finalise the calculation methodologies and technical detail for their amendment.

Once this work has been concluded, officials will consult on proposals for an appropriate and comparative set of regulations for Northern Ireland, to come into effect as soon after England & Wales as possible. It would not be appropriate to pre-empt the outcome of the consultation.

## Birth Rate

**Mr T Lunn** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for (i) the birth rate in each of the last five years; (ii) the projection for the next two years; and (iii) the number of non-national children registered in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 4297/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Table 1 below shows the annual birth rate<sup>1</sup> between 2004 and 2008 and the projected the annual birth rate<sup>1</sup> between 2009 and 2011.

Birth registration does not record nationality; the nearest proxy is country of birth. Table 2 gives the number of births registered in Northern Ireland from 2004 to 2009 Q1-Q3P where the parent(s) country of birth is outside the UK and Ireland.

**TABLE 1: ACTUAL AND PROJECTED BIRTH RATES<sup>1</sup>, 2004-2011**

Registration Year	Birth Rate <sup>1</sup>
2004	60.6
2005	60.4
2006	62.5
2007	65.1
2008	68.2
2009 projection	67.2
2010 projection	67.1
2011 projection	67.1

**TABLE 2: BIRTHS REGISTERED IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO PARENT(S) BORN OUTSIDE THE UK AND IRELAND, 2004-2009 QUARTER 1-QUARTER 3 (Q1-Q3<sup>P</sup>).**

Registration Year	Births to parent(s) born outside the UK and Ireland	All Resident Live Births Registered
2004	671	22,318
2005	614	22,328
2006	921	23,272
2007	1,351	24,451
2008	1,726	25,631
2009 Q1-Q3P	1,335	18,943

**1** Number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-44, **P** Provisional data

## Valuation of Properties in New Developments

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action he is taking to speed up the process of valuation of properties in new developments to allow householders to apply for rates reductions.

**(AQW 4319/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** District Valuers within Land & Property Services (LPS) aim to value all new houses and enter these in the Valuation List as soon as a property is capable of occupation. LPS is specifically targeting a reduction in the number of new houses awaiting inspection and valuation and is making substantial improvements. LPS works closely with all district councils, in particular their Building Control Offices, to assist in targeting completions.

Although new houses are constantly added to the workload, the total number of outstanding cases continues to reduce. The table below illustrates the current position and the progress being made.

### NEW HOUSES AWAITING SURVEY AND VALUATION

Date	Total Number Awaiting Completion
As at 31 March 2008	8,644
As at 31 March 2009	5,228
As at 31 January 2010	2,653

LPS recognises the impact of backdated rate bills on ratepayers, and seeks to offer extended payment arrangements in such cases where this is requested by ratepayers. LPS also works with ratepayers to ensure that the benefits and reliefs available to ratepayers are applied for the full period of entitlement.

## Capital Projects

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of spending on capital projects in this financial year to date.

**(AQW 4321/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Capital investment covers a wide range of expenditure and thousands of individual projects. The information routinely provided by Departments in financial monitoring returns does not therefore separately identify each individual project.

Consequently, the information required to provide a reply to your question is not held centrally within the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and could only be obtained comprehensively across all Departments at disproportionate cost.

Regarding my own Department, DFP Properties Division has indicated that it has planned to incur expenditure across a number of capital projects during the financial year 2009/10. These projects are listed at Annex A.

### ANNEX A

Department of Finance And Personnel (AQW 4321/10)

**CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT - TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2009/2010  
DFP - PROPERTIES DIVISION**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Total Estimated Spend 2009/2010 £m</b>
New Building for DRD Roads Service.	Cookstown	0.360
Fit Out for DFP Properties Division, Causeway Exchange.	Belfast	0.519
Goodwood House, Refurbishment of Floors 6, 7 and 8.	Belfast	0.390
Glasshouses, Stormont Estate.	Belfast	0.030
Longbridge House, Waring Street.	Belfast	0.100
<b>Total Estimated Spend 2009/2010</b>		<b>1.399</b>

## Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if they can confirm that there will not be an underspend on the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2.

**(AQW 4322/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2 (ISNI2) covers the period 2008-2018. The figures published for the first three years reflect the capital investment allocations made to departments in Budget 2008-11. However, the ISNI shows gross capital investment whereas departmental budgets are set net of capital receipts.

The years 2011-2018 shown in the ISNI are indicative, for planning purposes only, as allocations can only be confirmed once funding has been agreed with the Treasury through the Spending Review process.

Departmental spending performance is measured annually against their final plan position for the year. This position incorporates changes to departmental budgets that have been agreed by the Executive through the in-year monitoring process.

In my statement to the Assembly on 7 July 2009, I announced that in 2008-09 departments delivered some £1.5 billion of net capital investment. This position reflected an overspend of £16.6 million against final plan. This was due to the fact that the Department for Regional Development incurred an overspend in respect of additional costs arising from the reclassification of Northern Ireland Water, while the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development had an overspend in relation to the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme. In both cases the Executive was aware of the potential for further costs to be incurred.

Provisional Outturn information for 2009-10 will not be available until June/July this year. The position for 2010-11 is currently being reviewed by the Executive.

## Preventative and Early Intervention Measures

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the percentage of his annual budget which is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.

**(AQW 4324/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** In 2008/09 my department spent an estimated 1.8% of its annual budget on planned preventative maintenance on the NICS office estate.

## Cost of Deferring Water Charges

**Mr D McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for a breakdown of the estimated £210m cost of deferring water charges in 2010/11, giving non-cash costs and revenue shortfall.

**(AQW 4327/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** There is no simple breakdown of the £210m funding requirement. This represents the difference between the Budget 2008-11 allocation for NI Water (NIW) and the latest Budget requirement. The Budget 2008-11 position accounted for NIW as a Government owned Company (GoCo) and was based on full domestic charging having been introduced. The latest budget requirement now identified for 2010-11 takes account of the fact that domestic charging has not been introduced and NIW is being accounted for as an NDPB. This funding requirement should be firmed up once the Executive has considered the final determination of the Price Control (PC10) and assesses the appropriate funding envelope for NIW for the next three years.

Approximately £72m of the overall net cost of deferring domestic water charging relates to depreciation (non cash cost) and is due to the reclassification from GoCo to NDPB. The remainder is primarily due to the net lost income.

## Flights for Civil Servants

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 3801/10, to explain why his Department's travel desk deems it unnecessary to record the number of flights booked for staff that go unused.

**(AQW 4357/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Given that the number of flights booked for civil servants in DFP but not used is relatively low, the cost of implementing an administrative system to record, collate and monitor them would not represent value for money. My Department is required to operate efficiently and to keep its administration costs to a minimum.

## Consultations on Building Regulations

**Mr D O'Loan** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail any consultations planned for 2010 on (i) new Building Regulations; or (ii) Amendments to existing Building Regulations.

**(AQW 4376/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** There are three consultations planned for 2010 on both existing and new building regulations, namely:

- An amendment to the Building Regulations (NI) 2000 that addresses issues relating to the lifespan of building regulations approval and how it should apply to applications for more than one dwelling. The proposed amendment will also clarify certain issues relating to the application of Parts F (Conservation of fuel and power) and E (Fire safety) of the Regulations. This consultation is currently planned for Spring 2010;
- An amendment to the Building (Prescribed Fees) Regulations (NI) 1997, that will address the level of fees payable and other mechanisms relating to the fee structure; and
- Proposals for new Building Regulations that consolidate previous regulations and implement changes brought about by the Building Regulations (Amendment) Act 2009. The consultation will also include proposals for technical uplifts to four parts of the regulations, namely Part C (Preparation of site and resistance to moisture), Part F (Conservation of fuel and power), Part G (Sound insulation), and Part K (Ventilation).

It is anticipated that consultation on the latter two proposals will take place in the second half of 2010.

## Fairtrade Products

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, further to his commitment to ensure that all new catering contracts specify that Fairtrade products must be made available in new buildings and at official functions, how many contracts have been awarded in accordance with this criteria since this commitment was given; and to list these contracts.

**(AQW 4383/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Since the original commitment was given in 2006, all contractors supplying catering services to the Northern Ireland Civil Service have been required to provide fair trade products for hospitality services and to offer, where appropriate, fair trade products for purchase by staff. This requirement was included in all new contracts and also in those contracts which were extended.

7 new contracts have been awarded since 2006 for catering services in the following buildings:- Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute Northern Ireland (AFBINI), Great Northern Tower, Goodwood House, Stormont Castle, Clare House and College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

## Staff Uniforms

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what proportion of staff uniforms purchased through central procurement contracts are made from Fairtrade fabrics.

**(AQW 4384/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) do not have any arrangements for the procurement of staff uniforms for the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS).

## Preventative and Early Intervention Measures

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the percentage of the budget for all Government Departments which is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.

**(AQW 4389/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** The Department of Finance and Personnel does not collect data from Northern Ireland departments in respect of the amount of funding directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.

The broad range of activities that could possibly be considered as relating to preventative and early intervention measures, and the absence of a precise definition encompassing all public services, means that it is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the amount of funding that is allocated for this purpose.

## Capital Investment

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if the expected net capital investment of £1.5bn, as set out in March 2009 by the previous Minister, was spent by the Executive in 2008/09.

**(AQW 4396/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** My statement to the Assembly on 7 July 2009 informed members that £1.5bn of net capital expenditure was reported by Northern Ireland departments for 2008-09 at Provisional Outturn.



## Procurement and Tendering Procedures

**Mr B McElduff** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how his Department is improving procurement and tendering procedures to provide opportunities for local construction companies, including those which are not currently registered with Constructionline.

**(AQW 4418/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** Public procurement is subject to EU Treaty obligations, which require freedom of movement, transparency and non-discrimination on the basis of nationality. Public sector buyers therefore cannot restrict their purchases of goods, works or services to favour local firms.

Government recognises the important contribution that local construction companies make to the economy of Northern Ireland and in response to the economic downturn, my department established the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland (CIFNI) Procurement Task Group. Since the publication of the Task Group's report, Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) and the other Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPEs) have been working with the Construction Industry Group for Northern Ireland (CIGNI) to develop a number of measures to standardise and streamline the pre-qualification process and thereby maximise opportunities for Small and Medium sized Enterprises.

The emerging proposals have been incorporated into a standard Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) template to be used to shortlist firms for invitation to tender. The PQQ:-

- includes proportionate minimum standards for experience and financial standing;
- accommodates applications from consortia;
- streamlines the assessment of health and safety competence; and
- removes the need for firms registered with Constructionline to submit financial information for each competition.

Constructionline is a register of contractors and consultants that have undergone a preliminary assessment for work in the public and private sectors. Greater use of Constructionline will reduce tendering costs and free up valuable resources that can be used to deliver best value for money projects.

Where a firm is not registered with Constructionline, it will be able to apply by submitting financial and other details with its PQQ. This information will be passed to Constructionline for assessment to the same standard.

It is anticipated that, subject to final agreement, the standard PQQ will be introduced for use by all CoPEs from 1 March 2010.

## Rate Arrears

**Mr D McNarry** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what impact rate arrears will have on Executive spending plans in the current Comprehensive Spending Review period.

**(AQW 4432/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** In line with the principles of Resource Accounting and Budgeting, from 2008-09, regional rates income has been budgeted for on an accruals basis.

This involves recognising costs and revenues as they are earned or incurred, irrespective of the period of receipt or payment. Therefore, there will be little, if any, impact from rate arrears over the Budget 2008-11 period.

## Land Registry Service Staffing

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for the total staffing costs of the Land Registry Service in each of the last five financial years.

**(AQW 4482/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** The Land Registry (the office responsible for registering the ownership of land in Northern Ireland) was formerly part of the organisation known as Land Registers of Northern Ireland. It merged with, and became part of, Land & Property Services on 1 April 2008.

The table below shows the staffing costs in connection with land registration for the last five financial years.

Financial Year	Staffing Costs
2004-2005	£4.490m
2005-2006	£5.258m
2006-2007	£5.378m
2007-2008	£6.364m
2008-2009	£4.352m

## District Rates

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the average expected increase or decrease in district rates for (i) the Portaferry ward; (ii) the Ards district; and (iii) Northern Ireland as a whole.

**(AQW 4507/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** District rates are set by each individual local council. Rates for the incoming financial year are normally struck by each council in February. It is not possible to know what the increase or decrease in district rates in the Ards area will be until that council sets its rate for the coming year.

The overall rate bill is made up of a regional and district rate. In 2008, the Executive agreed to freeze the domestic regional rate for the life of the CSR period. There will therefore be no increase in the domestic regional rate element in 2010/11.

## Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

### Cost of Smoking Cessation Programmes and Products

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much money was spent (i) in total; and (ii) by each Health and Social Care Trust, on (a) smoking cessation programmes; and (b) 'stop smoking' products issued free to the general public, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 4125/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey):** Action to support smokers to quit is an important element of smoking reduction policy. Considerable investment has therefore been made in smoking cessation services across Northern Ireland.

A total of £3,131,283 has been spent on funding for smoking cessation services across Northern Ireland since 2004/05. Information on funding is not available by Health and Social Care Trust.

In addition, from 2006/07, £1,556,000 has been spent specifically for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT), available free of charge to those who are eligible for free prescriptions. Spend on NRT is not available by Trust area.

It should be noted that any reduction in smoking related illnesses would greatly benefit the health service in terms of reduced overall costs for treating such illnesses. The latest available figures, which

were for 2003/04, show that the estimated applicable total hospital costs here of treating cancer, circulatory and respiratory diseases, of which smoking has been a contributory factor, was £74m.

## Procurement Process

**Mrs M O'Neill** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given the concerns that have been raised in relation to value for money in the procurement process of his Department, what assurances can he give that the process will be operated in an objective manner which promotes value for money and transparency.

**(AQW 4133/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** My Department's approach to procurement has always been governed by Northern Ireland public sector procurement policy. Operating within that framework and through Centres of Procurement Expertise, we will continue to secure value for money using fair and transparent procedures.

## Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he can confirm that his Department's guidance on the termination of pregnancy has been taken out of circulation and that all Health and Social Care Trusts have informed doctors of the High Court ruling regarding this guidance.

**(AQW 4153/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Following the decision of the High Court in the SPUC Judicial Review, I am currently considering my options. I will be making an announcement in due course.

## Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if his Department is re-drafting its termination of pregnancy guidance in light of the Judicial Review in October 2009.

**(AQW 4155/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Following the decision of the High Court in the SPUC Judicial Review, I am currently considering my options. I will be making an announcement in due course.

## Occupational Therapists' Referrals

Mr J Shannon asked Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if she would consider applying a rule of construction to the timescales in which Occupational Therapists' referrals can be made on applications for disabled facilities grants.

**(AQW 4157/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Occupational therapists' referrals in relation to Disabled Facilities Grant are subject to the existing Priorities for Action target of 13 weeks from referral to initial OT assessment.

## Spinal or Neck Injuries

**Mr B McElduff** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why people who suffer spinal or neck injuries as a result of road traffic accidents in the Omagh area are taken to the Erne Hospital before being transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

**(AQW 4169/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Northern Ireland Ambulance Service crews, in line with current best practice, will take a cautionary approach to assessing patients with potential spinal or neck injuries following road traffic collisions. While some spinal injuries are clinically apparent at the scene, the majority are not. Given the potential risk of long term disability, should crews consider such an injury may have occurred, patients will be taken to the nearest appropriately equipped hospital so that the presence or absence of an injury may be confirmed. The requirement for onward transfer to specialist care is then assessed in light of the individual patient's clinical needs.

## X-ray Scans in Dalriada Hospital

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many x-ray scans were carried out on patients whilst they were recuperating in Dalriada Hospital in (i) 2007; (ii) 2008; and (iii) 2009.

**(AQW 4176/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The number of x-rays carried out on patients whilst they were recuperating in Dalriada Hospital in 2007, 2008 and 2009 is shown in the table below, broken down by CT Scan, and Plain Film X-ray.

Year	No. of x-ray scans carried out on patients whilst they were recuperating in Dalriada Hospital	
	CT Scans	Plain Film X-rays
2007	4	52
2008	2	59
2009	2	74

**Source:** Northern Health and Social Care Trust

## Dedicated Drugs Rehabilitation Centre

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration has been given to setting up a dedicated drugs rehabilitation centre.

**(AQW 4190/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Overall regional commissioning and planning of substance misuse services, including access to specialist community based residential facilities, is now co-ordinated via the joint Health and Social Care Board (HSCB)/Public Health Agency (PHA), Bamford Mental Health and Disability Implementation Taskforce.

At present in each Trust area there is access to:

- comprehensive Addictions Treatment services within secondary care (including community and residential/in-patient services); and
- generic primary/secondary care services who will meet physical/mental health needs that may arise because of the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

During 2010/2011 the HSCB/PHA will appraise current levels of service provision, including access to specialist substance misuse treatment services.

## Fraud Investigation Team

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 3676/10, to detail (i) the cost of funding the fraud investigation team; and (ii) the total revenue recovered by this team, in each of the last five years.

**(AQW 4207/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** During the financial years 2005/06 – 2009/10, the operational costs of the Counter Fraud Investigation Service (CFIS) of the Business Services Organisation amounted to £2.4m. During the same period, total financial recoveries amounted to £3.29m. The latter excludes an on-going investigation, which has resulted in civil proceedings being instigated to recover some £0.15m.

The above figures do not include savings secured for Health and Social Care by the deterrent effect of the operations of CFIS; evidenced by the reduction of some 50% in the level of fraudulent claims for exemption from payment of statutory Health Service charges for prescriptions, dental and ophthalmic treatment.

## Multiple Sclerosis respite in Dalriada Hospital

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many beds there are currently for Multiple Sclerosis respite in Dalriada Hospital; and (ii) how many of these beds will be withdrawn this year, and on what date.

**(AQW 4211/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** There are currently 12 beds for Multiple Sclerosis respite in Dalriada Hospital; none of these 12 beds will be withdrawn within the 2009/10 year.

## Dalriada Hospital

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what cuts to resources or services are being considered at Dalriada Hospital over the next 3 years.

**(AQW 4212/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Northern Health and Social Care Trust currently has no plans to reduce services at Dalriada Hospital.

## Nerve Stimulation

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 3754/10, when the two patients awaiting nerve stimulation at the Royal Victoria Hospital will receive their treatment.

**(AQW 4222/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** At 13th January two patients were waiting for vagus nerve stimulation at the Royal

Victoria Hospital. This waiting list will be cleared by the end of February 2010.

## Consultants on Sick Leave

**Ms C Ní Chuilín** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many consultants in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust are currently on sick leave; (ii) what arrangements the Trust has to cover their absence; and (iii) to provide a breakdown of the specialised care area and location of each absentee.

**(AQW 4226/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Department does not collect the data requested by specific grade of doctor, care area or location but by the medical and dental terms and conditions group.

Trust arrangements for covering absence of consultants varies according to each speciality and duration of absence. Measures include colleagues covering the emergency elements of the work or the recruitment of locums.

Information relating to sickness absence is published on a bi-annual basis the departmental website at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hrd/wpu/wpu-monitoring.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hrd/wpu/wpu-monitoring.htm).

## Maternity and Gynaecology Provision

**Ms C Ní Chuilín** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if maternity and gynaecology provision will be transferred from the Mater Hospital to the Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital. **(AQW 4227/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** There are no plans to move gynaecology and maternity services from the Mater to the Royal Jubilee at this time.

## Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act

**Ms C Ní Chuilín** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his budget is equality proofed; and how he is implementing Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act across his Department.

**(AQW 4228/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Individual CSR bids made by the Department were subject to high level equality impact assessments. Trusts carried out screening on their subsequent efficiency proposals and carried out full Equality Impact Assessments where screening indicated this was required. HSC bodies and I, personally, have engaged with the Unions and many other Stakeholders in the course of the process.

Fundamentally, however, there is nothing equal about imposing a blunt 3% CSR efficiency plan on all Departments. No final unified equality impact assessment of the CSR efficiency approach was shown to the Executive before they made their decision. I am now in the position of having scant time to consider fully the impact of the additional £92m cut being imposed on my budget in 2010/11. I am concerned too, to ensure that the impact of the distribution of the total additional cuts for 2010/11 is assessed for each department, rather than only the very marginal difference between proposed cuts and 'pro-rata'.

My Department screens all its policies to identify those that may have a significant adverse impact on or consequence for people in any of the Section 75 groups. If, during the screening process, it is decided that a policy or decision has the potential for adverse impact, an Equality Impact Assessment is conducted.

## Tyrone-Cavan Interconnector

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he will conduct an investigation into the potential detrimental effects on health of the proposed Tyrone-Cavan Interconnector, given that a planning application has now been submitted.

**(AQW 4229/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** My Department has no plans to commission any work associated with the planning application for the proposed Tyrone – Cavan Interconnector. I understand that the Environmental Statement that accompanies the planning application seeks to address relevant health issues and that the Public Health Agency and the Environmental Health Departments of a number of District Councils have been consulted.

## Child Protection Register

**Lord Morrow** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children are currently on the Child Protection Register within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, broken down by area.

**(AQW 4230/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Information is not available in the form requested.

## Investing for Health Strategy

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for the proposed new timescales for the the review of the Investing for Health Strategy that was scheduled for 2009.

**(AQW 4249/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The review of Investing for Health commenced in July 2009. It is currently anticipated that the review will report by the end of April 2010.

Recommendations from the review will help inform a longer term programme of policy development.

## Contact Youth

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what funding has been allocated for Contact Youth this financial year; and for the following year.

**(AQW 4250/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** During the financial year 2009/10, £869992 has been allocated to Contact Youth.

Contact Youth provides a range of services which support implementation of a number of public health strategies including Investing for Health, suicide prevention, mental health promotion, and sexual violence prevention. Contact Youth also delivers the regional 24/7 "Lifeline" crisis response telephone helpline service.

Funding allocations for 2010/2011 have not yet been agreed, and future funding for the provision of the Lifeline service will be dependant on an extension of the contract for a further year.

## Contact Youth

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have Contact Youth assisted through their lifeline system in each of the last two years.

**(AQW 4251/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** A total of 140,893 calls have been made to Lifeline since the service became operational at the end of January 2008. The service operators, Contact Youth, estimate that almost half of all callers use the helpline as a one-off or occasional repeat resource.

In addition to initial over the phone help, callers can, where appropriate, be referred for ongoing support. This is in the form of ongoing telephone or face-to-face counselling and/or specialised therapeutic support. By the end of December 2009, 8655 Lifeline clients had received additional support. Of these 8655, 4577 clients received counselling and support from mental health service professionals, and a further 4078 were referred to other Lifeline "wraparound" services, such as mentoring, befriending, and complementary therapies as follows:

April 2008 – March 2009 11,574 sessions provided to 1942 clients

April 2009 – December 2009 14,571 sessions provided to 2136 clients

## Non-care Elements for Care Home Residents

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the estimated annual cost to the public purse of non-care elements for care home residents such as food and accommodation.

**(AQW 4252/10)**



**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Research undertaken by my Department has indicated that the cost of non-care elements in care homes can range between one half and two thirds of the total tariff. It is not, however, possible to determine the exact cost to the public purse of these elements as the total tariff for each placement is not constant and will vary depending on factors such as the assessed needs of the individual and the availability of appropriate placements. Furthermore, the cost to the public purse is reduced through each resident's individually assessed financial contribution towards the total tariff.

## Review of Public Administration

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nursing posts have been lost in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust through the Review of Public Administration. **(AQW 4257/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** None. The most recent Health and Social Care Workforce Census shows that the number of qualified Nursing and Midwifery staff in the Health and Social Care is 13,938 (whole time equivalents) and that this has remained unchanged since March 2008.

## Executive Papers

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the subject matter of each of the 33 papers that his Department referred to the Executive between May 2007 and 7 December 2009; and to state whether the Executive agreed each paper. **(AQW 4266/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** It is not our practice to disclose details of Executive business. The detailed content of Executive papers including the agenda and minutes of the meeting are confidential.

## Investing for Health Strategy

**Mrs D Kelly** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if the Investing for Health strategy recognises the workplace as a priority setting for tackling health issues; and if the review of the strategy took account of the recommendations in the Boorman report, in particular that early intervention services should form part of the minimum service specification for Health Service staff. **(AQW 4276/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Investing for Health Strategy recognises the workplace as a key setting which has considerable potential for promoting health related issues in the workforce.

The high level review of the Investing for Health Strategy is currently underway and it is anticipated that the review will report by the end of April 2010. The Investing for Health Review is considering a range of high level strategic documents. The specific recommendations from the Boorman report will help inform a longer term programme of policy development with regard to workplace health.

## Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) which goods and services provided by his Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by his Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods. **(AQW 4290/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** My Department does not currently provide goods and services that can be paid for online.

## Suicide Rate

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if the Programme for Government target of reducing the suicide rate by 15% by 2011 will be met.

**(AQW 4298/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** There was a very significant increase in recorded suicide rates in 2005 and 2006, with almost a doubling in the number of deaths since the start of the decade. The Northern Ireland suicide prevention strategy "Protect Life" was launched in 2006, in the midst of this unprecedented increase, with a 15% reduction target based partially on the much lower numbers of recorded suicides prior to 2005/06. The sharp rises in 2006 and 2006 had an almost immediate impact on the potential for achieving the 15% reduction target and it is now clear that this will not be achieved.

The Protect Life strategy is currently being reviewed and refreshed, and consideration is being given to the development of a wider range of performance indicators for assessing the impact of the strategy.

## Programme for Government Targets

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if his Department will meet the Programme for Government targets to (i) reduce the number of children in care; (ii) provide family support interventions; (iii) reduce the number of children on the child protection register; and (iv) increase the proportion of care leavers in education, training or employment by the time they reach 19 years of age.

**(AQW 4299/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:**

- (i) The target "To reduce the number of children in care by 12% by 2011" was withdrawn in agreement with the Executive on 1st October 2009 and a replacement target has been introduced – "From March 2010, for every child taken into care, a plan for permanence and associated timescale should be agreed (by Trusts) within six months".
- (ii) HSC Board figures show that regionally, there were 2,505 family support interventions at December 09 against target of 2000 for the 2009/10 year;\*
- (iii) The March 2008 baseline figure showed that 416 looked after children were on the child protection register. The targeted reduction is to be achieved by March 2011. The HSC Board and Trusts are currently developing new regional guidance for child protection of looked after children which is expected to be in place by April 2010.
- (iv) The latest information provided by the HSC Board indicates that, at October 2009, 64% of care leavers were either in education, training or employment working towards a target of 70% by March 2010.\*

## Day Care Services

**Mr M Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the per capita spend on (i) day care services for people with a learning disability; and (ii) all other services for people with a learning disability in each Health and Social Care Trust area, broken down by capital and current streams.

**(AQW 4312/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The table below sets out the 2008/2009 expenditure per capita by Health and Social Care Trusts for day care services for people with a learning

disability and all other services for people with a learning disability. This has been broken down by revenue and capital expenditure.

<b>Programme of Care Learning Disability 2008/09</b>	<b>Belfast</b>	<b>Southern</b>	<b>South Eastern</b>	<b>Western</b>	<b>Northern</b>
Day Care Services per capita spend	£33.41	£26.64	£17.79	£27.42	£24.27
Other Services per capita spend	£160.31	£103.32	£77.52	£79.63	£64.47
Capital Cost per capita spend*	£13.85	£2.15	£4.53	£0.94	nil

\* Capital spend varies significantly year to year by Trust

**Note:** The Belfast trust per capita spend for other services includes Muckamore Abbey hospital which provides services to other trust areas.

## Adults With a Learning Disability

**Mr M Durkan** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many adults with a learning disability currently reside within the Western Health and Social Care Trust area; and (ii) how many of these clients have been provided with a care plan.

**(AQW 4313/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Information provided by the Western Health and Social Care Trust indicated that as at 29th January 2010:

- (i) 1,639 adults were on an informal register as having been referred to the Trust for assessment and met the criteria for a formal diagnosis of learning disability. However, there may be others in the Trust that have never been referred or presented for formal assessment.
- (ii) Approximately 1,200 adults with a learning disability, currently residing in the Trust, have been provided with a care plan.

## Preventative and Early Intervention Measures

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an estimate of the percentage of his annual budget which is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.  
**(AQW 4323/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Preventative and early intervention measures are part of the work of all Health and Social Care practitioners from GPs to Family and Childcare Social Workers. As such, it is not possible to clarify the total investment as requested. These measures will form part of the normal response to injury or illness, or risk of neglect or abuse, as practitioners seek to prevent a recurrence of illness and injury, or risk of neglect or abuse.

## Nuero-physiotherapy Services

**Mr K Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what arrangements are in place to allow patients diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, who have impaired mobility and have difficulty travelling to appointments, to access nuero-physiotherapy services.  
**(AQW 4337/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Local initiatives, such as Rural Lift transport, Door to Door transport, and volunteer drivers are available, while the Multiple Sclerosis Society may also provide transport to neuro-physiotherapy services. General Practioners may arrange for ambulance

transport, if appropriate, or, on occasions, travel by taxi may be authorised. In addition, for those patients who are unable to travel, physiotherapy services may be provided in a domiciliary or day care setting.

## Nuero-physiotherapists

**Mr K Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nuero-physiotherapists currently operate in (i) Northern Ireland; and (ii) in each Health and Social Care Trust; and how these figures compare to the rest of the UK.

**(AQW 4338/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The requested information in relation to Northern Ireland is provided in the table below. Figures for neurophysiotherapists in the other UK countries are not readily available.

### PHYSIOTHERAPISTS WITH NEURO-DISABILITY SKILLS IN HSC TRUSTS.

HSC Trust	Headcount	WTE1
Belfast	29	23.28
Northern	2	2
South Eastern	12	9.4
Southern	14	10.4
Western	12	10.22

**Source:** Health & Social Care Trusts

**Note:** WTE= whole-time equivalent

## Nuero-physiotherapists

**Mr K Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nuero-physiotherapists have been in post in each of the last five years; and if he has any plans to increase the number currently employed.

**(AQW 4339/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The requested information is provided in the table below.

### PHYSIOTHERAPISTS WITH NEURO-DISABILITY SKILLS IN THE HSC TRUSTS

HSCT	2005	WTE	2006	WTE	2007	WTE	2008	WTE	2009	WTE
Belfast	21	17	21	17	21	17	29	23.28	29	23.28
Southern	-	-	12	9.4	12	9.4	12	9.4	14	10.4
South Eastern	9	6.4	9	6.4	10	7.4	10	7.4	12	9.4
Northern †									9	8
Western	8.5	6.72	10.5	8.72	10.5	8.72	11.5	9.72	12	10.22

**Source:** Health and Social Care Trust

† Information is not readily available.

It is the responsibility of Health and Social Care employers to determine the complement of staff necessary to provide service.

## Management and Service Structure in Health and Social Care Trusts

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the current (i) management structure; and (ii) service structure, in each Health and Social Care Trust.

**(AQW 4349/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** I refer the member to my answer to AQW 3906/10.

## Health and Social Care Trusts and the Regional Health Board

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the Health and Social Care Trusts and the Regional Health Board work together.

**(AQW 4350/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) works with the Public Health Agency (PHA) to assess the health and social care needs of the people of Northern Ireland and to reflect them in an annual commissioning plan, which is agreed by both organisations before being approved by my Department.

Health and Social Care Trusts must provide services in response to the commissioning plan, in accordance with the standards and targets set by me.

Working with the PHA, the HSCB is responsible for managing and monitoring the achievement of agreed objectives and targets by Trusts as set out in SBAs. At the same time, the HSCB and PHA also work together closely in supporting Trusts to improve performance and achieve the desired outcomes.

## Clinical Obesity

**Mr J Dallat** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress has been made to address the needs of people who are considered clinically obese and 'at risk'.

**(AQW 4356/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Later this year, an Obesity Prevention Strategic Framework aimed at tackling the rising prevalence of obesity in Northern Ireland will be published.

The majority of care and advice to patients who are clinically obese will be provided through their GP including treatment of any specific clinical condition.

## Staffing for Heart Surgery Procedures

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he is taking to address the shortage of staffing for heart surgery procedures.

**(AQW 4372/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Regional Cardiac Network is currently developing plans to increase local cardiac surgery capacity to make Northern Ireland self-sufficient in the provision of cardiac surgery by 2012/2013. These plans include the equipping of a fourth theatre at the Royal, provision of additional ICU capacity, and recruiting staff, subject to funding. Recruitment is ongoing at the Royal for two Consultant Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists, a Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, and a Consultant Cardiac Surgeon with primary responsibility for Paediatric and Adult Congenital Heart Disease.

## Methodrone

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps his Department is taking to ensure that methodrone and other so-called 'legal highs' are banned.

**(AQW 4373/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** ‘Legal highs’ are substances currently not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and which are self-administered to achieve an altered state of mind.

My approach is to act to protect the public from dangerous or otherwise harmful drugs. The availability of these so-called “legal highs” changes the environment in which some young people are now finding themselves. It is therefore imperative that appropriate legislation is introduced that not only deals with current trends but also foreseeable ones. To this end, legislation was introduced on the 23 December 2009 to make it illegal to possess or distribute a range of substances including:

- GBL and 1,4-BD;
- BZP and a group of substituted piperazines;
- a range of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists; and
- 24 anabolic steroids, and two growth promoters.

It is the duty of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to advise Ministers on appropriate measures to be taken with respect to drugs which are being, or appear to them are likely to be, misused and which are causing or may cause a social problem. Following recent reports of the availability of mephedrone and emerging evidence of its harms, the ACMD is now looking at this issue as a priority, and are due to report in 2010.

## **Allegations of Child Sex Abuse Against Liam Adams**

**Mr D Simpson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if Gerry Adams MLA raised any concerns with Social Services regarding the appointment of Liam Adams at the Clonard Youth Centre; and, if his Department has had any discussions with statutory agencies concerning the child healthcare implications of allegations of child sex abuse against Liam Adams.

**(AQW 4600/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** It would be inappropriate for me to comment on an individual case.

## **Hospital-acquired Infections**

**Rev Dr R Coulter** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how the reduction in MRSA and C-difficile cases in the last six months was achieved.

**(AQO 713/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** In the past 18 months MRSA cases have been reduced by a third and C. difficile cases are down by over 40%.

I made it one of my priorities from the outset to tackle healthcare-associated infections. That is why in September 2007 I set targets for reducing C. difficile and MRSA.

In January 2008 I announced a series of focused, practical interventions supported by new money. These included measures to improve environmental cleanliness; the unannounced hygiene inspections; restrictions on visiting; a regional dress code for healthcare staff, and resources to improve antibiotic prescribing.

In addition to these measures I commissioned an independent review of the C. diff outbreak in Northern Trust hospitals. The RQIA made 53 recommendations, which I accepted. The implementation of these recommendations has contributed to the ongoing reductions in infections.

## DHSSPS Budget

**Mr D McNarry** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an overview of his Department's three year budget settlement.

**(AQO 714/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** I always said my budget was only as good as it gets but that in truth it wasn't enough to deliver the services we need here in Northern Ireland. I stand by that view.

My Department faces its lowest uplift in recent times. Over the three years to March 2011, my Department will receive an uplift of just 1.7% in real terms. This compares to average real terms English uplifts of 3.4%. In addition, the Executive agreed that my Department must secure CSR savings of 3% per annum which amount to £700m over the CSR period.

John Appleby's report on relative funding for N Ireland concluded that DHSSPS needed a real terms increase of 4.3% per annum – equivalent to over £400m of additional resources - although even this would be insufficient to close the gap with England. Is what I have enough, no, of course its not. Could I do more if funds were available? Emphatically yes.

## Public Health Agency

**Mr D Simpson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the remit of the Public Health Agency's Directorate of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals.

**(AQO 719/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Public Health Agency was established on 1 April 2009 as part of the Review of Public Administration. Within the Agency the Directorate of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals provides professional support and advice on public health, commissioning of services, quality, safety and patient experience, primary care, personal, public involvement and midwifery supervision.

The Directorate while based in the Public Health Agency, provides services to support the Health and Social Care Board in the discharge of its functions. The Director of Nursing is a member of the Agency and HSC Boards.

## DHSSPS Advertising

**Lord Browne** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on advertising since March 2007, including the spend on consultants and distribution.

**(AQO 720/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Since March 2007, my Department has spent a total of £1,531,088 directly on advertising. This includes both campaign and classified advertising. It includes all costs relating to the advertising campaign. The Department does not use consultants when developing advertising campaigns.

The Department uses advertising campaigns as an effective intervention to inform or change behaviour.

For example advertising was used to convey important public health messages about swine flu and the HPV vaccine for teenage girls which can prevent cervical cancer. 'Paid for advertising' was also used to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence. These campaigns have used a range of media such as TV, radio, posters and leaflets to get across essential health messages.

Adverts are also placed in newspapers to advertise job vacancies.



## Erne Hospital

**Mr A Bresland** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to ensure the future funding and stability of the Medical and Surgical Assessment Unit at the Erne Hospital. (AQO 721/10)

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Medical and Surgical Assessment Unit was established in June 2009 as part of the Western Trust's new Emergency Care Pathway for acute medical and surgical patients following the transfer of acute services from the Tyrone County Hospital. The unit receives all medical and surgical patients referred by GPs to the Erne Hospital where they are assessed to determine whether they need to be admitted to hospital.

The unit is currently funded from within the Trust's existing budgets and I am advised that this service is sustainable.

## Swine Flu

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much has been spent on swine flu to date; and how many deaths have occurred as a result of swine flu compared to the number that were anticipated. (AQO 722/10)

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Mr Speaker, as highlighted in the February Monitoring Round, Swine Flu has cost my Department £44m. Almost half of this cost is the result of nationally driven initiatives.

An additional £1.5m has been retained to meet any Swine Flu pressures that may still occur. In line with agreements made with DFP, £19m has been returned for redistribution to other Departments - £3m in December and £16m in February.

Regarding the second aspect of your question, planning assumptions, based on a reasonable worst-case scenario, were issued on 3rd September and estimated that up to 20,000 deaths were possible in the UK. This was refined in the most recent planning guidance issued on 22nd October to reflect emerging evidence and it was then estimated up to 1000 deaths in the UK were possible during the second wave. 392 deaths have occurred in the UK to date. 18 of these have occurred in Northern Ireland.

## Child Abuse and Neglect

**Mr C McDevitt** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when he will produce his assessment of the extent of child abuse and neglect in Northern Ireland, as sought in the Ryan report motion on institutional child abuse agreed by the Assembly on 2 November 2009. (AQO 723/10)

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** My officials are finalising a discussion paper for consideration by the Northern Ireland Executive outlining a range of options which will help to inform the way ahead in relation to historical child abuse within Northern Ireland. I hope to table this paper within the next number of weeks.

Any decision in relation to historical child abuse will be a matter for the Executive as a whole.

## Maternity Services

**Mr P J Bradley** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact on mothers and babies as a result of being discharged from hospital within six hours of giving birth. (AQO 724/10)

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The safety of mothers and babies is a fundamental priority for the Health Service and any decision to allow women home early will be based on clinical decisions by those responsible for their care.

If a woman is not ready for discharge then she will obviously remain in hospital until she is ready.

Post natal care will occur in both the hospital and the community. That care will transfer to the community when the woman is discharged to the community mid-wife.

## Department for Regional Development

### Potholes

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister for Regional Development what action he is taking to repair and resurface potholes following the recent cold spell.

**(AQW 4205/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy):** My Department's Roads Service has established Maintenance Standards for Safety, and an inspection programme, to help ensure that the North's roads are in a serviceable condition. Surface defects, which are reported to Roads Service, outside of the inspection programme are covered according to the Standards, and remedial work carried out as necessary.

Since the beginning of January 2010, an additional £15 million, approximately, has been allocated to my Department's Roads Service Divisions. This money will be used to progress Road Service's pre-determined programmes of work, that target the worst roads across the North, and also to deal with the affects of the recent cold spell.

### Road Repairs

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will set aside extra money for road repairs following the recent cold spell.

**(AQW 4216/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Since the beginning of January 2010, an additional £15 million, approximately, has been allocated to my Department's Roads Service Divisions. This money will be used to progress Road Service's pre-determined programmes of work, that target the worst roads across the North, and also to deal with the affects of the recent cold spell.

### Goods and Services Paid for Online

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) which goods and services provided by his Department can be paid for online; (ii) the total number of transactions processed by his Department for these goods and services in each of the last five years; (iii) the total number of these transactions which were (a) online payments; (b) payments by cheque; (c) postal order; (d) cash; or (e) other method; and (iv) the percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods.

**(AQW 4245/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** In my Department, Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) and Strangford Ferry tickets can be paid for online. Details on the numbers of PCNs and on the number of Strangford Ferry tickets are contained in Tables A and B.

**TABLE A**

Date	Payment Method						
	Auto-phone	On-line	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other	Total
13.11.2006 - 31.12.2006	4,113	2,152	5,698	1,211	93	-	13,267
01.01.2007 - 31.12.2007	41,800	22,645	53,029	11,191	904	-	129,569
01.01.2008 - 31.12.2008	40,745	25,386	43,370	8,421	723	420	119,065
01.01.2009 - 31.12.2009	39,036	26,331	34,996	7,717	586	1,000	109,666
01.01.2010 - 31.01.2010	2,399	1,720	1,914	404	24	95	6,556
	128,093	78,234	139,007	28,944	2,330	1,515	378,123
<b>Percentage Total</b>	<b>33.88%</b>	<b>20.69%</b>	<b>36.76%</b>	<b>7.65%</b>	<b>0.62%</b>	<b>0.40%</b>	

**TABLE B**

Date	Payment Method						
	Auto-phone	On-line	Cheque	Postal Order	Cash	Other	Total
2005		37	-	-	-	5,581	5,618
2006		117	1,301	-	922	3,313	5,653
2007		166	1,981	-	1,301	1,611	5,059
2008		96	2,371	-	1,600	1,812	5,879
2009		4	1,838	-	1,426	1,461	4,729
		420	7,491	-	5,249	13,778	26,938
<b>Percentage Total</b>		<b>1.56%</b>	<b>27.81%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>19.49%</b>	<b>51.15%</b>	

Responsibility for enforcing on street parking restrictions transferred from the PSNI to the Department in October 2006. PCN transactions listed in Table A are taken from November 2006 to date.

A detailed analysis of 2005 data in Table B is not available.

## Damage to Roads

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Regional Development to estimate the overall cost of the damage to roads during the recent cold spell.

**(AQW 4259/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that a repeated freezing and thawing cycle, as we have recently experienced, has a damaging effect on the road network, by causing the carriageway to split and potholes to form. It will be some time before the

full extent of the damage caused across the road network, due to the recent cold spell, can be fully assessed and, therefore, the cost of repairing the subsequent potholes formed is not available.

However, I can confirm that since the beginning of January 2010, an additional £15 million approximately, has been allocated to Roads Service's Divisions. This money will be used to progress pre-determined programmes of work, targeting the worst roads, and also to deal with the effects of the recent cold spell.

Roads Service will continue to undertake regular inspections and condition surveys, to ensure that the road network does not fall below satisfactory and serviceable levels.

## Potholes and Road Erosion

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Regional Development what action he is taking to repair potholes and road erosion due to the recent cold spell.

**(AQW 4260/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Article 8 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 places a duty on my Department's Roads Service to maintain all public roads in reasonable condition. In recognition of this duty of care, Roads Service has put in place Maintenance Standards for Safety, and an inspection programme to ensure that roads are in a serviceable condition. These standards, which are designed to ensure a consistent service level and a safe highway, while offering value for money, are based on best practice, research and consultation with the public and other professional bodies and Industry.

Essentially, the safety standards and procedures currently in operation, establish frequencies for road inspections dependent on traffic volumes, and specify response times for the repair of defects. Inspection frequencies vary between daily cycles for motorways, to four monthly cycles for carriageways carrying low volumes of traffic.

Response times specified for the repair of defects are dependent on the severity of the defect and range from one calendar day, to inclusion in the next work programme. These systems and procedures are recognised and accepted by the courts as being robust, given the finite level of funding available. The Standards were last reviewed in 2006, and they continue to provide a systematic approach to road maintenance management.

Surface defects which are identified outside of these inspection regimes, for example, those reported by members of the public, or as the result of ad-hoc inspections, are also dealt with according to the above standards and remedial work arranged as necessary.

In addition, I can confirm that since the beginning of January, an additional £15 million approximately, has been allocated to Roads Service Divisions. This money will be used to progress pre-determined programmes of work, targeting the worst roads, and also to deal with the effects of the recent cold spell.

## CAF Trains

**Mr M Durkan** asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many CAF trains are currently in service by NI Railways; and (ii) how many of these are in use on the Derry to Belfast line.

**(AQW 4307/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** NI Railways has 23 CAF Class 3000 trains at its disposal. Normally 20-21 train units would be in service each day, the remaining trains undergoing overhaul, maintenance or examination.

Translink has informed me that during peak morning and evening operations 5 trains are required to operate Derry line services. These are normally CAF rolling stock. The number of trains in use on the Derry to Belfast line can rise to 6 if one of the 5 trains is operating as a 6-car unit.

## Road Salt

**Mr M Storey** asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the road salt reserve for January to March 2010.

**(AQW 4333/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that, as of 29 January 2010, it was holding approximately 18000 tonnes of salt.

Roads Service has a contract with Salt Sales in Carrickfergus for the supply of salt, and is currently replenishing its stocks at a rate of approximately 1000 tonnes each day.

## Road Salt

**Mr M Storey** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the volume; and (ii) the cost of road salt spread in North Antrim in each of the last three years, and this year until 10 January 2010.

**(AQW 4334/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that it holds information on a Divisional basis but not by Parliamentary Constituency. The North Antrim Constituency area lies within Roads Service's Northern Division and details of the volume of road salt spread in Northern Division, in each of the last three financial years are provided in the table below:

Winter Service year	Volume of Salt Spread Northern Division (tonnes)
2006/07	13423
2007/08	15834
2008/09	26086
2009/2010 (up to and including 10 January 2010)	17632

Roads Service purchases road salt by tender, therefore details of the purchase price is commercially sensitive and not be in the interest of securing best value for money to release.

## Road Salt

**Mr M Storey** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the volume; and (ii) the cost of road salt purchased by his Department in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 4335/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Details of the volume of roads salt purchased in each of the last 3 financial years by my Department's Roads Service are provided in the table below:-

Winter Service year	Volume of Salt Spread (tonnes)
2006/07	41,694 tonnes
2007/08	41,973 tonnes
2008/09	88,250 tonnes

The purchase of road salt by Roads Service is subject to tender and I am not able to disclose the cost of purchase for reasons of commercial sensitivity and in the interests of securing best value for money.

## Contingency Plan Anticipating the Recent Severe Cold Weather

**Mr M Storey** asked the Minister for Regional Development if he approved a contingency plan anticipating the recent severe cold weather, and if so, what actions in this plan related to North Antrim. **(AQW 4336/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service carries out a significant amount of pre-planning to ensure that it is in a state of readiness for the winter service season. As well as undertaking a number of routine pre-season checks, Roads Service reviews its plans to ensure that adequate staffing arrangements are in place, including training for new staff, salt supplies are adequate and that winter service equipment is in working order. Salt bins and piles are also replenished prior to the start of the winter season.

While it was not possible to anticipate the onset of the coldest December since 1981, Roads Service's winter service objectives were achieved during this prolonged cold period. In addition, secondary salting was carried out where there were exceptional difficulties. In the North Antrim area, as in all other areas, this was prioritised after completion of primary salting commitments, and when resources allowed. Secondary salting included facilitating access for Emergency Services, for medical staff and carers attending the sick and elderly and for the transport of the disabled. It also was also directed at routes to schools at risk of closure due to road conditions and to farms to facilitate the collection of milk and the delivery of food stuffs, and other important additional needs of the community, as requested by elected representatives and the public. Additional grit piles were also provided for use on a self help basis.

Salt boxes were regularly replenished, but it is acknowledged that the extreme weather conditions led to an unprecedented demand for salt. Furthermore, there was an additional pressure exerted on this resource by salt frequently being removed from boxes for use in other areas, outside of the public road network.

## NI Water

**Mr D Simpson** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether NI Water's embedded contract personnel are employees of NI Water as a result of the mutuality of obligation that exists between them. **(AQW 4352/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it does not recognise the term 'embedded contract personnel'. However, employees of contractors engaged by NIW under a tendered contract arrangement are not deemed to be NIW employees.

## Tender Documents C0 71 and C0 58

**Mr D Simpson** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether NI Water is in the process of re-wording or re-constituting previous contract services tender documents C0 71 and C0 58. **(AQW 4353/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that contracts C071 and C058 are being reviewed to ensure that they meet the company's service requirements in the most efficient and cost effective way.

Within the next six months, NIW expects to re-tender C071 for the provision of temporary technical support. Contract C058, which will terminate in April 2010, has been reviewed and the scope of services redefined and incorporated within a larger strategic contract C387 relating to electrical installation and repair. The tender process for C387 is currently underway and NIW hopes to award new contracts in April 2010.

## Tender Documents CO 71 and CO 58

**Mr D Simpson** asked the Minister for Regional Development if the re-wording or re-constituting of previous contract services tender documents CO 71 and CO 58 will protect the rights of embedded contract personnel.

**(AQW 4354/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it does not recognise the term 'embedded contract personnel'. Contracts CO 71 and CO 58 are being reviewed to ensure they meet the company's service requirements in the most efficient and cost effective way. However, employees of contractors engaged by NIW under a tendered contract arrangement are not deemed to be NIW employees and responsibility for ensuring that their rights are protected lies with the contractor.

## Potholes

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost to Roads Service of repairing potholes in January 2010, caused during the recent cold spell.

**(AQW 4355/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that a repeated freezing and thawing cycle, as we have recently experienced, has a damaging effect on the road network, by causing the carriageway to split and potholes to form. It will be some time before the full extent of the damage caused across the road network, due to the recent cold spell, can be fully assessed and therefore, the cost of repairing the subsequent potholes formed is not available.

However, I can confirm that since the beginning of January 2010, an additional £15 million approximately has been allocated to Roads Service's Divisions. This money will be used to progress pre-determined programmes of work, targeting the worst roads and also to deal with the effects of the recent cold spell.

Roads Service will continue to undertake regular inspections and condition surveys to ensure that the road network does not fall below satisfactory and serviceable levels.

## Portrush to Coleraine Rail Service

**Mr J Dallat** asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many times the Portrush to Coleraine train has been out of service in the last year; (ii) why this has occurred; and (iii) what steps he has taken to address the problem.

**(AQW 4364/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Translink have informed me that approximately 13,300 services are scheduled to operate on the Portrush line in the course of one year. The following table shows that the Portrush train was out of service 292 times between 29th January 2009 and 28th January 2010. However, only 119 of these cancellations are considered to be within the control of Translink. This gives a reliability figure of 99.1% for the Portrush line for this period against a passenger charter target of 99.2%.

### PORTRUSH LINE ANALYSIS 29/01/2009 – 28/01/2010

Total Number of Cancellations - 20		Total Number of Bus Substitutions – 272	
Number	Cause	Number	Cause
1	Fatality	116	Fatality
7	Vandalism	2	Customer



Total Number of Cancellations - 20		Total Number of Bus Substitutions – 272	
Number	Cause	Number	Cause
3	Signalling & Electrical power failure	9	Signalling & Electrical power failure
3	Mechanical failures	63	Mechanical failures
4	Severe Weather	43	Severe Weather
2	Staff failure to report	16	Staff failure to report
		23	Operational incident

Translink point out that it is worth highlighting the following issues arising from this table:

- A fatality on 30th January 2009 resulted in 1 cancellation and 116 bus substitutions.
- Severe weather in December 2009 and January 2010 resulted in the freezing of train and track operating systems resulting in 4 cancellations and 43 bus substitutions.
- NIE power failures impacted upon 12 services (3 cancellations and 9 bus substitutions).
- Mechanical issues with the 450 class set on the Portrush branch has caused 3 cancellations and 63 bus substitutions.

With any failure of the train set on the Portrush branch an engineer or replacement train is required to be sent from Belfast. This ultimately results in service disruption and for a bus substitution to be implemented.

Any failure of the Class 3000 units in the Coleraine/Londonderry area also requires the set to be removed from the Portrush branch and operated in place of the failed unit. Covering the Portrush branch with a bus substitution is considered the most effective means of minimising the disruption to services on the Derry line.

The Class 450 trains operate to an agreed maintenance schedule, however because of the age of these trains faults will inevitably occur.

Finally power failures require intervention from signalling technicians who may not be in the immediate area to quickly reset the system.

As far as steps to mitigate such occurrences are concerned, NI Railways makes every effort to operate all train services as timetabled. All cancellations and bus substitutions are investigated and cause attributed accordingly.

## Derry to Belfast Rail Service

**Mr J Dallat** asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps he has taken to address the overcrowding on the Derry to Belfast rail service.  
(AQW 4365/10)

**Minister for Regional Development:** In common with most interurban/commuter railways NI Railways experiences a degree of standing passengers on peak morning and evening services, however levels of standing remain generally in line with the Passenger's Charter commitment and NI Railways would not consider these trains to be overcrowded.

Taking the Derry line specifically, Translink have indicated that levels of standing on Derry line trains were reported as generally in line with the Passenger's Charter commitment. Currently loadings are similar to the same time last year. Two Monday-Friday morning trains are busy i.e. the 0656 and 0726 ex Coleraine to Belfast where passengers frequently stand from Antrim to Belfast Central, a journey of some 25 minutes.

On Friday afternoons two trains are particularly busy during term time i.e. the 1420 and 1610 services to Derry, with the 1610 train having been recorded with up to 300 passengers (200 seated and 100 standing). These numbers are generated by weekly students travelling home in addition to commuters and will frequently result in standing as far as Ballymena.

However Translink are of the view that the above remains in line with Passenger's Charter commitments because all available trains are deployed during those periods.

NI Railways continues to monitor train loadings on a regular basis across all lines and endeavours to deploy larger trains when additional trains are available, particularly on the services where passenger loadings are highest. On occasions, usually in response to special events, the normal 3-carriage trains on the Derry line are increased to 6-carriage trains to meet passenger demand. Again, this very much depends on train set availability. However most events are at weekends when peak vehicle requirement is lower than during the week and therefore additional trains are readily available.

In the medium-term Translink anticipate continuing increase in ridership on the Derry route. Following the arrival of new trains in 2011/12, planned track re-lay and re-signalling between Coleraine and Derry in 2013/14, NI Railways will be in a position to further increase frequency of service provision on this line and thus enhance capacity (seats available per hour), in addition to increasing train size on key selected services.

## **Skipperstone Road, Bangor**

**Mr A Easton** asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans the Roads Service has to resurface the Skipperstone Road, Bangor.

**(AQW 4370/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that at present, there are no plans to carry out resurfacing work on the Skipperstone Road, Bangor. However, Roads Service will continue to inspect this road and repair any defects identified, in accordance with its maintenance guidelines.

## **Cost of Providing a Salt Box**

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister for Regional Development what the cost of providing a salt box is.

**(AQW 4375/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the average cost of supplying and maintaining a grit box is approximately £150.00 for the first year. This figure includes the capital cost for the provision of the grit box and also the average costs associated with the winter replenishment cycle.

Detailed costs cannot be supplied as the information is commercially sensitive.

## **NI Railways**

**Mr T Elliott** asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the annual figure for (i) capital investment; and (ii) public service obligation payments to NI Railways in each year from 2000 to 2009.

**(AQW 4377/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** The annual figures for (i) capital investment; and (ii) public service obligation payments to NI Railways in each year from 2000 to 2009 are set out in the attached table.

## ANNUAL PUBLIC SERVICE OBLIGATION SUPPORT AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO NI RAILWAYS 2000/01 – 2008/09

Year	PSO	Capital	Total
2000/01	12.5	10.9	23.4
2001/02	16.4	32.7	49.1
2002/03	17.7	44.3	62.0
2003/04	19.2	20.5	39.7
2004/05	20.9	46.5	67.4
2005/06	21.3	36.1	57.4
2006/07	21.7	10.6	32.3
2007/08	24.1	27.4	51.5
2008/09	23.0	36.1	59.1

Note that the figures supplied reconcile to the Regional Development departmental accounts and may differ marginally from the figures recognised in the NI Railways accounts.

### Preventative and Early Intervention Measures

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Regional Development for an estimate of the percentage of his annual budget which is directed towards preventative and early intervention measures.

**(AQW 4386/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Where appropriate, action is taken to identify and cost preventative and early intervention measures on a range of roads, water and transport infrastructure. But in the way our budgets and programmes are constructed it is not possible to single out the costs involved.

### Capital Spend Schemes

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department carried out risk assessments on all capital spend schemes in each of the last five years, and if not, why not.

**(AQW 4407/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Effective risk management has been a required part of capital projects undertaken by the Department and its arm's length bodies in the last five years. The management of risk is undertaken as part of the project management arrangements.

### Water Meters in Commercial Properties

**Mr J Craig** asked the Minister for Regional Development what is NI Water's target for installing water meters in commercial properties.

**(AQW 4429/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it aims to install meters on all commercial properties as it is the preferred method of levying charges on non-domestic properties. However, there are circumstances where it may not be possible to fit a meter such as shared supplies, engineering difficulties and obstructions. NIW estimates that it will install an additional 5,600 water meters on existing and new commercial properties over the next three years.

## Removal of Boulders and Fences at Columbas Vale, Newtownards

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Regional Development why his Department's office at Jubilee Road, Newtownards has not responded to phone calls and written queries, over a three month period, regarding the removal of boulders and fences at Columbas Vale, Newtownards.

**(AQW 4448/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** I am advised by my Department's Roads Service that, whilst they have not provided a substantive reply in this matter, they have indicated in a brief telephone conversation with your office that this was a particularly complex matter which was likely to take some time to resolve. The indications are that legal proceedings will be required and with a number of specific procedural steps to be followed these can be time consuming.

During the last few months, Roads Service staff have dealt with unprecedented weather conditions in the form of flooding and snow/ice issues. I am sure you will appreciate the necessity for staff to prioritise and address the most urgent matters. I understand that this is a matter relating to a neighbourhood dispute and is regarded as less urgent when compared to other competing priorities.

I do offer my apologies that your earlier letter to the local Section Office has not been responded to, and I have asked the local Section Engineer, Mr Stanley Lamb, to write directly to you to update you on this matter.

## Buses Involved in Accidents

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the number of buses involved in accidents directly attributable to the cold weather since the start of December 2009; and (ii) the number of these incidents which involved school buses.

**(AQW 4473/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** Translink has advised me that from 1 December 2009 to 1 February 2010 there were 21 accidents attributed to the cold weather, of which four were recorded as involving school buses.

## Flooding at 21 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 4378/10, as there has been sufficient suitable weather conditions since the last site meeting in August 2009 to permit NI Water to carry out the work at 21, Ballyblack Road, Newtownards, to give an assurance and timescale for completion of the repairs.

**(AQW 4543/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that its contractor will complete the work at 21 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards by 23 February 2010.

## Road Repairs

**Mr D McNarry** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his strategy for road repairs following the recent cold spell.

**(AQO 726/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that a repeated freezing and thawing cycle, as we have recently experienced, has a damaging effect on the road network, by causing the carriageway to split and potholes to form. It will be some time before the full extent of the damage across the road network can be fully assessed.

Article 8 of the Roads Order 1993, places a duty on Roads Service to maintain all public roads in reasonable condition. In recognition of its duty of care, Roads Service has put in place a set of

Maintenance Standards for Safety and an inspection programme, to ensure that roads are in a serviceable condition.

These Standards, which are designed to ensure a consistent service level and a safe highway, while offering value for money, are based on best practice, research and consultation with both the public, and other professional bodies and Industry.

Essentially, the Safety Standards and procedures currently in operation establish frequencies for road inspections, dependent on traffic volumes and specify response times for the repair of defects. Inspection frequencies vary between daily cycles for motorways, to four monthly cycles for carriageways carrying low volumes of traffic.

Response times specified for the repair of defects are dependent on the severity of the defect and range from one calendar day, to simple inclusion in the next work programme for that particular route. These systems and procedures are recognised and accepted by the courts as being robust, given the finite level of funding available. The Standards were last reviewed in 2006, and they continue to provide a systematic approach to road maintenance management.

Surface defects which are identified outside of these inspection regimes, for example, those reported by members of the public, or as the result of ad-hoc inspections, will be dealt with according to the standards I've mentioned, and remedial work arranged as necessary.

In addition, I can confirm that since the beginning of January, an additional £15 million approximately, has been allocated to Roads Service's Divisions. This money will be used to progress pre-determined programmes of work, targeting the worst roads, and also to deal with the effects of the recent cold spell.

## A26 Ballymoney to Coleraine

**Mr G Campbell** asked the Minister for Regional Development what the average daily volume of traffic has been on the A26 between Ballymoney and Coleraine in each of the last three years.

**(AQO 730/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that the average daily volume of traffic on the A26, between Ballymoney and Coleraine, in each of the last three years was as follows:-

Year	Vehicles
2007	14777
2008	16435
2009	12465

## Name Plaques on Bridges

**Mr B Wilson** asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his policy in relation to the erection of name plaques on bridges; and how many plaques have been erected in the last five years.

**(AQO 731/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department, while being the bridge naming authority, has no policy for the erection of name plaques on bridges.

Unfortunately, my Department's Roads Service does not hold the information you request. However, I can confirm that Roads Service has, on occasion, replaced some existing name plaques when carrying out maintenance or strengthening works on bridges.

## Road Repairs

**Mr T Lunn** asked the Minister for Regional Development what priority is given to the repairing of potholes on roads.

**(AQO 733/10)**

**Minister for Regional Development:** My Department's Roads Service has advised that a repeated freezing and thawing cycle, as we have recently experienced, has a damaging effect on the road network, by causing the carriageway to split and potholes to form. It will be some time before the full extent of the damage across the road network can be fully assessed.

Article 8 of the Roads Order 1993, places a duty on Roads Service to maintain all public roads in reasonable condition. In recognition of its duty of care, Roads Service has put in place a set of Maintenance Standards for Safety and an inspection programme, to ensure that roads are in a serviceable condition.

These Standards, which are designed to ensure a consistent service level and a safe highway, while offering value for money, are based on best practice, research and consultation with both the public, and other professional bodies and Industry.

Essentially, the Safety Standards and procedures currently in operation establish frequencies for road inspections, dependent on traffic volumes and specify response times for the repair of defects. Inspection frequencies vary between daily cycles for motorways, to four monthly cycles for carriageways carrying low volumes of traffic.

Response times specified for the repair of defects are dependent on the severity of the defect and range from one calendar day, to simple inclusion in the next work programme for that particular route. These systems and procedures are recognised and accepted by the courts as being robust, given the finite level of funding available. The Standards were last reviewed in 2006, and they continue to provide a systematic approach to road maintenance management.

Surface defects which are identified outside of these inspection regimes, for example, those reported by members of the public, or as the result of ad-hoc inspections, will be dealt with according to the standards I've mentioned, and remedial work arranged as necessary.

In addition, I can confirm that since the beginning of January, an additional £15 million approximately, has been allocated to Roads Service's Divisions. This money will be used to progress pre-determined programmes of work, targeting the worst roads, and also to deal with the effects of the recent cold spell.

## Department for Social Development

### People Sleeping Rough

**Mr S Hamilton** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) for an estimate of the number of people sleeping rough in (a) Belfast; (b) Londonderry; and (c) other towns in Northern Ireland; (ii) what services her Department has in place to help these people; and (iii) what targets exist to reduce or eliminate rough sleeping.

**(AQW 4136/10)**

**Minister for Social Development (Ms M Ritchie):**

- (i) An estimate of the numbers of people sleeping rough in (a) Belfast, (b) Londonderry/ Derry and (c) other towns in Northern Ireland during a snap shot of December 2009 is as follows:
  - (a) **Belfast:** Homelessness outreach services provided by the Welcome Centre in association with the Salvation Army engaged with 118 individuals during December 2009. A considerable number of these have a propensity for sleeping rough but on average only around five would sleep rough on a nightly basis.

- (b) **Derry/Londonderry:** First Housing Aid and Support Services (FHASS) provide a night time outreach service in Derry City. The activity of the night support service ensured that there were no individuals sleeping rough in the Derry city centre area during December 2009.
- (c) **Other towns in Northern Ireland:** There is little evidence of anybody persistently sleeping rough elsewhere in Northern Ireland. Street drinking services such as the Link Project in Newtownards exist in a number of locations which signpost potential rough sleepers to direct access hostels where appropriate. There have also been isolated cases of persons rough sleeping such as a small group of Polish nationals near Newry during December.
- (ii) The Welcome Centre provides a 24 Hour Outreach service to rough sleepers in Belfast. In addition they provide a Drop-In Centre which provides social, catering and showering facilities. In the evenings they collect and escort individuals to either the Crash Facility at the Salvation Army hostel at Centenary House, to other hostels in the city or to private addresses.

A Rough Sleepers/Street Drinkers strategy for Derry has ensured the availability of crisis accommodation and night support services delivered by First Housing Aid and Support Services (FHASS). Individuals are collected and escorted to a range of voluntary sector hostels in the city.

Elsewhere in Northern Ireland direct access hostels provide sufficient places for potential rough sleepers.

- (iii) There are no actual targets to reduce or eliminate rough sleeping but the services that are provided exist to eliminate the need for people to sleep rough. These services that have led to an overall reduction in the numbers of rough sleepers are all preventative measures arising initially from the 2002 Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) Homelessness Strategy which led to the Rough Sleeper Strategy established in Belfast in 2004 and are funded by the NIHE in partnership with the voluntary sector. The Derry Rough Sleeper strategy was established in 2009 and a phased implementation plan has been introduced to establish a continuum of services for this client group.

## Disabled Facilities Grants

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Social Development the average cost of the administrative processing of a disabled facilities grant (i) west of the Bann; and (ii) east of the Bann; and to explain the reasons for any discrepancy.

**(AQW 4156/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The information is not available in the format requested and cannot be broken down by grant type. The Housing Executive measures Grants Offices' performance taking into account all activity over the previous 12 months against the cost to run the office and expressing the result as a processing rate. The average processing rate at the end of December 2009 was £40.73\*. The table below details the rate of each office at December 2009.

Grants Office	Rate
Ballyclare **	£86.55
Ballymena	£39.86
Belfast	£32.08
Craigavon	£32.61
Derry	£39.74
Dundonald	£37.68
Enniskillen	£35.11
Lisburn	£56.21



<b>Grants Office</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Newry	£33.36
Omagh	£37.76

**Notes**

- \* The average processing rate refers to all activity related to a Grants application and is not an average based on the rate provided for each of the individual offices.
- \*\* This figure does not reflect the total office activity as the Housing Executive is implementing a new Private Sector Management System and Ballyclare is the lead Grants Office for implementation. The Ballyclare Grants Office processing costs will decrease in due course.

**Lack of Heating in the High Park Flats, Derry**

**Mr R McCartney** asked the Minister for Social Development if she has immediate plans to address the lack of heating in the High Park flats, Derry, given the inadequate heating system currently in place and the danger this poses to the health of tenants.

**(AQW 4210/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The Housing Executive recently met with Firmus Energy and agreed that the gas distribution network will be extended into the High Park area by April 2010. Housing Executive tenants within High Park flats will now be consulted about gas installation with a view to making gas heating available within these homes during April 2010.

**Investing for Health Strategy**

**Ms S Ramsey** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail any meetings or discussions that she, or her officials, have held with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety within the last year to discuss commitments under the Investing for Health strategy.

**(AQW 4233/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** Over the last year my Department has participated in discussions with DHSSPS and other health professionals on how best the objectives of the Investing for Health Strategy can be addressed. This dialogue has been conducted in bi-lateral meetings and through the appropriate oversight bodies, implementation groups or partnerships. Discussions have dealt with matters such as; fuel poverty, 'Early Years', suicide prevention, obesity, nutrition, physical activity, drug and alcohol abuse and mental health.

**Neighbourhood Wardens in Ballymena**

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many Neighbourhood Wardens currently operate in Ballymena; (ii) the areas for which they are responsible; and (iii) if there are any plans to introduce more.

**(AQW 4241/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** There are currently three neighbourhood wardens operating in Ballymena District who provide a service for urban and rural estates as follows:-

Warden	Warden	Warden
Drumtara / Lettercreeve / Shanlieve / Shanowen	Dunclug / Dunvale / Millfield / Doury	Ballykeel 1 and Ballykeel 2
Portglenone	Broughshane	Ahoghill
South Harryville (including Larne Road Flats)	Clough	Kells
Cullybackey	Glarryford	Moorfields
Galgorm	Glenravel	North Harryville (including Chichester Park)
Adair	Fisherwick	
	Rectory	

The Wardens operate a reciprocal arrangement whereby each will deputise in the absence of the main warden for each of the above locations. The Housing Executive considers that the warden service operates well and efficiently, that the District is adequately covered, and therefore has no plans to introduce any further wardens.

## Warm Homes Scheme

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many eligible people are currently awaiting heating and insulation measures under the Warm Homes Scheme.

**(AQW 4254/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** There are currently approximately 2,300 applicants across Northern Ireland who have been deemed by the Scheme Managers to be eligible for assistance and are awaiting the provision of measures under the scheme. The Scheme Managers have a target to complete 90% of installations within 6 weeks from the date the property is surveyed and they are on track to meet this target.

## Occupational Therapists' Reports

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development in how many cases the Housing Executive is awaiting reports from Occupational Therapists about the needs of individuals in Housing Executive properties.

**(AQW 4255/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The number of referrals relating to individuals in Housing Executive properties pending assessment by Occupational Therapists at the end of December 2009 was 195.

## Executive Papers

**Mr G Savage** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the subject matter of each of the 36 papers that her Department referred to the Executive between May 2007 and 7 December 2009; and to state whether the Executive agreed each paper.

**(AQW 4270/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The content of Executive papers and all aspects of Executive business are confidential. I am therefore unable to provide you with the information you have requested.

## Warm Homes Scheme

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding has been allocated to the Warm Homes Scheme in each of the last three years.

**(AQW 4281/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The Warm Homes Scheme budget for the last three years is set out in the table below.

	<b>Budget (£m)</b>
2007/08	£20.5
2008/09	£20.0
2009/10	£20.5

## **Community Safety Strategy for Older People**

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development what progress has been made in putting in place a Community Safety strategy for older people.

**(AQW 4282/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** In 2008 the Housing Executive launched its Community Safety Strategy 2008-2011: “Building Safer Communities”. The strategy established a three year action plan which focussed on the delivery of mainstream housing management services and inter agency partnership working, designed to address anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime. This includes specific actions and services to address the needs and concerns of older people including:-

- The provision of Neighbourhood Wardens
- Inter agency funded Night Time Wardens
- The Intergenerational Programmes
- The Quick Check Initiative
- The Good Morning Projects
- Community Safety Partnerships

The Housing Executive works with a wide range of agencies to meet the specific needs of older households and will also seek to contribute to the delivery of recommendations set out in the recently published NIO strategy for older people “Safer Ageing: A Strategy and Action Plan for Ensuring the Safety of Older People”

## **Housing Stress**

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many older applicants for social housing are currently known to be experiencing housing stress.

**(AQW 4283/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** At 30 September 2009 there were 3,601 applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List over the age of 60 years deemed to be in housing stress.

## **Sheltered Housing**

**Mr P Weir** asked the Minister for Social Development how many older people are currently on the waiting list for sheltered housing.

**(AQW 4284/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** At 30 September 2009 there were 1,669 applicants over the age of 60 years registered on the Social Housing Waiting List requesting sheltered accommodation.

## Grants for Environmentally Friendly Domestic Boilers

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister for Social Development if she has considered offering grants to Housing Executive tenants to install environmentally friendly domestic boilers; and if so, how these grants would be distributed.

**(AQW 4317/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The Housing Executive has no plans to offer grants for tenants to install such systems. The Housing Executive already operates a programme of heating improvements for its housing stock which provides for efficient and controllable heating systems using gas, where available, or oil.

## Town Centre Masterplans

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development to list the town centre masterplans she has launched since 2007; and what funding her Department has given to each one.

**(AQW 4403/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The table below shows the list of town centre master plans launched since 2007 and the level of funding provided to each plan.

Town	Funding
Armagh	£94,535
Ballycastle*	£94,752
Ballymena	£59,998
Omagh	£44,218

\* Funding for the salary costs associated with a Project Officer to help prepare and implement a Town Development Strategy included in this amount.

## Business Improvement Districts

**Mr D McKay** asked the Minister for Social Development whether legislation relating to Business Improvement Districts will be brought before the Assembly this year.

**(AQW 4405/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** My Department is currently working with the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of the Environment (DOE) to progress the work required to determine the feasibility of statutory Business Improvement Districts in Northern Ireland. There would be a significant amount of preparatory work to be completed – including public consultation before possible legislation could be introduced into the Assembly. Consequently, it seems unlikely that this would happen this year.

## Attacks on Staff in Jobs and Benefits Offices

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of recorded incidents of harassment or attacks, on staff in Jobs and Benefits offices, by members of the public in each of the past five years; and to provide a summary of the types of incidents recorded.

**(AQW 4411/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The attached table provides a breakdown of incidents of unacceptable customer behaviour recorded by my Department from 2005 to 2009 in the 10 Social Security Offices and the 25 Jobs and Benefits Offices. The figures totalled 1006 incidents over the 5 year period.

**REPORTED INCIDENTS 2005 – 2009 (TOTAL - 1006)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>2005</b>	Verbal	63
	Customers fighting	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2006</b>	Verbal	201
	Customer with weapon	1
	Items thrown	3
	Written abuse	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>2007</b>	Verbal	284
	Items thrown	7
	Written abuse	2
	Threats	15
	Customers fighting	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>2008</b>	Verbal	185
	Threat	14
	Assault	2
	Customers fighting	4
	Items thrown	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>2009</b>	Verbal	193
	Customers fighting	4
	Damage	8
	Items thrown	3
	Assault on staff	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>

**Claims for Compensation by Staff in Jobs and Benefits Offices**

**Mr T Burns** asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the total number of claims for compensation from her Department made by staff in Jobs and Benefits offices arising from incidents of attack or harassment by the general public in each of the last five years; and (ii) the total amount of compensation paid by the Department as a result of these claims.

**(AQW 4412/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** Details of claims for compensation made by staff in Jobs and Benefits offices arising from incidents of attack or harassment by the general public in each of the last five years is as follows.

Year	Total number of claims from staff in JBO for compensation arising from incidents of attack from the general public	Total number of claims from staff in JBO for compensation arising from incidents of harassment from the general public	Total amount of compensation paid
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	1	0	£1500
2009	0	1	Ongoing
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£1500</b>

## Community Care Grants

**Mr A Ross** asked the Minister for Social Development how many applications there were for Community Care Grants in the East Antrim constituency in each of the past 24 months; and how many of these were successful.

**(AQW 4486/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** This information is not recorded in the format requested.

## Welfare Rights Officers

**Mr W Irwin** asked the Minister for Social Development if she has any plans to introduce Welfare Rights Officers.

**(AQW 4490/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** I have no plans to introduce Welfare Rights Officers within my Department.

## Benefits for Cross-Border Workers

**Mr M Durkan** asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the recent meeting between her Department and the Department of Social and Family Affairs on improving the processing of claims for tax credits and social security benefits for cross-border workers.

**(AQW 4518/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** Officials of the Social Security Agency (SSA) met with representatives from the Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA) on 28 October 2009. The meeting was convened by the North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat with Mr Tommy Gallagher MLA also in attendance. Whilst Tax Credits are administered by HM Revenue and Customs, and therefore outside the remit of my Department, a useful discussion took place in relation to access to other social security benefits by cross border workers including those factors impacting on the speedy processing of benefit applications. A mechanism for referring individual cases to either the SSA or DSFA for appropriate investigation was agreed.

## **Economy 7 Heating in Housing Executive Properties**

**Mr W Irwin** asked the Minister for Social Development how many Housing Executive properties in the Newry and Armagh constituency are fitted with Economy 7 heating.

**(AQW 4529/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** The information is not available in the format requested. However, the Housing Executive currently has 269 properties in its Newry District Office area and 197 properties in its Armagh District Office area fitted with Economy 7 heating.

## **Social Security Agency Office at Urney Street, Strabane**

**Mr P Doherty** asked the Minister for Social Development if he can confirm that there will be no reduction in the level of front or back office services currently being provided at the Social Security Agency office at Urney Street, Strabane.

**(AQW 4561/10)**

**Minister for Social Development:** There will be no reduction in services provided to customers at the Social Security Office in Strabane. The consideration of any impact on the back office will be assessed in due course.





---

## Revised Written Answers

Friday 12 February 2010

### **(AQW 4077/10)**

The economic appraisal for the proposed merger of Stranmillis University College and Queen's University Belfast has been reviewed by my Department and is currently being reviewed by economists within the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). If approval is obtained from DFP, it is intended that the proposal to merge will be put out to public consultation following engagement with the Employment and Learning Committee. I would expect that to be in Spring 2010. The economic appraisal will be available as a supporting document to the consultation.

---



---

**Please Note That The Following Questions were Omitted from  
Volume 47, No WA 1, Printed on Friday 8 January 2010.**

## **The Block Grant**

**Mr J Shannon** asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if additional borrowing by the Executive would lead to a reduction in the block grant.

**(AQW 3583/10)**

**Minister of Finance and Personnel:** The UK Government's funding arrangements for the Northern Ireland Executive are set out in the HM Treasury publication, Statement of Funding Policy, which indicates that borrowing by the devolved administrations counts towards the UK Public Sector Net Cash Requirement.

Therefore, under the current arrangements, any increase in borrowing by the Executive would result in a corresponding reduction in the Block Grant, in order to restore the UK borrowing position.

## **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

### **Ambulance Fleet**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the 60 new ambulances will be (i) additional vehicles to the ambulance fleet; and (ii) replacement vehicles for the existing fleet.

**(AQW 3351/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey):** On 1 October 2008 I announced my intention to invest some £100 million over the next ten years to enable the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service to modernise its estate and replace its fleet and equipment on a regular basis. This included an investment of £17 million capital funding over the CSR period 2008-2011 to modernise the ambulance service fleet, estate, equipment and IT infrastructure. My announcement made clear that the new vehicles would replace older vehicles so that, in time, no vehicle would be more than five years old.

### **Rapid Response Vehicles**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if rapid response vehicles are equipped with exactly the same level of equipment as emergency ambulances.

**(AQW 3353/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** I refer the Member to the answer I gave to AQWs 1249/10 and 1250/10 on 20 October 2009.

---

---

## **Ambulance Crew Overtime**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many ambulance shifts in the Western Health and Social Care Trust were covered by crew members on overtime due to staff sickness in each month of the last three years.

**(AQW 3357/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) does not routinely collect data of the type requested. Arrangements for covering ambulance shifts in the event of crew members being unavailable for duty are dealt with on a day-to-day basis by local management.

## **Emergency Ambulances and Rapid Response Vehicles**

**Mr G Robinson** asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the announced additional 65,000 ambulance hours will be covered by (i) emergency ambulances; and (ii) rapid response vehicles.

**(AQW 3358/10)**

**Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:** Details of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service's plans for Comprehensive Spending Review efficiency savings and investment may be found on the Trust's website at: [www.niamb.co.uk/docs/documents/news\\_downloads/CSR%20Final%20EQIA%20and%20Consultation%20Report.pdf](http://www.niamb.co.uk/docs/documents/news_downloads/CSR%20Final%20EQIA%20and%20Consultation%20Report.pdf).

---

# Written Answers Index

<b>Department for Regional Development</b>	80	<b>Department for Social Development</b>	91
A26 Ballymoney to Coleraine	90	Attacks on Staff in Jobs and Benefits Offices	96
Buses Involved in Accidents	89	Benefits for Cross-Border Workers	98
CAF Trains	82	Business Improvement Districts	96
Capital Spend Schemes	88	Claims for Compensation by Staff in Jobs and Benefits Offices	97
Contingency Plan Anticipating the Recent Severe Cold Weather	84	Community Care Grants	98
Cost of Providing a Salt Box	87	Community Safety Strategy for Older People	95
Damage to Roads	81	Disabled Facilities Grants	92
Derry to Belfast Rail Service	86	Economy 7 Heating in Housing Executive Properties	99
Flooding at 21 Ballyblack Road, Newtownards	89	Executive Papers	94
Goods and Services Paid for Online	80	Grants for Environmentally Friendly Domestic Boilers	96
Name Plaques on Bridges	90	Housing Stress	95
NI Railways	87	Investing for Health Strategy	93
NI Water	84	Lack of Heating in the High Park Flats, Derry	93
Portrush to Coleraine Rail Service	85	Neighbourhood Wardens in Ballymena	93
Potholes	80	Occupational Therapists' Reports	94
Potholes	85	People Sleeping Rough	91
Potholes and Road Erosion	82	Sheltered Housing	95
Preventative and Early Intervention Measures	88	Social Security Agency Office at Urney Street, Strabane	99
Removal of Boulders and Fences at Columbas Vale, Newtownards	89	Town Centre Masterplans	96
Road Repairs	80	Warm Homes Scheme	94
Road Repairs	89	Warm Homes Scheme	94
Road Repairs	91	Welfare Rights Officers	98
Road Salt	83		
Road Salt	83	<b>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>	5
Road Salt	83	Average Income of Dairy Farms	8
Skipperstone Road, Bangor	87	Cruelty and Neglect to Animals	10
Tender Documents CO 71 and CO 58	84	Damage to Crops by the Recent Severe Weather	6
Tender Documents CO 71 and CO 58	85	EU Grants for Storage Facilities for Poultry Litter	6
Water Meters in Commercial Properties	88	EU Grants for Storage Facilities for Poultry Litter	6
		Executive Papers	9
<b>Department for Employment and Learning</b>	39	Farm Modernisation Scheme	7
Arts and Humanities Subjects	41	Farm Modernisation Scheme	8
Courses for People Aged 60 and Over	40	Farm Modernisation Scheme: Manure Efficiency Technology Sub-programme	10
Efficiency Saving Measures	39	Flights Booked for Civil Servants	5
Executive Papers	44	Forestry and Woodland	10
Goods and Services Paid for Online	41	Golden Box and Angus Bonus	9
Hughes Christensen	43	Goods and Services Paid for Online	9
Investing for Health Strategy	40	Hotels Booked for Civil Servants	5
IT Skills Courses	40	Integrated Area Control System Payments	7
Learner Access and Engagement Pilot Programme	39		
Learner Access and Engagement Pilot Programme	39		
Papers Referred to the Executive	43		
PHD Research Students	42		
Programme-led Apprenticeships Scheme	42		
Students Studying STEM Subjects	42		

Investing for Health Strategy	9	Strategic Education Plan and Entitlement Framework for the Craigavon Area	20
New Countryside Management Programme	7	Teachers' Allowance	25
Rivers Agency Drainage Study, Dromore Road	10	Teachers' Allowance	25
Single Farm Payment	10	Transfer Tests	27
Supermarket Ombudsman	7	Transfer Tests	31
<b>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</b>	11	Transfer Tests	31
Closure of Libraries	13	Transfer Tests	32
Elite Facilities	12	Unemployed School Leavers	37
Goods and Services Paid for Online	11	Urgent School Repairs	23
Irish Language	13		
Library Closures	14	<b>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</b>	44
Orange Order	12	Avanti Communications	46
Ulster-Scots Language	13	Avaya	51
<b>Department of Education</b>	14	Fuel Bills	49
Additional Resources for Rural Primary Schools	22	Geothermal Energy	49
Capital Build Programme	16	Geothermal Energy	49
Capital Build Programme	16	Geothermal Energy	49
Capital Build Projects	21	Goods and Services Paid for Online	44
Capital Build Schemes	20	Hughes Christensen	50
Class Sizes	26	Land at Melmount Road, Strabane	51
Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education	23	People Aged 50 and Above Currently in Employment	47
Computer Adaptive Testing	31	Social Economy Enterprises	50
Educational Underachievement	18	Tourism Meetings	48
Education Budget Cuts	15	Vision for the North East Area	47
Education Budget Cuts	15	Vision for the North East Area	48
Emotional Well-being in Schools	17		
Enrolment Figures	19	<b>Department of Finance and Personnel</b>	57
Executive Papers	19	Birth Rate	60
Fairtrade Products in School Meals	23	Building Regulations (NI) 2000	59
Grant-aid Funding	26	Capital Investment	64
GSCE Examination Results	32	Capital Projects	61
Intercultural Tolerance and Awareness	36	Central Procurement Directorate Staff	57
Investing for Health	17	Consultations on Building Regulations	59
Irish GCSE	33	Consultations on Building Regulations	63
New Build at Glasyry College, Ballyhalbert	34	Cost of Deferring Water Charges	63
New Build Primary School at Carrick, Warrenpoint	24	District Rates	66
New Build Primary School at Carrick, Warrenpoint	24	Fairtrade Products	64
New Build Projects	21	Flights for Civil Servants	63
New Transfer Tests	36	Goods and Services Paid for Online	57
Pupil Numbers in Each Education and Library Board Area	34	Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2	62
Pupils Cheating in Exams	27	Land Registry Service Staffing	65
Review of Public Administration	14	Preventative and Early Intervention Measures	62
Safer Internet Use for Children and Young People	35	Preventative and Early Intervention Measures	64
School Closures during the Recent Cold Spell	19	Procurement and Tendering Procedures	65
Sparklebox	22	Rate Arrears	65
Sparklebox	38	Staff Uniforms	64
		Valuation of Properties in New Developments	61



<b>Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety</b>	66
Adults With a Learning Disability	74
Allegations of Child Sex Abuse Against Liam Adams	77
Child Abuse and Neglect	79
Child Protection Register	70
Clinical Obesity	76
Consultants on Sick Leave	69
Contact Youth	71
Contact Youth	71
Cost of Smoking Cessation Programmes and Products	66
Dalriada Hospital	69
Day Care Services	73
Dedicated Drugs Rehabilitation Centre	68
DHSSPS Advertising	78
DHSSPS Budget	78
Erne Hospital	79
Executive Papers	72
Fraud Investigation Team	68
Goods and Services Paid for Online	72
Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy	67
Guidance on the Termination of Pregnancy	67
Health and Social Care Trusts and the Regional Health Board	76
Hospital-acquired Infections	77
Investing for Health Strategy	71
Investing for Health Strategy	72
Management and Service Structure in Health and Social Care Trusts	76
Maternity and Gynaecology Provision	70
Maternity Services	79
Methodrone	76
Multiple Sclerosis respite in Dalriada Hospital	69
Nerve Stimulation	69
Non-care Elements for Care Home Residents	71
Nuero-physiotherapists	75
Nuero-physiotherapists	75
Nuero-physiotherapy Services	74
Occupational Therapists' Referrals	67
Preventative and Early Intervention Measures	74
Procurement Process	67
Programme for Government Targets	73
Public Health Agency	78
Review of Public Administration	72
Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act	70
Spinal or Neck Injuries	67
Staffing for Heart Surgery Procedures	76
Suicide Rate	73
Swine Flu	79
Tyrone-Cavan Interconnector	70
X-ray Scans in Dalriada Hospital	68

<b>Department Of Health, Social Services And Public Safety</b>	103
Ambulance Crew Overtime	104
Ambulance Fleet	103
Emergency Ambulances and Rapid Response Vehicles	104
Rapid Response Vehicles	103
<b>Department of the Environment</b>	51
Clean Neighbourhoods	56
Council Chief Executives	53
Craigmore Landfill Site	52
Developments Owned by Fred Fraser	51
George Best Belfast City Airport	53
Green Grave Burial System	53
Illegal Instruction of Learner Drivers	56
Impact of Salting and Gritting on Fresh Waterways	51
Landfill Sites in the Ringsend Area of County Derry	53
Planning Applications	52
Planning Applications	54
Planning Reform	55
Preventative and Early Intervention Measures	53
Release of Whitelands at Millmount, Dundonald	52
Road Deaths	55
Road Safety: Speed Cameras	56
<b>Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister</b>	1
Community Empowerment Partnerships	2
Executive Business	2
Executive Papers	1
Investment Strategy	3
Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland	2
Lifetime Opportunities Strategy	1
Maze Site	5
OFMDFM: Research Branch	3
Policing and Justice Powers	3
Preventative and Early Intervention Measures	1
Review of Women's Sector Funding	2
Victims and Survivors Service	3
Victims and Survivors Service	5







Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,  
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

**Online**

[www.tsoshop.co.uk](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk)

**Mail, Telephone, Fax & E-mail**

TSO

PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522

Fax orders: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: [customer.services@tso.co.uk](mailto:customer.services@tso.co.uk)

Textphone 0870 240 3701

**TSO@Blackwell and other Accredited Agents**

**Customers can also order publications from:**

TSO Ireland

16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD

Telephone: 028 9023 8451

Fax: 028 9023 5401

ISSN 1463-7162

Daily Editions: Single copies £5, Annual subscriptions £325

Bound Volumes of Debates are issued periodically during the session: Single copies: £90

Printed in Northern Ireland by The Stationery Office Limited

© Copyright Northern Ireland Assembly Commission 2010

ISBN 978-0-339-70159-5

