

Official Report (Hansard)

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 5 March 2010
Volume 49, No WA1

Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister1

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development65

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure69

Department of Education82

Department for Employment and Learning.....114

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment116

Department of the Environment.....125

Department of Finance and Personnel153

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.....157

Department for Regional Development.....177

Department for Social Development187

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission.....194

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

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 5 March 2010

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland

Mr G Savage asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on (i) Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 1; and (ii) Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2.

(AQW 4391/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness): The information which you requested is set out below and has been provided by respective departments.

TABLE A – ISNI 1

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| e-HR [Subsequently changed to “HR Connect”] | 35.8 | Completed | Target for full implementation was November 2008. The final HR Connect service went live in August 2009. Total project capital expenditure is forecast to remain within budget. |
| Government accommodation | 75.0 | Cancelled | The Workplace 2010 procurement process was effectively terminated in February 2009 when the 2 bidders who had progressed to Best and Final Offer stage wrote to the Department withdrawing their bids. |
| DEL-Queen’s University Library | 16.7 | April 2009 | The capital grant for this project was increased from £10m to £16.7m as a result of additional applications to the Department for funding. This meant that the deadline for completion was moved back to April 2009 to allow time for the additional work to be carried out. Completed within budget (capital grant offered was not exceeded). |
| DEL-UU Belfast Campus | 10.0 | June 2006 | Completed on time and within budget (capital grant offered was not exceeded). |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| DEL-Orchard Project | 6.5 | April 2010 | Original completion date was revised to April 2010 to allow time to assess the full working of a new biomass boiler. There had been problems with the boiler installation but these have now been addressed. Contained within original capital grant budget. |
| DEL-Fermanagh College (Now campus of South West College) | 8 | August 2007 | Killyhevlin Skills Centre built within budget but delivered in July 2009. A revision to the business case was required and this took some time to complete. |
| DETI-Giant's Causeway Visitor Facilities (GCVE) | 19.5 | Mid - 2012 | The original proposal for new visitor facilities was, in the absence of any other project promoter, to be taken forward and paid for completely by DETI. Following a series of events in 2007/08 including the refusal of planning permission for an alternative private sector led proposal, the National Trust, in partnership with Moyle District Council, decided to become project promoter. The project, which is based on the design commissioned by DETI, secured planning approval in 2009 and is valued at £18.5m. NITB is currently considering a funding application from National Trust for £9.25m. National Trust has committed £6.25m to the project and has recently secured an additional £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A final decision on NITB funding is expected in March 2010. |
| DOE-Waste Management (including grants to district councils) | 285 | N/A | ISNI 1 included an estimate of future waste management capital investment required to comply with the EU Landfill Directive (1999). The original ISNI documentation explains that a final decision had not been reached on whether this would be funded by the Department of the Environment (DoE) or local government (district councils). In the interim, ISNI 1 provisionally allocated this investment to DoE. ISNI 1 was superseded by ISNI 2, covering the period 2008-2018. ISNI 2 includes £436m of capital investment in Waste Management, with £200m capital funding from the Executive. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|---|--|--|--|
| DSD-Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park | | | Scheduled for completion in 2017 but Masterplan is still to be approved. A conservation programme for the gaol is currently underway at a cost of £4.7 million over the next year. |
| OFMDFM-Maze/Long Kesh | Not stated | Not realised | OFMDFM Ministerial decision on 8 April 2009 to end the procurement linked to the 2006 Masterplan. OFMDFM Ministers announced that a Development Corporation (DC) would be established to take forward the redevelopment of the site and officials are processing the necessary legislation to set up the DC. Substantial demolition and remediation works have been completed to prepare the site for future use. Remediation and site preparation work is ongoing. |
| OFMDFM-Ebrington | Parade Ground – £7.2m. Peace Bridge - £13m this is being funded under the EU Peace III Programme. Several other projects ongoing on site. | On Target | Substantial works will be completed on the Peace Bridge and the Parade Ground by 2011. The substantial demolition project at Ebrington is now completed, a number of conservation projects are ongoing and the initial development of the Parade Ground at Ebrington is due to commence shortly. Illex are phasing development plans in line with available funding. |
| DRD-Total for Roads Packages 1 and 2 | 474 | Mar-11 | The previous estimate was supplied prior to the Contracts being signed for both packages. The differences include increased land costs and changes in scope including additional schemes. |
| DRD-Derry to Dungiven Dual Carriageway | 320-390 | n/k | The previous estimate was supplied in the initial planning stage. The extent of the scheme is now more defined following the announcement of the preferred route. |
| DRD-A1 Loughbrickland to Beechill | 25 | Nov-06 | Compensation events and delays resulted in additional costs and a later completion date. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| DRD-A5 Omagh Throughpass | 14 | Aug-07 | Compensation events and delays resulted in additional costs and a later completion date. |
| DRD-Belfast Sewers Project | 162 | Dec-09 | This project was substantially completed in December 2009 with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DRD-North Coast Wastewater Treatment Works | 48 | May-07 | This project was completed on time with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DRD-Belfast Lough Wastewater Treatment Works | 23 | Aug-06 | This project was completed in August 2006 with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DCAL-Dungiven New Library | 1.2 | June 2010 | Originally estimated to be completed in 2007-08 and to cost £0.6m. Original design was deemed inadequate and a larger facility was designed (at a higher cost). Approvals process had to be restarted as a result. Project to be completed within revised budget and timescale. |
| DCAL-Bangor Library upgrade | 2.7 | September 2008 | Originally estimated to be completed in March 2008 and to cost £2.4m. Project was delayed and cost increased due to problem with floor screed and design changes. Completed within revised timescale. |
| DCAL-Lyric Theatre* | 9.79 | March 2011 | Originally estimated to be completed in March 2010. DCAL contribution increased from original £6m during the design development process and an Addendum to the Original Economic Appraisal was approved by DFP. The project is currently on time and on budget within the agreed revised programme. |
| DCAL-Crescent Arts Centre* | 4.5 | March 2010 | A review of the original project carried out by CPD resulted in an increase in costs from the original £2.5m and an Addendum to the original Economic Appraisal was approved by DFP. The project is currently on time and on budget within the agreed revised programme. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| DCAL-Waterways Ireland Headquarters | 10.9 | September 2009 | The DCAL contribution to the total capital cost was £8.9m (previously revised from £8.2m). The building is complete with payments of £8.8m paid to date. The remainder of payments are due to be made within the allocated budget before the end of March 2010. |
| DCAL-Refurbishment of Armagh Planetarium | 2.78 | December 2005 | The difference between the projected and actual capital spend is due to the projected cost (£2.3m), as approved by DFP, being based on the Economic Appraisal. This preceded the tendering process which resulted in tendered prices being higher but still within the 10% tolerance limits set by DFP. Completed within revised timescale. |
| DCAL-Refurbishment of Ulster Museum | 17.2 | October 2009 | The scope and timescale of the project was extended at design stage to incorporate additional works/enhancements, best/most economically undertaken at the same time as the rest of the refurbishment programme plus health/safety/fire requirements. These additional elements also included a new Applied Art Gallery funded solely from private donations, an Art Discovery Centre and a new security system. This increased the cost from £11.5m to £17.2m and was approved by DCAL and DFP. DCAL's contribution increased from £7.1m to £11.1m with £4.5m from the Heritage lottery Fund. Completed within revised timescale. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Jobs & Benefits Project | 43.6 (based on OBC estimates) | May 2014 | <p>Work on the remaining 8 offices has yet to commence, therefore no capital costs have been incurred yet.</p> <p>Planned office completion dates:</p> <p>Newcastle – January 2012</p> <p>Strabane – March 2012</p> <p>Cookstown – August 2012</p> <p>North Belfast – October 2012</p> <p>Newtownards – October 2012</p> <p>Downpatrick – October 2012</p> <p>Bangor – December 2012</p> <p>Ballynahinch – May 2014 (this last office is the only one likely to miss the key milestone under Social Key Goals of the Investment Strategy due to the fact that the new Downpatrick needs to be completed to take Ballynahinch staff during its construction phase)</p> |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Department of Education Projects | - | - | <p>In ISNI 1 the Department of Education had 106 major capital projects. Of these 48 have been completed, construction work is currently underway on 15 projects and a further 31 projects are still at various stages of the planning and approval process.</p> <p>While the majority of these projects may not have 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. The costs of those projects that have been completed or are currently on site have been met from within the Department's approved capital budget allocations.</p> <p>A total 12 of projects are no longer being taken forward at this time, mainly due to concerns over enrolments and subsequently their long term viability; planning issues; and the need to consider other options such as rationalisation.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework the Minister of Education is putting in place. On 15 October 2009 the Minister announced a review of all capital projects still in planning 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.</p> |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Projects | - | - | <p>The Minister of Health Social Service and Public Safety has commented that the DHSSPS capital investment programme has changed significantly from those published in ISNI 1 (2005) and ISNI 2 (2008) due, in the main, to the available funding envelope which falls far short of what is needed to address the legacy of under-investment within health and also to changing and emerging priorities. The lack of clarity about the level of budget cuts expected in the next CSR period prevents him finalising decisions on my capital investment programme and it would be inappropriate for him to provide information in the format requested at this time since both ISNI 1 and ISNI 2 cover a 10 year period. He further commented that the ISNI profile for DHSSPS is unworkable in the current economic climate.</p> |

TABLE B – ISNI 2

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Networks | Opening of the M1/ Westlink and M2 upgrades in 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | An enhanced ferry service for Rathlin Island by 2009 | | | | | | |
| | The establishment of a new International Communications link in the North West directly connected to North America and Europe by the end of 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | Opening of the Dungannon to Ballygawley dualling in 2010 | X | | | | | |
| | Opening of the A1 Beech Hill to Cloghogue dualling in 2010 | X | | | | | |
| | The first phase of 20 new trains coming into service by 2011 | | | | X | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Networks | By the end of 2011, working with the private sector, the delivery of widespread access for businesses to a next generation broadband network | | | X | | | |
| | Starting work on the first rapid transit line in greater Belfast by 2011 | | | | X | | |
| | Dualling key parts of the A6 during the lifetime of the Strategy | | | X | | | |
| | Opening the A5 and the remaining section of the A8 dualling schemes during the lifetime of the strategy | | | X | | | |
| | A new campus for Belfast metropolitan College open by 2010 | | | | | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Skills | New accommodation at the North West Regional College's main campus by 2010 | | | X | | | |
| | New accommodation at the South Eastern Regional College's campuses in Lisburn, Downpatrick, Newcastle and Ballynahinch open by 2011 | | | X | | | |
| | A new Belfast Central Library open by 2015 | | | X | | | |
| | Taking forward major works at over 100 schools across the region in the period 2008-2011, including eight schools for pupils with special educational needs. | <p>In ISNI 2 the Department of Education were taking forward major capital works at 108 schools. 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.</p> <p>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. While the majority of DE 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.</p> | | | | | |
| | From 2012, commencement of a broader programmes of schools modernisation, based firmly on cross-sector area plans and linking with other public service. | <p>The costs of those projects that have been completed or are currently on site have been met from within the Department's approved capital budget allocations.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework the Minister of Education is putting in place. On 15 October 2009 the Minister announced a review of all capital projects still in planning 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.</p> | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|--------|--|---|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Health | A new local enhanced hospital at Downpatrick by 2009 | Please see above the comments from the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Table A of this answer. | | | | | |
| | First phase of Ulster Hospital redevelopment complete by 2010 | | | | | | |
| | Opening five new health and care centres by 2011 in Andersonstown, Castlereagh, Shankill, Grove (Shore Road) and Portadown | | | | | | |
| | A new acute hospital serving the South West by 2012 | | | | | | |
| | A new local enhanced hospital in Omagh by 2013 | | | | | | |
| | A new mental health crisis centre at Gransha by 2010 | | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|--------|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Social | Co-location of all the previously separate benefit delivery and job assistance services in single offices by 2012 | | | | X | | Funding has only been made available until March 2011 as it is aligned with the current CSR funding window. However, the timetable for delivery of the remaining 8 offices extends beyond March 2011 and funding for work beyond this date has yet to be secured. |
| | Delivery of 10,000 new social and affordable houses by 2013, working with housing associations and the private sector | | | X | | | |
| | Completion of a new 50m swimming pool in time for the Olympics | | | | X | | |
| | Delivery of the agreed overall objectives of the West Belfast and Greater Shankhill Taskforce | | | | X | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Social | The commencement of a major mixed-use regeneration scheme in the North East Quarter of Belfast City Centre by 2011 leveraging in significant private sector investment | | | | X | | |
| | Substantial parts of Ebrington and Fort George in Derry/ Londonderry built out by 2011 | | | | X | | |
| | And Crumlin Road Gaol / Girdwood Barracks | | | | X | | |
| Environment | Completing the Belfast Sewers Project by 2010 in order to significantly reduce the risks of flooding in parts of the city | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Environment | Upgrading water treatment and distribution infrastructure in a phased manner, to comply with existing water quality regulations across the region by 2014. This will include service commencement of Project Alpha (to upgrade water treatment facilities) by 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | Upgrading wastewater treatment infrastructure in a phased manner to bring the region in to compliance with current EU standards by 2014. This will include service commencement of Project Omega (to upgrade wastewater treatment and sludge disposal facilities) by 2010. | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Environment | Supporting local authorities to deliver the waste management infrastructure by 2011 (with up to £200 million or 50% of the capital cost, whichever is less) | | | | X | | The Executive's capital contribution to the Waste Infrastructure Projects is capped at £200m. DoE has allocated £1.824m of capital funding support to local government up to Dec 2009. The majority of the capital support to local government will be required in the next budget period when construction commences - the Department has already notified DFP of this. |
| Productive | A major review of surplus public sector sites by 2008, with a view to identifying significant sites with industrial development potential across the region | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Productive | Helping the farming community into compliance with Nitrates Directive by 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | By 2011 acquire and / or develop 200 acres of serviced land for InvestNI client companies in the main hubs, as defined by the regional development strategy. | | | X | | | |
| | Support for 20 farm / agri-food businesses in a £10m scheme to create renewable energy from agri-food waste by 2014 | | | X | | | |
| | By 2013 £25 million of public and private investment will be made in the fishing industry through the European Fisheries Fund Programme | | | | | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Productive | Completion of the 2010 contract in 2009, with Investment to upgrade & modernize public sector accommodation and systems. | | | | | X | <p>The Workplace 2010 procurement process was effectively terminated in Feb 2009 when the 2 bidders who had progressed to Best and Final Offer stage wrote to the Department withdrawing their bids.</p> <p>Target for full implementation of the IT Assist Programme was April 2009. All departments migrated to the ICT Shared Service Centre by target date. Project is being managed on schedule and within budget.</p> |

Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland

Mr G Savage asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if all projects within Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 1 were completed and finished on budget and on time; and if not, to provide an explanation.

(AQW 4394/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The information which you requested is set out below and has been provided by respective departments.

TABLE A – ISNI 1

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| e-HR [Subsequently changed to “HR Connect”] | 35.8 | Completed | Target for full implementation was November 2008. The final HR Connect service went live in August 2009. Total project capital expenditure is forecast to remain within budget. |
| Government accommodation | 75.0 | Cancelled | The Workplace 2010 procurement process was effectively terminated in February 2009 when the 2 bidders who had progressed to Best and Final Offer stage wrote to the Department withdrawing their bids. |
| DEL-Queen’s University Library | 16.7 | April 2009 | The capital grant for this project was increased from £10m to £16.7m as a result of additional applications to the Department for funding. This meant that the deadline for completion was moved back to April 2009 to allow time for the additional work to be carried out. Completed within budget (capital grant offered was not exceeded). |
| DEL-UU Belfast Campus | 10.0 | June 2006 | Completed on time and within budget (capital grant offered was not exceeded). |
| DEL-Orchard Project | 6.5 | April 2010 | Original completion date was revised to April 2010 to allow time to assess the full working of a new biomass boiler. There had been problems with the boiler installation but these have now been addressed. Contained within original capital grant budget. |
| DEL-Fermanagh College (Now campus of South West College) | 8 | August 2007 | Killyhevlin Skills Centre built within budget but delivered in July 2009. A revision to the business case was required and this took some time to complete. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| DETI-Giant's Causeway Visitor Facilities (GCVE) | 19.5 | Mid - 2012 | The original proposal for new visitor facilities was, in the absence of any other project promoter, to be taken forward and paid for completely by DETI. Following a series of events in 2007/08 including the refusal of planning permission for an alternative private sector led proposal, the National Trust, in partnership with Moyle District Council, decided to become project promoter. The project, which is based on the design commissioned by DETI, secured planning approval in 2009 and is valued at £18.5m. NITB is currently considering a funding application from National Trust for £9.25m. National Trust has committed £6.25m to the project and has recently secured an additional £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A final decision on NITB funding is expected in March 2010. |
| DOE-Waste Management (including grants to district councils) | 285 | N/A | ISNI 1 included an estimate of future waste management capital investment required to comply with the EU Landfill Directive (1999). The original ISNI documentation explains that a final decision had not been reached on whether this would be funded by the Department of the Environment (DoE) or local government (district councils). In the interim, ISNI 1 provisionally allocated this investment to DoE. ISNI 1 was superseded by ISNI 2, covering the period 2008-2018. ISNI 2 includes £436m of capital investment in Waste Management, with £200m capital funding from the Executive. |
| DSD-Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park | | | Scheduled for completion in 2017 but Masterplan is still to be approved. A conservation programme for the gaol is currently underway at a cost of £4.7 million over the next year. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|---|--|--|
| OFMDFM-Maze/Long Kesh | Not stated | Not realised | OFMDFM Ministerial decision on 8 April 2009 to end the procurement linked to the 2006 Masterplan. OFMDFM Ministers announced that a Development Corporation (DC) would be established to take forward the redevelopment of the site and officials are processing the necessary legislation to set up the DC. Substantial demolition and remediation works have been completed to prepare the site for future use. Remediation and site preparation work is ongoing. |
| OFMDFM-Ebrington | Parade Ground – £7.2m. Peace Bridge - £13m this is being funded under the EU Peace III Programme. Several other projects ongoing on site. | On Target | Substantial works will be completed on the Peace Bridge and the Parade Ground by 2011. The substantial demolition project at Ebrington is now completed, a number of conservation projects are ongoing and the initial development of the Parade Ground at Ebrington is due to commence shortly. Ilex are phasing development plans in line with available funding. |
| DRD-Total for Roads Packages 1 and 2 | 474 | Mar-11 | The previous estimate was supplied prior to the Contracts being signed for both packages. The differences include increased land costs and changes in scope including additional schemes. |
| DRD-Derry to Dungiven Dual Carriageway | 320-390 | n/k | The previous estimate was supplied in the initial planning stage. The extent of the scheme is now more defined following the announcement of the preferred route. |
| DRD-A1 Loughbrickland to Beechill | 25 | Nov-06 | Compensation events and delays resulted in additional costs and a later completion date. |
| DRD-A5 Omagh Throughpass | 14 | Aug-07 | Compensation events and delays resulted in additional costs and a later completion date. |
| DRD-Belfast Sewers Project | 162 | Dec-09 | This project was substantially completed in December 2009 with additional cost due to changes in scope. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| DRD-North Coast Wastewater Treatment Works | 48 | May-07 | This project was completed on time with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DRD-Belfast Lough Wastewater Treatment Works | 23 | Aug-06 | This project was completed in August 2006 with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DCAL-Dungiven New Library | 1.2 | June 2010 | Originally estimated to be completed in 2007-08 and to cost £0.6m. Original design was deemed inadequate and a larger facility was designed (at a higher cost). Approvals process had to be restarted as a result. Project to be completed within revised budget and timescale. |
| DCAL-Bangor Library upgrade | 2.7 | September 2008 | Originally estimated to be completed in March 2008 and to cost £2.4m. Project was delayed and cost increased due to problem with floor screed and design changes. Completed within revised timescale. |
| DCAL-Lyric Theatre* | 9.79 | March 2011 | Originally estimated to be completed in March 2010. DCAL contribution increased from original £6m during the design development process and an Addendum to the Original Economic Appraisal was approved by DFP. The project is currently on time and on budget within the agreed revised programme. |
| DCAL-Crescent Arts Centre* | 4.5 | March 2010 | A review of the original project carried out by CPD resulted in an increase in costs from the original £2.5m and an Addendum to the original Economic Appraisal was approved by DFP. The project is currently on time and on budget within the agreed revised programme. |
| DCAL-Waterways Ireland Headquarters | 10.9 | September 2009 | The DCAL contribution to the total capital cost was £8.9m (previously revised from £8.2m). The building is complete with payments of £8.8m paid to date. The remainder of payments are due to be made within the allocated budget before the end of March 2010. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| DCAL-Refurbishment of Armagh Planetarium | 2.78 | December 2005 | The difference between the projected and actual capital spend is due to the projected cost (£2.3m), as approved by DFP, being based on the Economic Appraisal. This preceded the tendering process which resulted in tendered prices being higher but still within the 10% tolerance limits set by DFP. Completed within revised timescale. |
| DCAL-Refurbishment of Ulster Museum | 17.2 | October 2009 | The scope and timescale of the project was extended at design stage to incorporate additional works/enhancements, best/most economically undertaken at the same time as the rest of the refurbishment programme plus health/safety/fire requirements. These additional elements also included a new Applied Art Gallery funded solely from private donations, an Art Discovery Centre and a new security system. This increased the cost from £11.5m to £17.2m and was approved by DCAL and DFP. DCAL's contribution increased from £7.1m to £11.1m with £4.5m from the Heritage lottery Fund. Completed within revised timescale. |
| Jobs & Benefits Project | 43.6 (based on OBC estimates) | May 2014 | <p>Work on the remaining 8 offices has yet to commence, therefore no capital costs have been incurred yet.</p> <p>Planned office completion dates:</p> <p>Newcastle – January 2012</p> <p>Strabane – March 2012</p> <p>Cookstown – August 2012</p> <p>North Belfast – October 2012</p> <p>Newtownards – October 2012</p> <p>Downpatrick – October 2012</p> <p>Bangor – December 2012</p> <p>Ballynahinch – May 2014 (this last office is the only one likely to miss the key milestone under Social Key Goals of the Investment Strategy due to the fact that the new Downpatrick needs to be completed to take Ballynahinch staff during its construction phase)</p> |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Department of Education Projects | - | - | <p>In ISNI 1 the Department of Education had 106 major capital projects. Of these 48 have been completed, construction work is currently underway on 15 projects and a further 31 projects are still at various stages of the planning and approval process.</p> <p>While the majority of these projects may not have 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. The costs of those projects that have been completed or are currently on site have been met from within the Department's approved capital budget allocations.</p> <p>A total 12 of projects are no longer being taken forward at this time, mainly due to concerns over enrolments and subsequently their long term viability; planning issues; and the need to consider other options such as rationalisation.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework the Minister of Education is putting in place. On 15 October 2009 the Minister announced a review of all capital projects still in planning 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.</p> |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Projects | - | - | <p>The Minister of Health Social Service and Public Safety has commented that the DHSSPS capital investment programme has changed significantly from those published in ISNI 1 (2005) and ISNI 2 (2008) due, in the main, to the available funding envelope which falls far short of what is needed to address the legacy of under-investment within health and also to changing and emerging priorities. The lack of clarity about the level of budget cuts expected in the next CSR period prevents him finalising decisions on my capital investment programme and it would be inappropriate for him to provide information in the format requested at this time since both ISNI 1 and ISNI 2 cover a 10 year period. He further commented that the ISNI profile for DHSSPS is unworkable in the current economic climate.</p> |

TABLE B – ISNI 2

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Networks | Opening of the M1/ Westlink and M2 upgrades in 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | An enhanced ferry service for Rathlin Island by 2009 | | | | | | |
| | The establishment of a new International Communications link in the North West directly connected to North America and Europe by the end of 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | Opening of the Dungannon to Ballygawley dualling in 2010 | X | | | | | |
| | Opening of the A1 Beech Hill to Cloghogue dualling in 2010 | X | | | | | |
| | The first phase of 20 new trains coming into service by 2011 | | | | X | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Networks | By the end of 2011, working with the private sector, the delivery of widespread access for businesses to a next generation broadband network | | | X | | | |
| | Starting work on the first rapid transit line in greater Belfast by 2011 | | | | X | | |
| | Dualling key parts of the A6 during the lifetime of the Strategy | | | X | | | |
| | Opening the A5 and the remaining section of the A8 dualling schemes during the lifetime of the strategy | | | X | | | |
| | A new campus for Belfast metropolitan College open by 2010 | | | | | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Skills | New accommodation at the North West Regional College's main campus by 2010 | | | X | | | |
| | New accommodation at the South Eastern Regional College's campuses in Lisburn, Downpatrick, Newcastle and Ballynahinch open by 2011 | | | X | | | |
| | A new Belfast Central Library open by 2015 | | | X | | | |
| | Taking forward major works at over 100 schools across the region in the period 2008-2011, including eight schools for pupils with special educational needs. | <p>In ISNI 2 the Department of Education were taking forward major capital works at 108 schools. 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.</p> <p>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. While the majority of DE 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.</p> | | | | | |
| | From 2012, commencement of a broader programmes of schools modernisation, based firmly on cross-sector area plans and linking with other public service. | <p>The costs of those projects that have been completed or are currently on site have been met from within the Department's approved capital budget allocations.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework the Minister of Education is putting in place. On 15 October 2009 the Minister announced a review of all capital projects still in planning 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.</p> | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|--------|--|---|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Health | A new local enhanced hospital at Downpatrick by 2009 | Please see above the comments from the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Table A of this answer. | | | | | |
| | First phase of Ulster Hospital redevelopment complete by 2010 | | | | | | |
| | Opening five new health and care centres by 2011 in Andersonstown, Castlereagh, Shankill, Grove (Shore Road) and Portadown | | | | | | |
| | A new acute hospital serving the South West by 2012 | | | | | | |
| | A new local enhanced hospital in Omagh by 2013 | | | | | | |
| | A new mental health crisis centre at Gransha by 2010 | | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|--------|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Social | Co-location of all the previously separate benefit delivery and job assistance services in single offices by 2012 | | | | X | | Funding has only been made available until March 2011 as it is aligned with the current CSR funding window. However, the timetable for delivery of the remaining 8 offices extends beyond March 2011 and funding for work beyond this date has yet to be secured. |
| | Delivery of 10,000 new social and affordable houses by 2013, working with housing associations and the private sector | | | X | | | |
| | Completion of a new 50m swimming pool in time for the Olympics | | | | X | | |
| | Delivery of the agreed overall objectives of the West Belfast and Greater Shankhill Taskforce | | | | X | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Social | The commencement of a major mixed-use regeneration scheme in the North East Quarter of Belfast City Centre by 2011 leveraging in significant private sector investment | | | | X | | |
| | Substantial parts of Ebrington and Fort George in Derry/ Londonderry built out by 2011 | | | | X | | |
| | And Crumlin Road Gaol / Girdwood Barracks | | | | X | | |
| Environment | Completing the Belfast Sewers Project by 2010 in order to significantly reduce the risks of flooding in parts of the city | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Environment | Upgrading water treatment and distribution infrastructure in a phased manner, to comply with existing water quality regulations across the region by 2014. This will include service commencement of Project Alpha (to upgrade water treatment facilities) by 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | Upgrading wastewater treatment infrastructure in a phased manner to bring the region in to compliance with current EU standards by 2014. This will include service commencement of Project Omega (to upgrade wastewater treatment and sludge disposal facilities) by 2010. | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Environment | Supporting local authorities to deliver the waste management infrastructure by 2011 (with up to £200 million or 50% of the capital cost, whichever is less) | | | | X | | The Executive's capital contribution to the Waste Infrastructure Projects is capped at £200m. DoE has allocated £1.824m of capital funding support to local government up to Dec 2009. The majority of the capital support to local government will be required in the next budget period when construction commences - the Department has already notified DFP of this. |
| Productive | A major review of surplus public sector sites by 2008, with a view to identifying significant sites with industrial development potential across the region | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Productive | Helping the farming community into compliance with Nitrates Directive by 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | By 2011 acquire and / or develop 200 acres of serviced land for InvestNI client companies in the main hubs, as defined by the regional development strategy. | | | X | | | |
| | Support for 20 farm / agri-food businesses in a £10m scheme to create renewable energy from agri-food waste by 2014 | | | X | | | |
| | By 2013 £25 million of public and private investment will be made in the fishing industry through the European Fisheries Fund Programme | | | | X | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Productive | Completion of the 2010 contract in 2009, with Investment to upgrade & modernize public sector accommodation and systems. | | | | | X | <p>The Workplace 2010 procurement process was effectively terminated in Feb 2009 when the 2 bidders who had progressed to Best and Final Offer stage wrote to the Department withdrawing their bids.</p> <p>Target for full implementation of the IT Assist Programme was April 2009. All departments migrated to the ICT Shared Service Centre by target date. Project is being managed on schedule and within budget.</p> |

Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland

Mr G Savage asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on each capital project within Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2, including whether each is on schedule and on budget.

(AQW 4395/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The information which you requested is set out below and has been provided by respective departments.

TABLE A – ISNI 1

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| e-HR [Subsequently changed to “HR Connect”] | 35.8 | Completed | Target for full implementation was November 2008. The final HR Connect service went live in August 2009. Total project capital expenditure is forecast to remain within budget. |
| Government accommodation | 75.0 | Cancelled | The Workplace 2010 procurement process was effectively terminated in February 2009 when the 2 bidders who had progressed to Best and Final Offer stage wrote to the Department withdrawing their bids. |
| DEL-Queen’s University Library | 16.7 | April 2009 | The capital grant for this project was increased from £10m to £16.7m as a result of additional applications to the Department for funding. This meant that the deadline for completion was moved back to April 2009 to allow time for the additional work to be carried out. Completed within budget (capital grant offered was not exceeded). |
| DEL-UU Belfast Campus | 10.0 | June 2006 | Completed on time and within budget (capital grant offered was not exceeded). |
| DEL-Orchard Project | 6.5 | April 2010 | Original completion date was revised to April 2010 to allow time to assess the full working of a new biomass boiler. There had been problems with the boiler installation but these have now been addressed. Contained within original capital grant budget. |
| DEL-Fermanagh College (Now campus of South West College) | 8 | August 2007 | Killyhevlin Skills Centre built within budget but delivered in July 2009. A revision to the business case was required and this took some time to complete. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| DETI-Giant's Causeway Visitor Facilities (GCVE) | 19.5 | Mid - 2012 | The original proposal for new visitor facilities was, in the absence of any other project promoter, to be taken forward and paid for completely by DETI. Following a series of events in 2007/08 including the refusal of planning permission for an alternative private sector led proposal, the National Trust, in partnership with Moyle District Council, decided to become project promoter. The project, which is based on the design commissioned by DETI, secured planning approval in 2009 and is valued at £18.5m. NITB is currently considering a funding application from National Trust for £9.25m. National Trust has committed £6.25m to the project and has recently secured an additional £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A final decision on NITB funding is expected in March 2010. |
| DOE-Waste Management (including grants to district councils) | 285 | N/A | ISNI 1 included an estimate of future waste management capital investment required to comply with the EU Landfill Directive (1999). The original ISNI documentation explains that a final decision had not been reached on whether this would be funded by the Department of the Environment (DoE) or local government (district councils). In the interim, ISNI 1 provisionally allocated this investment to DoE. ISNI 1 was superseded by ISNI 2, covering the period 2008-2018. ISNI 2 includes £436m of capital investment in Waste Management, with £200m capital funding from the Executive. |
| DSD-Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park | | | Scheduled for completion in 2017 but Masterplan is still to be approved. A conservation programme for the gaol is currently underway at a cost of £4.7 million over the next year. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|---|--|--|
| OFMDFM-Maze/Long Kesh | Not stated | Not realised | OFMDFM Ministerial decision on 8 April 2009 to end the procurement linked to the 2006 Masterplan. OFMDFM Ministers announced that a Development Corporation (DC) would be established to take forward the redevelopment of the site and officials are processing the necessary legislation to set up the DC. Substantial demolition and remediation works have been completed to prepare the site for future use. Remediation and site preparation work is ongoing. |
| OFMDFM-Ebrington | Parade Ground – £7.2m. Peace Bridge - £13m this is being funded under the EU Peace III Programme. Several other projects ongoing on site. | On Target | Substantial works will be completed on the Peace Bridge and the Parade Ground by 2011. The substantial demolition project at Ebrington is now completed, a number of conservation projects are ongoing and the initial development of the Parade Ground at Ebrington is due to commence shortly. Ilex are phasing development plans in line with available funding. |
| DRD-Total for Roads Packages 1 and 2 | 474 | Mar-11 | The previous estimate was supplied prior to the Contracts being signed for both packages. The differences include increased land costs and changes in scope including additional schemes. |
| DRD-Derry to Dungiven Dual Carriageway | 320-390 | n/k | The previous estimate was supplied in the initial planning stage. The extent of the scheme is now more defined following the announcement of the preferred route. |
| DRD-A1 Loughbrickland to Beechill | 25 | Nov-06 | Compensation events and delays resulted in additional costs and a later completion date. |
| DRD-A5 Omagh Throughpass | 14 | Aug-07 | Compensation events and delays resulted in additional costs and a later completion date. |
| DRD-Belfast Sewers Project | 162 | Dec-09 | This project was substantially completed in December 2009 with additional cost due to changes in scope. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|---|
| DRD-North Coast Wastewater Treatment Works | 48 | May-07 | This project was completed on time with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DRD-Belfast Lough Wastewater Treatment Works | 23 | Aug-06 | This project was completed in August 2006 with additional cost due to changes in scope. |
| DCAL-Dungiven New Library | 1.2 | June 2010 | Originally estimated to be completed in 2007-08 and to cost £0.6m. Original design was deemed inadequate and a larger facility was designed (at a higher cost). Approvals process had to be restarted as a result. Project to be completed within revised budget and timescale. |
| DCAL-Bangor Library upgrade | 2.7 | September 2008 | Originally estimated to be completed in March 2008 and to cost £2.4m. Project was delayed and cost increased due to problem with floor screed and design changes. Completed within revised timescale. |
| DCAL-Lyric Theatre* | 9.79 | March 2011 | Originally estimated to be completed in March 2010. DCAL contribution increased from original £6m during the design development process and an Addendum to the Original Economic Appraisal was approved by DFP. The project is currently on time and on budget within the agreed revised programme. |
| DCAL-Crescent Arts Centre* | 4.5 | March 2010 | A review of the original project carried out by CPD resulted in an increase in costs from the original £2.5m and an Addendum to the original Economic Appraisal was approved by DFP. The project is currently on time and on budget within the agreed revised programme. |
| DCAL-Waterways Ireland Headquarters | 10.9 | September 2009 | The DCAL contribution to the total capital cost was £8.9m (previously revised from £8.2m). The building is complete with payments of £8.8m paid to date. The remainder of payments are due to be made within the allocated budget before the end of March 2010. |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| DCAL-Refurbishment of Armagh Planetarium | 2.78 | December 2005 | The difference between the projected and actual capital spend is due to the projected cost (£2.3m), as approved by DFP, being based on the Economic Appraisal. This preceded the tendering process which resulted in tendered prices being higher but still within the 10% tolerance limits set by DFP. Completed within revised timescale. |
| DCAL-Refurbishment of Ulster Museum | 17.2 | October 2009 | The scope and timescale of the project was extended at design stage to incorporate additional works/enhancements, best/most economically undertaken at the same time as the rest of the refurbishment programme plus health/safety/fire requirements. These additional elements also included a new Applied Art Gallery funded solely from private donations, an Art Discovery Centre and a new security system. This increased the cost from £11.5m to £17.2m and was approved by DCAL and DFP. DCAL's contribution increased from £7.1m to £11.1m with £4.5m from the Heritage lottery Fund. Completed within revised timescale. |
| Jobs & Benefits Project | 43.6 (based on OBC estimates) | May 2014 | <p>Work on the remaining 8 offices has yet to commence, therefore no capital costs have been incurred yet.</p> <p>Planned office completion dates:</p> <p>Newcastle – January 2012</p> <p>Strabane – March 2012</p> <p>Cookstown – August 2012</p> <p>North Belfast – October 2012</p> <p>Newtownards – October 2012</p> <p>Downpatrick – October 2012</p> <p>Bangor – December 2012</p> <p>Ballynahinch – May 2014 (this last office is the only one likely to miss the key milestone under Social Key Goals of the Investment Strategy due to the fact that the new Downpatrick needs to be completed to take Ballynahinch staff during its construction phase)</p> |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Department of Education Projects | - | - | <p>In ISNI 1 the Department of Education had 106 major capital projects. Of these 48 have been completed, construction work is currently underway on 15 projects and a further 31 projects are still at various stages of the planning and approval process.</p> <p>While the majority of these projects may not have 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. The costs of those projects that have been completed or are currently on site have been met from within the Department's approved capital budget allocations.</p> <p>A total 12 of projects are no longer being taken forward at this time, mainly due to concerns over enrolments and subsequently their long term viability; planning issues; and the need to consider other options such as rationalisation.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework the Minister of Education is putting in place. On 15 October 2009 the Minister announced a review of all capital projects still in planning 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.</p> |

| Project Name | Capital Value £m | Estimated Completion Date | Comment |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety Projects | - | - | The Minister of Health Social Service and Public Safety has commented that the DHSSPS capital investment programme has changed significantly from those published in ISNI 1 (2005) and ISNI 2 (2008) due, in the main, to the available funding envelope which falls far short of what is needed to address the legacy of under-investment within health and also to changing and emerging priorities. The lack of clarity about the level of budget cuts expected in the next CSR period prevents him finalising decisions on my capital investment programme and it would be inappropriate for him to provide information in the format requested at this time since both ISNI 1 and ISNI 2 cover a 10 year period. He further commented that the ISNI profile for DHSSPS is unworkable in the current economic climate. |

TABLE B – ISNI 2

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Networks | Opening of the M1/ Westlink and M2 upgrades in 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | An enhanced ferry service for Rathlin Island by 2009 | | | | | | |
| | The establishment of a new International Communications link in the North West directly connected to North America and Europe by the end of 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | Opening of the Dungannon to Ballygawley dualling in 2010 | X | | | | | |
| | Opening of the A1 Beech Hill to Cloghogue dualling in 2010 | X | | | | | |
| | The first phase of 20 new trains coming into service by 2011 | | | | X | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Networks | By the end of 2011, working with the private sector, the delivery of widespread access for businesses to a next generation broadband network | | | X | | | |
| | Starting work on the first rapid transit line in greater Belfast by 2011 | | | | X | | |
| | Dualling key parts of the A6 during the lifetime of the Strategy | | | X | | | |
| | Opening the A5 and the remaining section of the A8 dualling schemes during the lifetime of the strategy | | | X | | | |
| | A new campus for Belfast metropolitan College open by 2010 | | | | | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|---|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Skills | New accommodation at the North West Regional College's main campus by 2010 | | | X | | | |
| | New accommodation at the South Eastern Regional College's campuses in Lisburn, Downpatrick, Newcastle and Ballynahinch open by 2011 | | | X | | | |
| | A new Belfast Central Library open by 2015 | | | X | | | |
| | Taking forward major works at over 100 schools across the region in the period 2008-2011, including eight schools for pupils with special educational needs. | <p>In ISNI 2 the Department of Education were taking forward major capital works at 108 schools. 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.</p> <p>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. While the majority of DE 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.</p> | | | | | |
| | From 2012, commencement of a broader programmes of schools modernisation, based firmly on cross-sector area plans and linking with other public service. | <p>The costs of those projects that have been completed or are currently on site have been met from within the Department's approved capital budget allocations.</p> <p>It is necessary to ensure that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework the Minister of Education is putting in place. On 15 October 2009 the Minister announced a review of all capital projects still in planning 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.</p> | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|--------|--|---|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Health | A new local enhanced hospital at Downpatrick by 2009 | Please see above the comments from the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Table A of this answer. | | | | | |
| | First phase of Ulster Hospital redevelopment complete by 2010 | | | | | | |
| | Opening five new health and care centres by 2011 in Andersonstown, Castlereagh, Shankill, Grove (Shore Road) and Portadown | | | | | | |
| | A new acute hospital serving the South West by 2012 | | | | | | |
| | A new local enhanced hospital in Omagh by 2013 | | | | | | |
| | A new mental health crisis centre at Gransha by 2010 | | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|--------|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Social | Co-location of all the previously separate benefit delivery and job assistance services in single offices by 2012 | | | | X | | Funding has only been made available until March 2011 as it is aligned with the current CSR funding window. However, the timetable for delivery of the remaining 8 offices extends beyond March 2011 and funding for work beyond this date has yet to be secured. |
| | Delivery of 10,000 new social and affordable houses by 2013, working with housing associations and the private sector | | | X | | | |
| | Completion of a new 50m swimming pool in time for the Olympics | | | | X | | |
| | Delivery of the agreed overall objectives of the West Belfast and Greater Shankhill Taskforce | | | | X | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Social | The commencement of a major mixed-use regeneration scheme in the North East Quarter of Belfast City Centre by 2011 leveraging in significant private sector investment | | | | X | | |
| | Substantial parts of Ebrington and Fort George in Derry/ Londonderry built out by 2011 | | | | X | | |
| | And Crumlin Road Gaol / Girdwood Barracks | | | | X | | |
| Environment | Completing the Belfast Sewers Project by 2010 in order to significantly reduce the risks of flooding in parts of the city | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Environment | Upgrading water treatment and distribution infrastructure in a phased manner, to comply with existing water quality regulations across the region by 2014. This will include service commencement of Project Alpha (to upgrade water treatment facilities) by 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | Upgrading wastewater treatment infrastructure in a phased manner to bring the region in to compliance with current EU standards by 2014. This will include service commencement of Project Omega (to upgrade wastewater treatment and sludge disposal facilities) by 2010. | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|-------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Environment | Supporting local authorities to deliver the waste management infrastructure by 2011 (with up to £200 million or 50% of the capital cost, whichever is less) | | | | X | | The Executive's capital contribution to the Waste Infrastructure Projects is capped at £200m. DoE has allocated £1.824m of capital funding support to local government up to Dec 2009. The majority of the capital support to local government will be required in the next budget period when construction commences - the Department has already notified DFP of this. |
| Productive | A major review of surplus public sector sites by 2008, with a view to identifying significant sites with industrial development potential across the region | X | | | | | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|---------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Productive | Helping the farming community into compliance with Nitrates Directive by 2009 | X | | | | | |
| | By 2011 acquire and / or develop 200 acres of serviced land for InvestNI client companies in the main hubs, as defined by the regional development strategy. | | | X | | | |
| | Support for 20 farm / agri-food businesses in a £10m scheme to create renewable energy from agri-food waste by 2014 | | | X | | | |
| | By 2013 £25 million of public and private investment will be made in the fishing industry through the European Fisheries Fund Programme | | | | | X | |

| Pillar | Project | Delivered / On site | Ahead of schedule | On schedule | Behind schedule | Cancelled /under review | Comments if not on budget. |
|------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Productive | Completion of the 2010 contract in 2009, with Investment to upgrade & modernize public sector accommodation and systems. | | | | | X | <p>The Workplace 2010 procurement process was effectively terminated in Feb 2009 when the 2 bidders who had progressed to Best and Final Offer stage wrote to the Department withdrawing their bids.</p> <p>Target for full implementation of the IT Assist Programme was April 2009. All departments migrated to the ICT Shared Service Centre by target date. Project is being managed on schedule and within budget.</p> |

Lifetime Opportunities Strategy

Mr J Shannon asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister where the Lifetime Opportunities strategy sits within their Department; and how they are taking this strategy forward.
(AQW 4725/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Overall responsibility for co-ordinating policy on poverty and social inclusion matters as outlined in the 'Lifetime Opportunities' strategy lies with OFMDFM's Central Anti-Poverty Unit.

As you will recognise, however, OFMDFM is not in itself a spending department in this area and, therefore, the implementation and delivery of actions and targets arising from 'Lifetime Opportunities' is reliant on the programmes and initiatives delivered through other Northern Ireland Departments.

In adopting the broad 'architecture' and principles of 'Lifetime Opportunities', the Executive further agreed to the establishment of an Executive Sub-Committee on poverty and social inclusion, which has responsibility for agreeing the priorities and key Executive actions to tackling poverty and social inclusion here. Its remit also extends to agreeing the monitoring and reporting mechanisms associated with the strategy.

The first two meetings of this Executive Sub-Committee were held last year, and since then OFMDFM officials have undertaken significant work with Departments, examining what programmes are currently being delivered and what potential exists for further actions to benefit those in greatest objective need.

It is expected that the third meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee, due to be held in the near future, will decide on priority action areas and agree the monitoring and reporting framework for 'Lifetime Opportunities'. The Executive's formal approval will then be sought on the priority actions identified.

Community Relations Posts in Local Councils

Lord Morrow asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many local Council staff posts are currently funded wholly, or partly, by the Community Relations Unit; and to list the jobs titles of these posts.

(AQW 4738/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister:

| Council | Community Relations / Good Relations Officer | Assistant Community Relations / Good Relations Officer | Admin. Support Staff = FTE (Full Time Equivalent) | Notes |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| Antrim | 1 | - | Nil | |
| Ards | 1 | - | 0.2 | |
| Armagh | 2 | - | 1.0 | |
| Ballymena | 2 | - | 0.80 | GRO manager prorata salary and 1 FTE GRO. |
| Ballymoney | 1 | - | Nil | |
| Banbridge | 2 | - | 0.70 | |
| Belfast | 4 | 1 | Nil | |
| Carrickfergus | 1 | - | 0.50 | |
| Castlereagh | 1 | - | 0.50 0.15 | 2 support staff. |
| Coleraine | 2 | - | 0.25 | 1 = GRO manager prorata salary and 1 part-time GRO. |
| Cookstown | 1 | - | 0.33 | |
| Craigavon | 1 | 1 | Nil | |
| Derry | 3 | 2 part-time Shared City posts | 0.50 0.50 | 2 support staff. |
| Down | 1 | - | 0.80 | |
| Dungannon | 2 | - | 0.54 | 1 GRO manager prorata salary and 1 FTE GRO. |
| Fermanagh | 1 | 1 | 0.50 | |

| Council | Community Relations / Good Relations Officer | Assistant Community Relations / Good Relations Officer | Admin. Support Staff = FTE (Full Time Equivalent) | Notes |
|----------------|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| Larne | 1 | - | Nil | |
| Limavady | 1 | 1 (Public Relations post) | 0.50 | |
| Lisburn | 1 | - | 0.25 | 2 support staff. |
| Magherafelt | 1 | - | 0.30 | |
| Moyle | 1 | - | Nil | |
| Newry & Mourne | 3 | 1 | 1.0 | |
| Newtownabbey | 1 | - | Nil | |
| North Down | 1 | - | 0.50 | |
| Omagh | 1 | 1 | - | Both posts are part-time. |
| Strabane | 2 | - | Nil | |

The District Council Community Relations Programme provides funding towards agreed salary and associated administration costs and agreed programme activity costs up to a maximum of 75% with the balance of 25% being met from within Council resources.

Victims' Groups

Mr A Ross asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many victims' groups are funded by their Department.

(AQW 4788/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In 2009/10, 157 groups and organisations providing support for victims and survivors were funded by OFMDFM.

Forty-four groups have been in receipt of funding from the Core Funding Scheme and 148 benefitted from the Development Grant Scheme, both schemes administered by the Community Relations Council on our behalf. Nine groups also received funding from the Interim Capacity Funding arrangements administered by the Victims Unit.

A number of groups received funding from two or all of the above schemes.

Victims' Groups

Mr A Ross asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the eligibility criteria for victims' groups seeking funding from their Department.

(AQW 4789/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: OFMDFM administer a number of funding schemes for victims and survivors groups. These include the core funding scheme and the development grant scheme. Core funding is currently closed to new applications and has been since 2003.

The eligibility criteria for both schemes is as follows.

Core Funding

In 2003, when the victims and survivors sector was funded by the NIO, groups were invited to apply for the core funding scheme under the following essential criteria:

- The group/organisation was to be a non-statutory group based in N. Ireland.
- The group/organisation had to contribute to the aims and objectives of the Scheme which were:
 - To help victims/survivors regain fulfilment of their lives and where appropriate to reintegrate them as members of society.
 - To emphasis the benefits of work with individual victims/survivors.
 - To give priority to organisations/groups which provide support services to victims/survivors which they cannot access elsewhere.
- The need for the group's work had to be clearly identified and demonstrated i.e. the application had to provide details of the:
 - Number of clients (individual victims/survivors supported).
 - Type(s) of service.
 - Relationship to other services within geographical location.
 - Benefit of the work to users.
 - The group's work was to be well planned and have clear aims and objectives.
 - The application had to include eligible costs.
 - The application had to show openness and accountability to users and have a high degree of user involvement in decision-making.
 - It had to show a degree of co-operation with other organisations/groups working in the sector.
 - It had to show a needs assessment.
 - It had to show the development of and involvement in partnerships with parallel service providers, voluntary or community organisations/groups and/or with the statutory sector.

Development Grant

Development Grant scheme applications must reflect the principal aim of the scheme and must include at least one of the following elements:

- Projects that can demonstrate how they will help people to begin to make the transition from "victim" to "survivor" as part of a process of healing and recovery.
- Projects and activity programmes for victims of community conflict that will support the training of volunteers and staff in relevant support services to assist the healing and reconciliation process (groups will need to demonstrate work that supports the promotion of best practice).
- Assistance with organisational development and operational/strategic planning for groups involved in supporting victims and survivors to become active members of society.
- Projects that will explore the causes and effects of the Troubles and which will facilitate sharing and the development of trust and understanding between participants and an awareness of their needs amongst a wider community.
- Assistance with small-scale research costs involved in evaluating the effectiveness of projects involving victims groups and the development of models of good practice.
- The provision of small-scale seeding support for new groups working in the area of victim support. (Funding will only be allocated to newly established groups i.e. in existence for up to 1 year).

British Irish Council Workstream

Mr A Ross asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they will examine the scope for adding autism to the British Irish Council workstream.

(AQW 4790/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: A Strategic Review of the British Irish Council (BIC) is currently underway. The review has focused on the Council's work programmes, working methods and support arrangements.

In relation to the BIC work programme, decisions have already been taken at recent BIC Summits to conclude work in some workstreams, which had reached a natural conclusion, and to add new workstreams. Therefore, the BIC work programme currently comprises the following: Digital Inclusion, Energy, Housing, Collaborative Spatial Planning, Demography, Environment, Early Years Policy, Misuse of Drugs, Social Inclusion, Transport and Indigenous, Minority and Lesser Used Languages. This brings the current total number of BIC workstreams to 11.

While autism does not fall within any of the existing workstreams, it is possible for Ministers to ask the British Irish Council to consider new work areas that could produce collective benefits.

Although the work programme element of the BIC Strategic Review has already been completed, additional proposals for new work sectors could be considered. These would be subject to the following steps:

- The Minister with responsibility for the area would propose it to Executive colleagues as a new work sector;
- the Executive would consider the proposal of the new work sector and, if approved;
- the proposal would be brought to a BIC Summit (normally this would imply a willingness by the proposing Administration to lead the new work sector if accepted), and finally;
- the British Irish Council would consider and decide on adoption of the proposal.

Programme for Government

Mr A Ross asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list all strategies in the Programme for Government aimed specifically at (i) adults; and (ii) older people.

(AQW 4792/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister:

- (i) The Programme for Government makes reference to the following Strategies, which are specifically targeted at adults:
 - Preparing for Success – A Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy for Northern Ireland.
 - The development and implementation of a Higher Education Strategy.
 - Development and implementation of a regional strategy to widen participation in Higher Education by groups who are currently under-represented, in particular students from disadvantaged backgrounds, minority ethnic communities, and students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- (ii) The Programme for Government makes reference to the following Strategies, which are specifically targeted at older people:
 - Ageing in an Inclusive Society

Additionally, it contains a commitment to “Extend the Concessionary Fares Scheme during 2008 to provide free public transport to everyone aged 60 and over.” This was extended on 1 October 2008.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has a number of strategies aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of adults and older people. While these strategies are not

specifically listed in the Programme for Government (PfG) 2008-2011, the outcomes they are intended to secure are reflected in various PfG goals and indicators.

Department of Justice Bill

Mr D Kennedy asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if they are aware of any delay in the granting of Royal Assent to the Department of Justice Bill; and if they requested this delay.

(AQW 4812/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Following completion of its Final Stage in the Assembly on 1 December 2009, the Department of Justice Bill was laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State on 3 December 2009 for a statutory period of 20 sitting days, in accordance with section 15 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is a normal step for any Assembly Bill which has required the consent of the Secretary of State under Part II of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The statutory period expired on 26 January 2010, and the Bill was then submitted by the Secretary of State for Royal Assent. This was obtained on 12 February 2010.

We did not request a delay at any stage in the process.

Public Relations Services

Mr J Spratt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much their Department has spent on public relations services from (i) PriceWaterhouseCoopers; (ii) KPMG; (iii) Deloitte; and (iv) Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

(AQW 4849/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Our Department has not spent any money on public relations services from (i) PriceWaterhouseCoopers; (ii) KPMG; (iii) Deloitte; and (iv) Weber Shandwick in the period since May 2007.

Reform Programme

Mr P McGlone asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 3573/10, to detail how their reform programme will achieve a world class public service.

(AQW 4906/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We are taking forward, through our Programme for Government, the most wide ranging reform of public services for a generation. At the heart of this reform programme is a commitment to world class public services which meet the needs of the economy and wider society. Modernising the infrastructure and processes of the civil service is a key part of our reform programme. Our aim is to reduce costs and cut out bureaucracy by sharing key corporate services such as human resources, finance and ICT across Departments.

The Shared Service organisation was created in January 2010 with the aim of achieving a sharper focus on customer service and effective and efficient delivery of shared services. Going forward, there should be a stronger emphasis on continuous improvement to meet customer needs. This focus on continuous improvement includes comparisons with other organisations. Some external benchmarking activities have already been carried out by the key projects with favourable results.

Currently the Shared Service Organisation brings together a number of services including Account NI; Centre for Applied Learning; HR Connect; ICT Shared Service Centre; Network NI; and Records NI. A number of these services are delivered in partnership with the private sector.

There are examples of early benefits of this reform programme emerging. For example, IT Assist has compared the full cost of the existing service catalogue provision with sound public sector comparators e.g. the Cabinet Office Flex contract. The cost for the full IT Assist Service now equates to £1,200 per person per year, producing over £4.5 million savings to date. This rate compares favourably to recently

published GB data for their shared service programme (£1,700) and the estimated average cost for the provision of desktop and infrastructure services in GB Government (£2,400).

The Centre for Applied Learning compares its prices with similar courses provided by external training providers (including both the private sector and the National School for Government). The creation of the shared service has resulted in a reduction of 20% in course prices and cash-releasing savings of £1.3 million in 08/09 and a total to date of £3.9 million. Network NI has also produced a saving to date of over £1.5 million.

These significant savings will be redirected to delivering key services direct to the public.

Child Poverty

Mr P Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what measures are used to define child poverty.

(AQW 4943/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The three statistical measures which have been used to assess child poverty here are firstly the relative income poverty measure; secondly the absolute income poverty measure; and a third measure which combines both low income and material deprivation. These three measures reflect slightly different aspects of poverty and together provide a more comprehensive picture than could be achieved using only one measure of child poverty.

A child is defined as living in relative income poverty if the household in which he/she lives has an equivalised¹ income that is less than 60% of the contemporary median² income level for all households in the UK. Household income is on a before housing cost basis. Relative income poverty is a measure of whether the poorest are keeping pace with the incomes in the population as a whole.

Absolute child poverty is a measure of whether the poorest families are seeing their incomes rise in real terms. The baseline year for target is 1998/99. The 1998/99 UK median is adjusted year on year for inflation and a child living in a household with an income less than 60% of the 1998/99 median value adjusted for inflation is defined as living in absolute poverty. This is a measure of whether the poorest households are seeing their incomes rise in real terms.

The third measure combines low income and material deprivation. A child is defined as poor on this measure if the household in which he/she lives has a household income less than 70% of the contemporary UK median and a deprivation score of 25 or more reflected by enforced lack of adult and child goods and services. Such goods and services include: enough money to keep home in decent décor; hobby or leisure activity and holidays away from home one week a year (not staying with relatives). This is a wider measure of living standards.

Since 1998 there has been a downward trend in the numbers of children living in relative income poverty here in Northern Ireland. However, over the most recent period for which statistics are available the figures have remained fairly static at around 24%, on a par with the rest of the UK.

In terms of absolute income poverty, 29% of children were in poverty in 1998/99 with the most recent estimate for 2007/08 being 15%. However, as with relative income poverty over more recent years the figures have remained fairly static.

The mixed income and material deprivation measure was first recorded in 2004/05. At that time it estimated 21% of children to be poor compared to 20% in 2007/08.

-
- 1 Equivalisation is the process by which household income is adjusted to account for variation in household size and composition.
 - 2 The median income is the mid point of all household incomes. In other words, if all household incomes were placed in order from lowest to highest then half of all households would have an income above the median amount and half below.
-

South Belfast Constituency

Mr A Maskey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what projects they have initiated or funded since May 2007 which have a direct impact on residents of the South Belfast constituency. **(AQW 5111/10)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Our Department has not initiated any projects but has provided funding or part funding through others for a number of projects which focus on, include or were held in South Belfast. A list of these projects is provided in the table below.

| Financial Year | Project |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 2007/08 | Al Nisa |
| | Belfast Islamic Centre |
| | Chinese Welfare Association |
| | Multi-Cultural Resource Centre |
| | Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities |
| | Northern Ireland Muslim Families Association |
| | South Belfast Partnership Board/South Belfast Roundtable |
| | HAVEN (Help and Advice with Victims Every Need) |
| | Ballynafeigh Community Development Association |
| | Queens Film Theatre |
| | Community Convention Development Company (West & South) |
| | Ballynafeigh Community Development Association |
| | Greater Village Regeneration Trust |
| | Sandy Row Residents Association |
| | Finaghy Crossroads Group |
| | Markets Development Association |
| Education Welfare Project | |
| 2008/09 | ArtsEkta |
| | Belfast Islamic Centre |
| | Chinese Welfare Association |
| | Multi-Cultural Resource Centre |
| | Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities |
| | Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers |
| | South Belfast Partnership Board/South Belfast Roundtable |
| | Voluntary Service Bureau |
| | Youthaction |
| | HAVEN (Help and Advice with Victims Every Need) |
| | Ballynafeigh Community Development Association |
| | Taughmonagh Community Forum Ltd |
| | Creative Writers Network |
| | Queens Film Theatre |
| | Sandy Row Residents Association |
| | An Droichead |
| Markets Development Association | |
| Belfast Reconciliation Consortium | |
| Greater Village Regeneration Trust | |

| Financial Year | Project |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 2009/10 to date | ArtsEkta |
| | Barnardos Tuar Ceatha |
| | Belfast Islamic Centre |
| | Belfast Jewish Community |
| | Chinese Welfare Association |
| | Multi-Cultural Resource Centre |
| | Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities |
| | Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers |
| | South Belfast Partnership Board/South Belfast Roundtable |
| | Youthaction |
| | HAVEN (Help and Advice with Victims Every Need) |
| | Arellian Nursery School |
| | Village Focus Group |
| | Finaghy/Horn Drive Community Centre Committee |
| | National Union Students |
| | Finaghy Crossroads Group |
| | Markets Development Association |
| | Ballynafeigh Community Development Association |
| | Annadale and Haywood Residents Association |
| | St John Vianney Youth Club |
| An Droichead | |
| Belfast Reconciliation Network | |
| Greater Village Regeneration Trust | |

Poverty and Social Inclusion

Mr J Bell asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made by the Executive Sub-Committee on Poverty and Social Inclusion.

(AQO 838/10)

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

To date the Executive Sub-Committee has met twice and during the course of its first two meetings it has:

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

The third meeting of the Executive Sub-Committee is due to be held on 29 March and at this meeting Ministers will consider further proposals with regard to priority action areas and the monitoring and reporting framework for ‘Lifetime Opportunities’.

Victims Strategy

Rt Hon J Donaldson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of a strategy for victims, including a comprehensive needs assessment and a new Victims Service.

(AQO 839/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Key elements of the strategy are already in place. The Commission for Victims and Survivors is established and taking forward a range of tasks outlined in its agreed work programme.

A key target is the establishment of a Victims and Survivors Forum, which continues to meet in pilot format.

The Comprehensive Needs Assessment is an important piece of work which is being taken forward by the Commission. The outcome of this work will be vital in informing how the new Service will address the needs of victims and survivors. The Commission expect to have completed the Comprehensive Needs Assessment by November 2010.

We are considering the next steps in the establishment of the new Victims Service in light of the responses to the recent public consultation exercise, the views of the Committee and those of the Commission for Victims and Survivors. Work on designing the Service will begin shortly and it is our intention to have the Service established as soon as is practically possible.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr L Cree asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what plans they have to protect the interests of savers and shareholders with holdings of less than £20,000 in the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

(AQO 840/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Members of this Assembly will know that on Friday 12th February we met with Gordon Brown to discuss the current circumstances of the PMS.

On the same day a judgement made in the High Court ruled that shareholder members who invested up to £20,000 in the PMS cannot be regarded as creditors. This means that, at present, they would be excluded from any distribution of the assets accumulating to the Society while it remains in administration. The Administrator will advise members and creditors of the full implications of this ruling in due course.

The judgment that small savers cannot be treated as creditors of the Society will, of course, be a disappointment for those members. The hardships being caused by the present status of the PMS has ever been in our thoughts. We can assure the Assembly that we are working to secure the best outcome we can for PMS savers.

Salaries of External Bodies

Mrs M O'Neill asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the need to review the salaries of people working, on behalf of the Executive, on external bodies, following the resignation of the Chief Executive of the Strategic Investment Board.

(AQO 842/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We are fully conscious of the present constraints on public expenditure and the concerns that have been widely expressed over the pay arrangements for some top level posts in the public sector.

In the case of the Strategic Investment Board the remuneration package for the outgoing Chief Executive was the subject of contractual arrangements agreed before we took office. These arrangements will now be reviewed.

The recruitment of a new Chief Executive for the Strategic Investment Board will be a matter for the Board of the company. However, we wish to make clear that the remuneration offered to the new Chief Executive will require our approval.

It is vital that such an important position is filled by someone of the necessary skills and experience and SIB will seek to attract candidates of suitable calibre.

However, it is also vital to maintain confidence that salaries for senior positions in public service are fair but not excessive and fully reflect the position announced by the Minister for Finance and Personnel on bonuses in the Senior Civil Service.

Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy

Mrs N Long asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the development of the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration strategy.

(AQO 843/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Improving relationships between and within communities here and building a shared and better future continues to be a high priority for this Department and the Executive. As we stated on 23rd February we have agreed the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration. Over the coming weeks we will ask government departments for their input into the programme. The strategy will then be presented to the OFMDFM Committee before being submitted to the Executive. The strategy will then be subject to a full public consultation.

Whilst we have been working intensively towards this agreed strategy that will benefit all our people now and over the longer term; work to promote community relations and good race relations has continued over the past two years, led and supported by us and the whole Ministerial team.

We have increased funding by a third for the period 2008-2011, from £21 million in the previous CSR period to almost £30 million in the current one. That means that vital work on the ground and with both existing and new communities is better resourced than ever.

We have increased funding to minority ethnic groups by two-thirds and increased funding for youth and interface workers by one-quarter. Statistics from both the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey and the Good Relations Indicators report show that the work that we fund and resource, is delivering real and meaningful outcomes. Since 2005/06 there has been a 31% reduction in sectarian motivated crimes and almost 70% of young people in 2008 reported that relationships between Protestants and Catholics were getting better.

There are many other examples of our commitment:

- Junior Minister Gerry Kelly and Junior Minister Robin Newton continue to chair the north Belfast Working Group focusing on interface issues in Belfast and across Northern Ireland.
- Last summer we spent £500,000 on resourcing summer interventions work, bringing our total investment on this type of work to 1.5m since devolution in 2007.
- In our District Councils' Community Relations Programme we have spent since May 2007 £4.372m with a budget of £2.759m for the current financial year.
- In Coleraine we have been working proactively with our key partners both statutory and non-statutory following the death of Mr Kevin McDaid in May and we have provided an additional £23,000 to Coleraine Borough Council for diversionary work on top of the £86,000 awarded to the Council for good relations activities.
- We have also chaired meetings relating to issues in Craigavon and Lurgan.

These examples show that we are not complacent – we are leading and driving change in our society and in our work – through the Department and the Executive to deliver a shared and better future for all our people.

Funding for Victims' Groups

Mr S Moutray asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much money has been spent in small grants to victims groups in the last year; and how many projects and groups have benefited from this funding.

(AQO 844/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In 2009/10 the Development Grant scheme including the Small Capital Grants scheme had an allocation of £2,637,198.

One hundred and forty eight (148) groups and organisations providing support for victims and survivors were funded by OFMDFM.

Nine (9) groups also received funding from the Interim Capacity Funding arrangements administered by the Victims Unit.

Over 500 individual projects benefited from Development Grant funding this financial year.

Good Relations

Mr A Bresland asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the level of funding available for good relations work within local councils; and for an indication of the overall progress on the Good Relations strategy.

(AQO 845/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister administers the "District Councils Community Relations Programme" which has been developed to support local community relations initiatives in all 26 District Councils. The budget for the 2009/10 financial year is £2.76m.

The funding is used towards agreed good relations activities and salary and associated administration costs of at least one dedicated Good Relations Officer in each council. In addition to the OFMDFM funding, each council is required to provide match funding of at least 25%, which is met from within council resources.

With regard to the Good Relations Strategy, we are currently refining the final draft of the programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration with a view to publishing it in the very near future. The strategy will be subject to a full public consultation after the general elections.

Bank Accounts

Mrs C McGill asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister if, as part of their lead role in addressing poverty, they have had any discussions with the banks regarding the need to review the processes for allowing members of the public to open a bank account.

(AQO 846/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We have met with key players from the Banking and Financial sector in response to the economic downturn and the difficulties faced by the general public. The main problem that arises from financial exclusion is one of illegal doorstep lending to the disadvantaged and most vulnerable in our society.

This issue was discussed at the Hardship, Poverty, Debt and Energy sub-group of the Cross Sector Advisory Forum, chaired by the Junior Ministers, and at a roundtable event held to discuss this issue, also chaired by the Junior Ministers. There are a number of recommendations arising from this sub-group and work on addressing this issue is continuing. In the first instance we have commissioned some scoping research to gauge the extent of the problem and we will continue to work with key stakeholders to resolve difficulties.

We would also wish to highlight the ongoing work of the Northern Ireland Financial Capability Partnership in this regard. The Partnership, which is headed up jointly by the Consumer Council and the FSA is actively looking at issues of financial exclusion and working with the Banks, Credit Unions and other financial institutions through the 'Money Made Clear' programme to ensure better access to appropriate financial products and improved consumer education in respect of finance.

Planning Appeals

Mr J Wells asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress is being made in clearing the backlog of planning appeals currently being considered by the Planning Appeals Commission.
(AQO 848/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Planning Appeals Commission has made significant progress in clearing the backlog of planning appeals which has reduced from its height of over 3000 cases in 2007 to a figure of 846 cases at the end of January 2010. This has been made possible through the delivery of our PSA 21 commitment to provide increased resources to the Commission to enable it to address the backlog of planning appeals.

Fair Employment Monitoring

Dr S Farry asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the methodology for fair employment monitoring.
(AQO 849/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 imposes legal obligations on certain employers. One of these obligations is to monitor the composition of their workforce.

Under the Order, all employers in the public sector and those in the private sector with 11 or more employees are required to register with the Equality Commission and to provide it annually with information about the composition of their workforces and of those applying to fill vacancies. Public sector bodies and private sector concerns with more than 250 employees must also include information on the composition of those leaving the concern and those being promoted within the concern. Composition refers to the number of persons determined as belonging to the Roman Catholic or Protestant Community in Northern Ireland.

The Fair Employment (Monitoring) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 require employers to determine the community background of their employees by reference to their answer to a direct question. This requires the employee or applicant to state in writing whether they belong to the Roman Catholic or Protestant Community, or belong to neither. Where persons state they belong to neither community, employers may make a determination of community background for monitoring purposes only. The Regulations set out a number of ways in which community background can be established. This entails consideration of any relevant information which employees or applicants have provided, in writing, about themselves. If the information tends to show that they have a connection with both communities, they are treated as belonging to the community with which, in general, it tends to show they have the stronger connection. Where neither method ascertains the community background, the employer shall treat a person as if the community background to which they belong cannot be determined.

The information to be included in an annual monitoring return to the Equality Commission is prescribed by the Monitoring Regulations. The Regulations require employers to submit information detailing the composition of their workforce by community background, sex and occupational grouping, and whether they were employed for more or less than 16 hours per week.

The Equality Commission uses composite monitoring information to keep under review patterns and trends in employment and to target employers for the promotion of affirmative action measures and to monitor change in individual concerns. The Commission publishes annually a report on the profile of the Northern Ireland workforce based on the information contained in the monitoring returns.

Monitoring is essential to enable the proper assessment of progress being made towards fair participation in the workforce by both communities.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Land Covered by Environmental Enhancement Agreements

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total (i) percentage; and (ii) acreage of agricultural land covered by environmental enhancement agreements in (a) January 2000; (b) January 2008; and (c) January 2010.[R]

(AQW 4803/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew): DARD records the area of agricultural land under environmental enhancement agreement in hectares, not in acres. The details are as follows:

| Year | (i) Percentage | (ii) Hectares |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| January 2000 | 12% | 134,000 ha |
| January 2008 | 40% | 454,000 ha |
| January 2010 | 42% | 468,000 ha |

Grants from the European Fisheries Fund

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why fishermen here are denied the opportunity to buy shares in boats which is afforded to fishermen in Scotland through grants from the European Fisheries Fund.

(AQW 4880/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The scheme in Scotland is operated under Axis 1 of the European Fisheries Fund. It provides an opportunity for fishers under 40 years old to apply for a 15% grant (maximum of €50,000) towards the cost of securing part or total ownership of their first vessel. The vessel must be less than 24 metres in overall length and between 5 to 30 years old and already equipped for fishing at sea.

My department has not received any EFF applications for grants to buy boats, or shares in boats because that EFF measure is not open.

Two Axis 1 Measures (Vessel Modernisation and Small-scale Coastal Fishing) will open to our fishermen in April. Other Axis 1 measures will be rolled out later this year when I have had the opportunity to consider the recommendations of the Fisheries Forum and when the business cases have been completed and approved for those measures.

Licence for Fishing of White-fish

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if a licence is required for the (i) commercial; and (ii) private fishing of white-fish; and to outline the criteria involved in applying for such a licence.

(AQW 4883/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:

- (i) A sea fishing vessel licence is required for anyone who wishes to catch and sell sea fish. No new licences are issued due to EU fishing capacity limits. A person wishing to fish commercially must purchase a licensed fishing vessel or licence entitlements sufficient to cover the capacity of the

vessel that he/she wishes to licence. License entitlements state the capacity of the vessel in terms of tonnage and engine power that may be licensed. Further help and advice is available from DARD Port Offices or the DARD sea fisheries licensing section in Dundonald House.

- (ii) Recreational fishing for white fish is permitted without a licence provided fish is not sold.

Single Farm Payments

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) to detail the amounts of modulation money deducted from Single Farm Payments; and (ii) to provide a percentage breakdown of the amount collected from (a) Lowland Areas; and (b) Less Favoured Areas, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4934/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Modulation is now deducted from the Single Farm Payment budget at source by the EU Commission and transferred to the Rural Development budget. The amounts deducted in the last three scheme years are as follows;

| 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| €28,692,175 | €34,259,288 | €38,700,000 |

It is not possible to provide a precise figure in terms of a percentage breakdown between lowland areas and less favoured area because a significant number of farm businesses have land in both regions. My Department estimates that between 60% and 65% of modulation reductions relate to less favoured areas. There would be little change in the percentage breakdown from year to year.

European Fisheries Fund

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she has received applications for grants to buy boats, or shares in boats, under the most recent tranche of the European Fisheries Fund.

(AQW 4949/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The scheme in Scotland is operated under Axis 1 of the European Fisheries Fund. It provides an opportunity for fishers under 40 years old to apply for a 15% grant (maximum of €50,000) towards the cost of securing part or total ownership of their first vessel. The vessel must be less than 24 metres in overall length and between 5 to 30 years old and already equipped for fishing at sea.

My department has not received any EFF applications for grants to buy boats, or shares in boats because that EFF measure is not open.

Two Axis 1 Measures (Vessel Modernisation and Small-scale Coastal Fishing) will open to our fishermen in April. Other Axis 1 measures will be rolled out later this year when I have had the opportunity to consider the recommendations of the Fisheries Forum and when the business cases have been completed and approved for those measures.

Equality Impact Assessments

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures are included within Equality Impact Assessments conducted by her Department to ensure that the interests of people with identities outside the two perceived main traditions in Northern Ireland are taken into account.

(AQW 4969/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Section 75 of the NI (Good Friday Agreement) Act 1998, requires DARD, like all designated public authorities, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability and persons without
- persons with dependants and persons without

In addition, we are also required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

DARD has an Equality Scheme, which sets clearly out how we will comply with our current Section 75 equality duties. It also explains how and when business areas are required to carry out screening exercises on their policies to identify possible equality implications; and gives guidance on how to conduct a formal equality impact assessment (EQIA) and consultation exercise.

The statutory duties make equality considerations central to the whole range of public policy and decision-making. This 'mainstreaming' approach means that DARD is required to engage directly with equality issues at an early stage in policy development. Taking pro-active measures to find out about the possible impact of our policies on different groups will help determine if our policies could have an adverse impact, even if it is unintentional. This requires DARD to consult with people who may be affected by our decisions, and seek their views as part of the policy making process.

DARD's Section 75 consultees list includes various organisations including the Baha'i Council for NI, NI Islamic Centre, Belfast Jewish Community, Belfast / Omagh Traveller Support Group, Chinese Welfare Association, Indian Community Centre, NI African Cultural Centre, NI council for Ethnic Minorities, NI Muslim Family Association, Oi Kwan Chinese Women's Group, Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group, Polish Association NI, Sikh Community Centre and the Sikh Women's and Children's Association. These organisations are written to on a regular basis to see if they wish to receive any of DARD's upcoming consultations and are also advised of previous screening exercises carried out by the Department

DARD has carried out informal pre-consultation with a wide range of equality groups across all Section 75 categories including representatives for ethnic minorities whilst carrying out a number of EQIA's, including the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 and DARD Direct.

In carrying out pre-consultation for the Equality Impact Assessment of the NI Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013, Rural Development Division met with a number of groups representing people whose identities lie outside the two main perceived traditions in the north of Ireland.

These included the Alliance Party, the Conservative Party, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, the Labour Party, NI Women's Coalition, Chinese Welfare Association, Indian Community Centre, the Workers Party, Wah Hep Chinese Community Association, and Traveller Movement NI.

Also, when completing equality monitoring questionnaires, respondents are able to choose from a range of options under political opinion, religious belief and racial group, and are not restricted to choosing either of the two main perceived traditions in the north.

Customer Service Improvement Branch (CSIB) carried out an EQIA for the roll-out of DARD Direct in 2008. As part of the pre-consultation in November 2007, CSIB wrote to a range of bodies representing section 75 groups, customers and staff and met with some of these groups. One of the groups contacted was NI Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM). However, they did not engage with DARD at the pre-consultation stage.

When the draft EQIA was written it was sent out to all the relevant groups on DARD's list of Section 75 consultees, which included the Ethnic groups, Bahai's Council for NI, Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group & NI Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM). A 9 week consultation period then ran through to September 2008.

As part of this consultation, CSIB met with a representative of NICEM on 26 August 2008 to gather their views on the draft EQIA and these views were considered when compiling the final EQIA report.

These pre-consultations have made a huge difference in helping equality groups understand the business of the Department, what DARD services are available to them, and what funding opportunities are available. In addition to the valuable information we gathered, this engagement process has also helped to reach groups with whom we previously had limited contact.

The Department has an Equality Steering Group (ESG) which is chaired by the Permanent Secretary. ESG meets every quarter and it currently includes representatives at a senior level from each of DARD business areas. Regular updates and a summary of the progress towards equality targets are provided to DARD senior management. Guest speakers at ESG meetings have included Anna Lo, MLA, then Chief Executive of the Chinese Welfare Association and Patrick Yu, Executive Director of the NI Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM). Both speakers provided a valuable insight into the work of their organisations, outlined the issues which affect under-represented ethnic minority people living in rural areas, and provided some suggestions for DARD to consider which would help make our services even more accessible.

Forest and Woodland

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if her Department is on course to meet the Programme for Government target of an increase of 1650 hectares of forest and woodland by 2011.

(AQW 5041/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Up to the end of December 2009, 426 hectares of new woodland have been created by farmers and landowners under the Woodland Grant Scheme, which is less than planned at this stage of the PfG target period.

In order to encourage more farmers and landowners to create their own woodland, I announced increases in grant rates of up to 30 per cent in November 2009. Since then, there has been a steep rise in applications (more than a three fold increase in December 2009 and January 2010 compared with the same period last year). Although it is too early to predict whether this interest will be sustained, I believe that this renewed interest in woodland creation, together with Forest Service's continued promotion of the forestry schemes, will put us back on course for meeting the PfG woodland target.

Rose Energy

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether any members of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute have a commercial relationship with Rose Energy, either through shareholdings in Rose Energy or through other companies which have shareholdings in Rose Energy.

(AQW 5106/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I am not aware of any commercial relationship between individual members of staff at the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute and Rose Energy, either through shareholdings or through other companies which have shareholdings in Rose Energy.

Foaming on the Surface of Larne Lough

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute investigation into incidents of foaming on the surface of Larne Lough near Ballylumford Power Station.

(AQW 5110/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Department requested the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) to conduct studies on shellfish growth in Larne Lough and the possible relationship with "foaming" arising from Ballylumford Power Station in 2007, after poor growth results were obtained as part of a project to assess the carrying capacity of five sea loughs, including Larne Lough.

As the NI Environment Agency (NIEA) has the statutory role in regulating discharges to loughs, a collaborative study between AFBI and NIEA has been undertaken in the lough. Results obtained in 2007 and 2008 indicated the presence of an, as yet unexplained, toxicological response by shellfish larvae to Larne Lough sea water. Further studies in 2008 and 2009 on the health of both Pacific oysters and mussels from the lough have shown both species to exhibit a degree of stress at the cellular level in comparison with specimens from other NI sea loughs which may impact on productivity. Mussels were the most affected. The findings from the collaborative investigation, and AFBI's recent studies that show good growth by Pacific oysters in the Lough, have been reported to local stakeholders at a public meeting on 17 February.

While these studies relate to shellfish health, I understand that the Food Standards Agency is aware of the AFBI work and is content that its current classification system is protecting public health

Forestry Production

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQO 759/10, to clarify why the land at Enniskillen and Cookstown is not suitable for forestry production.

(AQW 5127/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The land at Enniskillen Campus comprises Thornhill Farm (32 hectares) and Wilson's farm (14 hectares). Both parcels of land were assessed by Forest Service in approximately 2004/05 and were deemed unsuitable for forestry production. This was due to the presence of an electricity power line running across Thornhill and because of the siting and small scale of Wilson's. That remains the case.

The land at Cookstown is at Tullyhoge Farm (7.34 hectares) which contains Tullyhoge Fort. This area has scheduled monument status and plantation is not allowed under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995.

Portavogie Harbour

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much has been spent on improvements to Portavogie Harbour in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5148/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The NI Fishery Harbour Authority has spent the following amounts on capital works at Portavogie harbour over the past 5 years:

| 2004-2005 | 2005-2006 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| £16,848 | £659,766 | £49,623 | £197,706 | £62,545 |

The main capital works undertaken were repair of the harbour walls, a new chill room at the fish market and upgrades of the slipway.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Ethnic Minority Arts

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans he has to develop a policy to promote ethnic minority arts, similar to those promoted by arts councils in the England, Wales and Scotland.

(AQW 4981/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr N McCausland): Ethnic minority arts are vital to help develop and celebrate diversity in terms of our own identity. Diversity is one of the core values of the Arts

Council and through it they aim to provide equal access to opportunities for all sections of society. Any organisation securing funding from the Arts Council must comply with the Equality and Good Relations policy of the Council.

The Arts Council funds a number of organisations which support ethnic minorities such as the Indian Community Centre, Chinese Welfare Association, An Munia Tober and Arts Ekta. In addition the Arts Council is placing priority on ethnic minority communities availing of grassroots arts programmes in order to develop understanding of the multiculturalism in Northern Ireland today.

Windsor Park Football Stadium

Mr D McClarty asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) when the last health and safety inspection took place at Windsor Park football stadium; (ii) what assessment has been made of the West and North Stand turnstiles; and (iii) if his Department has discussed the replacement of these turnstiles with the Irish Football Association and Linfield FC.

(AQW 4984/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Under The Safety of Sports Grounds (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, Belfast City Council is responsible for undertaking health and safety inspections at Windsor Park football stadium. In 2006, however, Linfield FC, the owners of the venue, with support from my Department and the Irish Football Association (IFA), which owns the North Stand, commissioned an independent audit of Windsor Park. This audit also entailed an inspection of existing health and safety arrangements. The audit recommended, amongst other matters, that the turnstiles in the West and North Stands should be replaced in the long term. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), with support from Sport Northern Ireland (SNI), has engaged in discussions with Linfield FC and the IFA in order to encourage them to implement the independent audit's recommendations. Linfield FC and the IFA, with support from DCAL and SNI, are also considering undertaking a major re-development of Windsor Park. In the interim, DCAL and SNI have approved a business case to assist the IFA and Linfield undertake emergency works at the venue.

'Invest to Save' Initiative

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what bids his Department has made in relation to the 'Invest to Save' initiative; and what consideration was given to bids that seek to address communal segregation in service provision and to promote integration.

(AQW 5059/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Department of Finance and Personnel commissioned an Invest to Save exercise in December.

Given pressure on budgets, the purpose of this exercise is to identify areas where departments could make efficiency savings in 2010/11 and beyond if they had assistance with upfront costs. It does not, therefore, provide an opportunity to increase spending on front line service.

PRONI site at Balmoral Avenue

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what consultation his Department intends to carry out with local residents in relation to the vacation and future use of the PRONI site at Balmoral Avenue, south Belfast.

(AQW 5062/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: On 28 January 2010 DCAL officials organised two meetings, one for elected representatives for the area, the other for the local residents, at the Balmoral Avenue site to provide information on the actual vacation of the site and to present for discussion draft proposals for the future use of the PRONI site. One political representative and 30 residents attended the meetings.

Any further consultation on the proposals will be dealt with by Planning Service as part of the planning process when the application for Outline Planning Permission has been submitted. This is scheduled for the end of March 2010.

Those who requested further information after the meeting and the local residents association will be advised by PRONI when the application has been submitted.

Access to the Arts

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what measures his Department has taken to improve access to the arts for primary school children in south Belfast.

(AQW 5063/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: DCAL funding for the arts is disbursed by the Arts Council and Northern Ireland Screen.

The Arts Council, through its Annual Support for Organisations Programme and Lottery Programme, supports a number of projects which deliver arts activities for primary school children within the formal education sector. Many of the arts organisations involved are based in the Belfast area and have developed links with schools across the city.

Examples of projects operating in primary schools in South Belfast include Poetry in Motion for Schools, which gives young people the opportunity to work with poets of national and international standing; Dance and One World Culture, a multimedia arts programme exploring cultural diversity; and multimedia Carnival Workshops. Arts Council funded Youth Arts organisations working in the area and delivering arts programmes within the formal and informal education sector include New Belfast Arts Initiative, ArtsEkta, Streetwise Community Circus, Young at Art, Cahoots NI, Kids in Control, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Wheelworks, Ulster Association of Youth Drama, New Lodge Arts, and the Ulster Youth Orchestra.

Northern Ireland Screen also fund a number of projects which are available to young people in South Belfast such as the Cinemagic Film and Television Festival for young people; After School Film Clubs; Studio ON, which offers a range of projects exploring creative use of digital media technologies and operates a partnership programme for schools; and the Digital Film Archive which contains items covering drama, animation, documentaries, news and film.

Irish Language

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how his Department has assisted projects which encourage the use and growth of the Irish language in the South Belfast and East Belfast constituencies.

(AQW 5065/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: My Department does not directly fund Irish language projects. However funding has been made available by Foras na Gaeilge, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Screen for projects which encourage the use and growth of the Irish language in the South Belfast and East Belfast constituencies.

Foras na Gaeilge and the Arts Council have supplied information relating to projects supported in 2009.

FORAS NA GAEILGE

| South Belfast constituency | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Tonnta Ltd | Ag Neartú tonnta Raidio - Clár Traenála (Strengthening Radio Waves – Training Programme) | Computer assisted learning |

| South Belfast constituency | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| An Droichead | Campa Samhraidh 1 (Summer Camp 1) | Scéim Campaí Samhraidh / Summer Scheme |
| An Droichead | Campa Samhraidh 2 (Summer Camp 2) | Scéim Campaí Samhraidh / Summer Scheme |
| An Droichead | Óige Feirste! Clár Óige an Fhómhair 2009 (Autumn 2009 Youth Programme) | Scéim Óige /Youth Scheme |
| Tonnta Ltd | Cumann Iarscoile (tSleibhe Duibh & An Droichead) (Afterschool Club) Clár Radio | Scéim óige /Youth Scheme |
| An Droichead | Irish language Community Scheme | Community Officers Scheme |
| East Belfast constituency | | |
| Short Strand Community Centre | | Local scheme |

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of NI have not funded any organizations in the East Belfast constituency who work through the medium of the Irish Language, but they are of course eligible to apply for arts projects delivered through that medium.

| South Belfast constituency | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| An Droichead | Access to Traditional Arts and Community Arts | Local scheme supported by Lottery funding |

Northern Ireland Screen

The Irish Language Broadcast Fund (ILBF) has funded three series of the Irish language drama 'Seacht' which is filmed in and around Queens University Belfast (QUB).

Imagine Media and Stirling TV Productions are both based in South Belfast and both companies have been and are in receipt of funding from the ILBF to produce programmes for young people such as Seacht (Seven), Na Dódaí (pre-school programme), Déan Damhsa Liom (Dance with me), An Bhearna Bhaoil (The Gap of Danger), Gaisce Gnó (Be the Business).

The Picture House, a post production facility, is based in East Belfast, it has provided post production services on Uachtaran Na hEireann (President of Ireland) and Scil (Skill), and produced An Mhuc Dhubh (The Black Pig)

Sign Language

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action he has taken since coming to office to enhance the development and use of sign language; and what financial assistance his Department has made available to support the British and Irish Sign Languages since May 2007.
(AQW 5072/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Sign Language Partnership Group (SLPG), which is chaired and co-ordinated by DCAL, was established in 2004 as a forum to bring together government

departments and organisations representing the deaf community. The objective of the group is to improve access to public services in Northern Ireland for users of British and Irish Sign Language.

Between May 2007 and March 2011, DCAL awarded £338k to support a range of Sign Language projects that have contributed to that objective.

Projects supported by the SLPG have had a significant impact. They have increased awareness amongst those involved in the delivery of public services of the needs of Sign Language users. They have also resulted in an increase in the numbers of Sign Language professionals operating and based in Northern Ireland.

Cost of Staff Attending Conferences and Courses

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much money has been spent by his Department on (i) fees; and (ii) all travel costs, including subsistence costs, for staff attending conferences and courses in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5088/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In each of the last three financial years, the Department incurred the following expenditure on fees for staff attending courses and conferences:

| 7-07 | 8-08 | 9-09 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| £199,509 | £172,022 | £124,138 |

Travel costs are stored at summary level on the Department's financial system and the Department cannot separate travel costs incurred in respect of courses and conferences attended by staff from other travel costs without disproportionate effort.

The Department is therefore unable to provide the level of detail required by part (ii) of this Assembly Question.

Re-imaging Communities Programme

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the proposal by the Arts Council to extend the Re-imaging Communities programme.

(AQW 5154/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Funding for the Re-Imaging Communities programme is due to finish at the end of March 2010 and I understand that the Arts Council is in discussions with potential funders with a view to continuing the programme.

The Arts Council has submitted an application to the Peace III Programme which builds upon the key successes of the Re-Imaging Programme and looks to the development of artistic interventions on an intra-community, cross-community and cross-border basis.

The application to the Peace III programme is currently in the assessment stage and an economic appraisal for the proposed programme is underway. It is anticipated that a decision will be reached by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) by June 2010.

I understand that the Arts Council is giving consideration, in light of its 2010/11 budget allocation, to continuing to support the programme until the outcome of the Peace III application is known.

Ulster-Scots Television Channel

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what can be done to set up an Ulster-Scots television channel.

(AQW 5157/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Broadcasting remains a reserved matter under the joint responsibility of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The establishment of a television channel is a commercial matter and outside my Department's remit.

Irish Language

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how his Department has assisted projects in north Antrim which encourage the use and growth of the Irish language.

(AQW 5158/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: My Department does not directly fund Irish language projects. However funding may be available through Foras na Gaeilge, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and NI Screen for projects which encourage the use and growth of the Irish language in north Antrim.

Projects supported by Foras na Gaeilge in 2009 are-:

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| Scéim Phobail Gaeilge 2008-2010 (Irish Language Community Scheme 2010) | Pobal an Chaistil (Ballycastle Community group) | Ballycastle |
| An Ghaeilge sa Phobal (2009) (Irish in the Community) | Glór Dhál Riada (Voice of Dalraida) | Ballycastle area |
| Scéim Óige – Imeachtaí Óige (Youth scheme) | Bunscoil an Chaistil (Ballycastle primary school) | Ballycastle |

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland have confirmed that they have not funded any organisations in the north Antrim constituency who work through the medium of the Irish Language, but organisations are eligible to apply for arts projects delivered through that medium.

NI Screen has advised that there are no production companies based in the north Antrim area who have availed of the Irish Language Broadcast Fund (ILBF) to date, however areas in north Antrim such as Giants Causeway, Ballycastle, Glens of Antrim and Rathlin Island have featured in programmes on TG4 and BBC NI (Tobar Productions), Taisce na Tuaithe (Treasures of the Countryside). There is also a series yet to be aired on BBC NI (Imagine Media), Ait is ansa liom (My Favourite Place).

Access to the Arts

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what measures his Department has taken to improve access to the arts for primary school children in North Down.

(AQW 5182/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: DCAL funding for the arts is disbursed by the Arts Council and Northern Ireland Screen.

The Arts Council, through its Annual Support for Organisations Programme and Lottery Programme, supports a number of projects which deliver arts activities for primary school children within the formal education sector. Many of the arts organisations involved work at a regional level and have developed links with schools in the North Down area.

Examples of projects operating in primary schools in North Down include Magic Medicine – The Honey Pot, which focuses on the needs of children with physical, sensory and intellectual learning needs; Math a Magic which draws on illusion, music and performance to increase opportunities for young people to learn and think creatively through the arts and Ecology Prints which explores ecology issues through the arts.

Other Youth Arts organisations delivering arts programmes within the formal and informal education sector include Belfast Community Circus, Streetwise, Young at Art, Cahoots NI, Kids in Control, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Wheelworks, Ulster Association of Youth Drama, New Lodge Arts, Ulster Youth Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra.

Northern Ireland Screen also fund a number of projects which are available to young people in North Down such as the Cinemagic Film and Television Festival for young people; After School Film Clubs; Studio ON, which offers a range of projects exploring creative use of digital media technologies and operates a partnership programme for schools; and the Digital Film Archive which contains items covering drama, animation, documentaries, news and film.

Public Library at Monkstown Community High School

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, following the closure of the Public Library at Monkstown Community High School, to detail (i) the number of users of this library in each of the five years prior to its closure; and (ii) the increase in the number of users in the libraries at (a) Cloughfern; (ii) Rathcoole; and (iii) Greenisland, following the closure of the Monkstown library.

(AQW 5184/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: (i) Monkstown Library was closed in June 2005. Data on the number of active borrowers* of the library, prior to closure, is only available for a 3 year period from 2002 – 2005.

NUMBER OF BORROWERS BEFORE CLOSURE

| Year 3 – 2002/3 | Year 2 – 2003/4 | Year 1 – 2004/5 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 395 | 334 | 688 |

(ii) The following table shows the change in the number of active borrowers at Cloughfern, Rathcoole and Greenisland in the year after the closure of Monkstown Library.

NUMBER OF BORROWERS AFTER CLOSURE OF MONKSTOWN

| Library | 2004/5 | 2005/6 |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| (a) Cloughfern | 813 | 1159 |
| (b) Rathcoole | 1424 | 1291 |
| (c) Greenisland | 1095 | 986 |

*Figures stated relate to 'active borrowers' – visitors who carried out at least one transaction during the previous 365 days.

Public Libraries

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the total number of users; (ii) the number of users in school groups; (iii) the number of users aged 16 years or under; (iv) the number of adult users; and (v) the number of adult users of pension age, who visited the public libraries at (a) Glengormley; (b) Rathcoole; (c) Cloughfern and (d) Greenisland, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5186/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The following tables show the number of users in each category in Glengormley, Rathcoole, Cloughfern and Greenisland public libraries from 2005 to present:

| (a) Glengormley | 2005/6 | 2006/7 | 2007/8 | 2008/9 | Year to date 2009/10 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Total number of users | 5,303 | 5,141 | 4,763 | 5,215 | 5,343 |
| Number of users in school groups* | | | | 528 | 324 |
| Number of users 16 years or under | 1,765 | 1,766 | 1,595 | 1,757 | 1,682 |
| Number of adult users (17-59) | 2,520 | 2,363 | 2,196 | 2,411 | 2,541 |
| Number of users of Pension age (age 60+) | 954 | 947 | 915 | 987 | 1069 |

| (b) Rathcoole | 2005/6 | 2006/7 | 2007/8 | 2008/9 | Year to date 2009/10 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Total number of users | 1,291 | 1,114 | 1,167 | 1,253 | 1,303 |
| Number of users in school groups* | | | | 444 | 154 |
| Number of users 16 years or under | 360 | 338 | 380 | 417 | 412 |
| Number of adult users (17-59) | 573 | 443 | 469 | 545 | 412 |
| Number of users of Pension age (age 60+) | 293 | 264 | 259 | 241 | 258 |

| (c) Cloughfern | 2005/6 | 2006/7 | 2007/8 | 2008/9 | Year to date 2009/10 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Total number of users | 1,159 | 858 | 849 | 931 | 894 |
| Number of users in school groups* | | | | 300 | 217 |

| (c) Cloughfern | 2005/6 | 2006/7 | 2007/8 | 2008/9 | Year to date 2009/10 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of users 16 years or under | 472 | 361 | 370 | 383 | 385 |
| Number of adult users (17-59) | 479 | 324 | 309 | 363 | 326 |
| Number of users of Pension age (age 60+) | 191 | 166 | 159 | 172 | 171 |

| (d) Greenisland | 2005/6 | 2006/7 | 2007/8 | 2008/9 | Year to date 2009/10 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Total number of users | 986 | 962 | 912 | 1,098 | 1,097 |
| Number of users in school groups* | | | | 239 | 161 |
| Number of users 16 years or under | 394 | 376 | 345 | 453 | 460 |
| Number of adult users (17-59) | 378 | 378 | 367 | 419 | 418 |
| Number of users of Pension age (age 60+) | 205 | 198 | 188 | 218 | 212 |

* The number of pupils attending libraries as part of a class visit programme has only been recorded from 2008.

The year to date figures, provided by Libraries NI, are as of 1 March 2010.

Please note that the library management information system does not record the age of all library users. Consequently, the sum of the users categorised by age will not be equal to the total number of users stated.

Public Libraries

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what changes have been made to the opening hours of the public libraries located at (i) Rathcoole; (ii) Cloughfern; (iii) Glengormley; and (iv) Greenisland, in each of the last five years; and to outline what public consultation took place prior to any changes.

(AQW 5188/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The following table shows the total weekly opening hours of Rathcoole, Cloughfern, Greenisland and Glengormley public libraries for the period 2005 – present.

TOTAL WEEKLY OPENING HOURS

| Library | Year 2005/6 | Year 2006/7 | Year 2007/8 | Year 2008/9 | Year To Date 2009/10 |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| (i) Rathcoole | 45.5 hrs | 44 hrs | 44 hrs | 44 hrs | 44 hrs |
| (ii) Cloughfern | 20.5 hrs | 18 hrs | 18 hrs | 18 hrs | 18 hrs |
| (iii) Glengormley | 55 hrs | 55 hrs | 57 hrs | 57 hrs | 57 hrs |
| (iv) Greenisland | 32 hrs | 32 hrs | 32 hrs | 32 hrs | 32 hrs |

Public consultation on changes to opening hours took place as part of the Strategic Review of the NEELB Library Estate between 18 March and 30 April 2005. As a result of the Review weekly opening hours changed across the NEELB area to align with a model of 'flagship' and 'satellite' library provision.

Sports Museum at the Eddie Irvine Sports Arena in Bangor

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he has had any discussions with Mr Eddie Irvine to discuss the application for a sports museum at the Eddie Irvine Sports arena in Bangor. **(AQW 5195/10)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I am aware that The Ulster Sports Museum Association is currently working with a range of sporting groups and Government Departments regarding their plans to establish a Sports Museum in Northern Ireland.

To date neither I nor my officials have had direct contact with Mr Eddie Irvine on an application to establish a sports museum at the Eddie Irvine sports arena in Bangor.

I welcome any efforts by the private sector to recognise our sporting achievements.

Lough Neagh and Upper Bann

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for his Department's assessment of the business case for the viability of a Navigation Authority for Lough Neagh and the Upper Bann River. **(AQO 867/10)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In October 2008 my Department commissioned a Business Case to assess the viability of establishing a navigation authority for Lough Neagh and the Rivers Blackwater and Upper Bann. Together with Department officials, I have now had an opportunity to consider the completed Business Case.

I have concluded that within current N.I. budgetary constraints and priorities, the capital and resource implications of implementing the recommended Business Case option of extending the remit of Waterways Ireland are unaffordable.

It will be worthwhile reconsidering this issue strategically with the benefit of total experience to be drawn from completion of the project being taken forward by Waterways Ireland – with Irish Government funding – to re-open the Clones to Upper Lough Erne section of the Ulster Canal in 2013.

Within our remit we continue to explore the scope for developing the recreational and navigational potential of inland waterways, including Lough Neagh, throughout Northern Ireland.

Libraries

Ms J McCann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action is being taken to make libraries more accessible for migrant workers and people from ethnic minority communities. **(AQO 871/10)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The public library service is a vital resource for people from ethnic minority communities and migrant workers. DCAL recognises that the library service should provide targeted support to ethnic minorities and those for whom English is a second language.

Libraries provide a welcoming and neutral environment where people from these groups can find assistance to integrate into the community.

For example individual libraries have organised welcome events. Such events typically include music, food, an opportunity to use the library computers and to join the library.

Some other examples of services which the libraries provide include:

- Books and newspapers in other languages;
- Early years literacy programmes, such as the Bookstart scheme, in a range of languages;
- Hosting English language courses;
- Free internet access.
- Access to the EISODOS website. This is an extensive migrant communities information resource which is on the Libraries NI website.
- Information leaflets translated into other languages.

Libraries NI work in partnership with local groups such as councils, migrant worker support groups, Traveller groups and health organisations to host information days for ethnic minorities providing information about rights, health, housing and GP 'sign up sessions'.

Libraries NI has also provided many of their staff with cultural awareness training.

Arts Funding

Mr D Ford asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on funding for the arts. (AQO 872/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: DCAL's total budget for the Arts is £30.7million for 2009/10.

Following the outcome of the Executive's review of 2010/11 spending plans, DCAL is required to find savings of £5.9million in current expenditure, and £20million in capital investment in 2010/11.

After careful consideration, proposed budget allocations have been drawn up which include a £1.1million reduction in the Arts Council's revenue budget as compared to the indicative budget allocation previously quoted.

However, I am pleased to say that the Arts Council's revenue budget for next year will still increase from its 2009/10 opening position of £15.2million to £15.5million.

The Arts Council's indicative capital allocation for next year has also increased significantly to £16.5million, compared to the previously indicated budget figure of £9.6million. This increase of almost £7m will ensure that sufficient funding is available to complete the major arts infrastructure projects currently underway.

Overall, therefore, the Arts budget in 2010/11 will increase to a total of £34million under the proposed new figures.

Whilst I am aware that arts organisations will be disappointed that the indicative revenue allocation has been revised, I would stress that the focus going forward must be on prioritisation, efficiency and effectiveness, to ensure the best possible use of the funding available.

Tollymore Mountain Centre

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for his assessment of the benefits that the recent upgrade of the Tollymore Mountain Centre will have for visitors to the Mourne Mountains.

(AQO 873/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: It is anticipated that the upgraded facilities at Tollymore Mountain Centre will have wide-ranging benefits for visitors to the Mourne Mountains:

- It is anticipated that the new facilities will attract 5,000 new visitors per annum after its third year in operation;
- The centre, through a partnership approach with the Mourne Heritage Trust, will be an information point for tourists providing information on access and suitable walks;
- Will be a focal point for those seeking information, advice and training in relation to adventure sports in the Mournes;
- Will be an example of best practice in sustainable use of the environment, in relation to adventure sports;
- Provide increased access to adventure sports for young people and adults;
- Provide opportunities for training of leaders/instructors and performers for all sectors of our community; individuals, schools, youth groups, public and private sector organisations and staff from other outdoor centres; and
- Improved training facilities for high level performers in adventure sports.

Northern Ireland International Air Show

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding his Department was prepared to offer the 2010 Northern Ireland Air Show.

(AQO 874/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Coleraine Borough Council applied for £20,000 funding from my Department's Events Growth Fund for the 2010 Northern Ireland International Air Show. The event, which received support in 2008/9 of £18,000 and 2009/10 of £18,000, was offered £3,250 towards the marketing of the event largely due to limits on the level of public funding in year 3.

The Air Show, the only event of its kind in Northern Ireland, has been a tremendous success for Coleraine Borough Council and for its sponsors, the Kennedy Group. I hope that as economic conditions improve the event can once again attract private sector sponsorship and form part of Northern Ireland's annual events calendar.

Creative Businesses

Mr D McNarry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline his strategy for expanding creative businesses, which are increasingly important in a high wage economy.

(AQO 875/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In 2008 my Department launched an Interim Strategic Action Plan for the Creative Industries to support creativity and creative talents and in particular their expression in business activities.

The Plan guided the Priorities for Action of the £5M Creative Industries Innovation Fund which aims to support creativity and innovation within businesses in Northern Ireland. The fund, which will run until March 2011, is administered by the Arts Council and its priorities are to support:

- Innovation in business;
- Innovation through people and knowledge; and

- Innovation through sectoral infrastructure and knowledge.

Moving forward, my Department will evaluate the outcomes and impact of the Fund and work with key stakeholders to further develop policy and strategies to support and enhance the creative industries in Northern Ireland.

My Department is also the sponsor department for Northern Ireland Screen, which seeks to develop a dynamic and sustainable local screen industry and culture, and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland which provides considerable support to individual artists and creative businesses. Both organisations fuel the emergence of creative people, services and enterprises that directly strengthen the Northern Ireland economy.

Ulster Scots Funding

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline what funding is available to Ulster-Scots groups.

(AQO 876/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: There are several funding schemes available to Ulster-Scots groups from Agencies funded by my Department.

Ulster-Scots Agency

The Ulster-Scots Agency through its Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) provides funding for Ulster-Scots community groups and individuals involved in the promotion of Ulster-Scots culture, heritage and language. The Agency anticipates that grant allocations through the FAS in 2010 will amount to a figure in excess of £1million.

Arts Council and Northern Ireland Screen

The Arts Council and Northern Ireland Screen do not have any specific funding programmes aimed at Ulster-Scots groups. However, Ulster-Scots groups are eligible to apply to any of their funding programmes provided they meet the criteria of the specific funds.

Cultural Activities: South Belfast

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what measures his Department is taking to encourage young people to engage in cultural activities in South Belfast.

(AQO 877/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: DCAL, through the work of its associated Arms Length Bodies, provides a range of opportunities for young people in the South Belfast area to engage in cultural activities. For example;

- Libraries in South Belfast provide a range of cultural activities to engage children and young people including Rhythm and Rhyme Times for pre-school children, storytelling and occasional events with authors or poets.
- In the current financial year the Arts Council of Northern Ireland has approved funding for 76 projects in South Belfast, including, for example Wheelworks' Art Cart which is a mobile arts vehicle increasing opportunities for young people to access high quality artistic activity.
- Northern Ireland Screen fund a number of projects which are available to young people in South Belfast such as schools Film Clubs, Studio ON and the Digital Film Archive which contains items covering drama, animation, documentaries, news and film.
- The Education programme at the Ulster Museum includes art, history and science programmes and the use of new Art, History and Science Discovery Areas. 49 school groups (primary, secondary and special) from South Belfast comprising 1086 children have used the service from October to February and a further 280 children in 21 groups are booked in for the period to end June 2010.

- Both the Ulster-Scots Agency and Foras na Gaelige support various activities and schemes in South Belfast aimed at increasing and developing cultural activity for children and young people. These include among other things after school clubs, school workshops and drama projects.

Sports Facilities

Mr A Attwood asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he has any plans to bring the numbers and standards of sporting facilities into line, proportionately, with those in the Republic of Ireland and in England, Scotland and Wales.

(AQO 878/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: My recently published Sports Strategy for Northern Ireland, "Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009-2019", already recognises that, in terms of numbers and standards of sports facilities, Northern Ireland is currently under provided for in comparison with other regions in the UK and in Europe. To help address this problem, Sport Matters sets out 26 high level targets, to be achieved over the next 10 years, which reflect the current and anticipated needs of sport in Northern Ireland. This includes 6 targets, under the theme of Places for Sport, designed to increase the number and improve the standard of both regional and local sports facilities.

In order to take Sport Matters forward, I have recently written to the Minister of Social Development, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety asking them to nominate a senior official to join a DCAL led Sport Matters Monitoring Group which I plan to set up. It is my intention to chair that Monitoring Group which will oversee the delivery of Sport Matters.

Department of Education

Non-teaching Staff

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of non-teaching staff in (a) the maintained sector; and (b) the integrated sector; and (ii) the overall costs associated with them, including salaries, and building and maintenance costs.

(AQW 4428/10)

Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane): I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards and my Departmental officials that the numbers of non-teaching staff are as follows:

- Maintained sector – 8599;
- Integrated sector – 862 (242 in Controlled Integrated schools and 620 in Grant Maintained Integrated schools);
- Controlled sector - 9088.

Maidir leis an dara cuid de do cheist, is iad na costais fhoirne i ngach earnáil ná:

- *An earnáil faoi Chothabháil – tuairim is £83 milliún;*
- *An earnáil Chomhtháite – tuairim is £17 milliún (cuimsíonn an figiúr seo Scoileanna Rialaithe agus Scoileanna Comhtháite faoi Chothabháil Stáit araon)*
- An earnáil rialaithe- tuairim is £66 milliún

With regard to the second part of your question the staffing costs for each sector are as follows:

- Maintained sector – approximately £83 million;
- Integrated sector – approximately £17 million (which includes both Controlled Integrated and Grant Maintained Integrated);
- Controlled sector - approximately £66 million

It is not however possible to correlate the specific building and maintenance costs to these non-teaching staff.

Preparatory School Funding

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education if she can confirm that her Department will have a sufficient resource budget to accommodate all preparatory school children who wish to transfer to primary schools in September 2010.

(AQW 4632/10)

Minister of Education: The Independent Strategic Review of Education (known as the Bain Report), published in December 2006, highlighted the issue of the funding of Preparatory Schools. In respect of the allocation of the education budget, it stated:

“Equity must continue to be at the heart of this distribution. For this reason, the part-funding of fee-charging preparatory departments in grammar schools is anomalous. This aspect of delegation subsidises provision that can only be accessed by children whose parents can pay the requisite fee. This would seem to be an inequitable use of public funds and counterintuitive in a funding system simultaneously managing the pressures of a high level of surplus capacity. The rationale for this aspect of schools-related current expenditure should be reviewed and its continuation considered with regard to equity and in the context of the significant pressures on the education budget”.

One of the key recommendations of the Bain Report (recommendation 5) was that:

“The rationale for funding preparatory departments in grammar schools should be reviewed”.

The Equality Commission has adopted a position where it considers that a key component of a quality education system is the provision of equality of access to good education. In relation to its position on the funding of Preparatory Departments, the Commission has stated that:

“Preparatory Departments inherently do not provide equality of access as attendance is dependant on a parents /families ability to pay additional substantial costs. We do not believe a public subvention to this sector is the best possible use of public funds when there are other areas that we have prioritised for intervention in the above document”. (“Above document” refers to Every Child an Equal Child)

I gcomhréir leis an mholadh seo, thug mo Roinn údarás don Roinn Airgeadais agus Pearsanra chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar mhaoiniú do ranna ullmhúcháin scoileanna gramadaí agus chun tuairisc ar na torthaí a sholáthar don Roinn.

In line with this recommendation my Department commissioned the Department of Finance and Personnel to undertake a review of funding to preparatory departments of grammar schools and to provide a report on their findings to the Department.

The report concludes that the Department should consider the withdrawal of funding to preparatory departments on the basis of equality of access.

The proposal to withdraw funding from preparatory departments of grammar schools is subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and no final decision has been taken by me at this stage. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate how many children, if any, would transfer from preparatory schools to primary schools if this proposal is accepted.

The draft Equality Impact Assessment went out for consultation on 7 January 2010 and the deadline for responses is 4 March 2010.

The Common Funding Scheme for the Local Management of Schools can provide assistance to grant-aided schools where the number of children enrolled increases following the October Census. Funding for this in-year growth can be provided, pro rata, for the remainder of the financial year.

Preparatory School Funding

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education how many additional primary school places her Department can afford to fund from September 2010 for preparatory school children who may be affected by her proposals on preparatory school funding.

(AQW 4634/10)

Minister of Education: The Independent Strategic Review of Education (known as the Bain Report), published in December 2006, highlighted the issue of the funding of Preparatory Schools. In respect of the allocation of the education budget, it stated:

“Equity must continue to be at the heart of this distribution. For this reason, the part-funding of fee-charging preparatory departments in grammar schools is anomalous. This aspect of delegation subsidises provision that can only be accessed by children whose parents can pay the requisite fee. This would seem to be an inequitable use of public funds and counterintuitive in a funding system simultaneously managing the pressures of a high level of surplus capacity. The rationale for this aspect of schools-related current expenditure should be reviewed and its continuation considered with regard to equity and in the context of the significant pressures on the education budget”.

One of the key recommendations of the Bain Report (recommendation 5) was that:

“The rationale for funding preparatory departments in grammar schools should be reviewed”.

The Equality Commission has adopted a position where it considers that a key component of a quality education system is the provision of equality of access to good education. In relation to its position on the funding of Preparatory Departments, the Commission has stated that:

“Preparatory Departments inherently do not provide equality of access as attendance is dependant on a parents /families ability to pay additional substantial costs. We do not believe a public subvention to this sector is the best possible use of public funds when there are other areas that we have prioritised for intervention in the above document”. (“Above document” refers to Every Child an Equal Child)

I gcomhréir leis an mholadh seo, thug mo Roinn údarás don Roinn Airgeadais agus Pearsanra chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar mhaoiniú do ranna ullmhúcháin scoileanna gramadaí agus chun tuairisc ar na torthaí a sholáthar don Roinn.

In line with this recommendation my Department commissioned the Department of Finance and Personnel to undertake a review of funding to preparatory departments of grammar schools and to provide a report on their findings to the Department.

The report concludes that the Department should consider the withdrawal of funding to preparatory departments on the basis of equality of access.

The proposal to withdraw funding from preparatory departments of grammar schools is subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and no final decision has been taken by me at this stage. It is, therefore, not possible to estimate how many children, if any, would transfer from preparatory schools to primary schools if this proposal is accepted.

The draft Equality Impact Assessment went out for consultation on 7 January 2010 and the deadline for responses is 4 March 2010.

The Common Funding Scheme for the Local Management of Schools can provide assistance to grant-aided schools where the number of children enrolled increases following the October Census. Funding for this in-year growth can be provided, pro rata, for the remainder of the financial year.

Area Planning for Schools in East Antrim

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education (i) for an update on any outcomes in relation to Area Planning for schools in East Antrim; (ii) to outline the process her Department uses to prioritise capital

spending for new school building projects; and (iii) when new funding for major works schemes will be announced.

(AQW 4647/10)

Minister of Education:

- (i) Beidh freagracht iomlán ar an Údarás um Oideachas agus Scileanna, nuair a bhunófar é, as pleanáil de réir ceantair, a chuirfeadh limistéar Oirthear Antroma, a fhorbairt. San idirthréimhse, oibreoidh mo Roinn go gar le húdaráis bhainistíochta scoile chun cur chuige straitéiseach ar phleanáil a fhorbairt ar mhaithe le gach duine óg sa cheantar.
- (i) The Education and Skills Authority, when established, will have full responsibility for bringing forward an area-based plans which will include the East Antrim area. In the interim period my Department will work closely with the school managing authorities to develop a strategic approach to planning in the best interest of young people in the area.
- (ii) & (iii) You may be aware that in October 2009, I commissioned a review of current projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework, I am putting in place to ensure we meet our statutory duties on equality and targeting on the basis of identified need. The progress of all projects will be dependent upon the outcome of the review, which will inform the development of a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and management of the schools estate. Projects will then be prioritised for progression in the coming financial years taking account of available resources.

Irish Medium Education

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education how much her Department has spent on Irish medium education in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4770/10)

Minister of Education: The latest complete financial year for which information is available to answer this question is 2008/09.

Tá an méid airgid a chaith mo Roinn ar an Ghaeloideachas sna cúig bliana airgeadais ón bhliain 2004/05 go dtí an bhliain 2008/09 le fáil sa tábla thíos.

The amount spent on Irish-medium education in the 5 financial years from 2004/05 to 2008/09 by my Department is shown in the table below.

£000S

| | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Recurrent | 8,145 | 9,242 | 10,294 | 11,394 | 13,216 |
| Capital | 3,055 | 1,996 | 364 | 520 | 843 |

Note: Information in relation to Irish-medium Units, attached to English-medium host schools has not been provided as it is not possible to disaggregate the funding of the Unit from the host school.

Integrated Education

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education how much her Department has spent on integrated education in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4772/10)

Minister of Education: The latest complete financial year for which information is available to answer this question is 2008/09.

Tá an méid airgid a chaith mo Roinn ar an Oideachas Comhtháite sna cúig bliana airgeadais (ón bhliain 2004/05 go dtí an bhliain 2008/09) le fáil sa tábla thíos.

The amount spent on Integrated Education in each of the last five financial years (2004/05 to 2008/09) by my Department is shown in the table below.

£000S

| | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Recurrent | 62,229 | 70,037 | 75,508 | 82,508 | 89,222 |
| Capital | 11,997 | 3,370 | 32,322 | 5,927 | 11,030 |

School Maintenance

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 4385/10, to detail the type of maintenance that is outstanding for school property in the 'highest' classification of need.

(AQW 4797/10)

Minister of Education: Déanann Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne clár rollach maidir le daonáirimh choinníollaigh scoileanna. Cuirtear réadmhaoin a bhreithníonn Boird go bhfuil siad ar chaidhdéan an-bhocht san aicmiú riachtanais is airde sa riaráiste cothabhála. Leagtha amach thíos atá sonraí ar an riaráiste cothabhála i ngach gné de na daonáirimh choinníollaigh maidir le réadmhaoin san aicmiú riachtanais is airde sna scoileanna sin a bhí cuimsithe in AQW 4385/10.

Education and Library Boards carry out a rolling programme of condition surveys of schools. Property that Boards consider to be in very poor condition is placed in the highest classification of need in the maintenance backlog. Details of the latest backlog in each element of the condition surveys, for property in the highest classification of need in those schools covered by AQW 4385/0, are set out below.

| Condition Survey Element | Backlog (£000s) |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Grounds | 2,425 |
| Roof (Flat) | 1,779 |
| Roof (Pitched) | 827 |
| Structure | 5,494 |
| External Walls | 879 |
| External Windows | 5,476 |
| External Doors | 196 |
| External Ramp | 5 |
| External Stairs & Ramps | 129 |
| External Decoration | 528 |
| Internal Walls | 2,015 |
| Internal Windows | 48 |
| Internal Doors | 131 |
| Ceilings | 699 |
| Floors | 340 |
| Internal Stair | 51 |
| Internal Decoration | 530 |

| Condition Survey Element | Backlog (£000s) |
|--|-----------------|
| Fire Fighting Equipment | 5 |
| Plumbing Services | 2,350 |
| Laboratory Services | 104 |
| Heating System | 22,054 |
| Ventilation | 245 |
| Electrical - Internal | 14,788 |
| Mechanical Engineering External Services | 55 |

Funding for Preparatory Departments

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education what discussions she held with her Executive colleagues prior to announcing that she would be withdrawing funding for preparatory departments.

(AQW 4819/10)

Minister of Education: The Independent Strategic Review of Education (known as the Bain Report), published in December 2006, highlighted the issue of the funding of Preparatory Schools. In respect of the allocation of the education budget, it stated:

“Equity must continue to be at the heart of this distribution. For this reason, the part-funding of fee-charging preparatory departments in grammar schools is anomalous. This aspect of delegation subsidises provision that can only be accessed by children whose parents can pay the requisite fee. This would seem to be an inequitable use of public funds and counterintuitive in a funding system simultaneously managing the pressures of a high level of surplus capacity. The rationale for this aspect of schools-related current expenditure should be reviewed and its continuation considered with regard to equity and in the context of the significant pressures on the education budget”.

One of the key recommendations of the Bain Report (recommendation 5) was that:

“The rationale for funding preparatory departments in grammar schools should be reviewed”.

The Equality Commission has adopted a position where it considers that a key component of a quality education system is the provision of equality of access to good education. In relation to its position on the funding of Preparatory Departments, the Commission has stated that:

“Preparatory Departments inherently do not provide equality of access as attendance is dependant on a parents /families ability to pay additional substantial costs. We do not believe a public subvention to this sector is the best possible use of public funds when there are other areas that we have prioritised for intervention in the above document”. (“Above document” refers to Every Child an Equal Child)

I gcomhréir leis an mholadh seo, thug mo Roinn údarás do Sheirbhís Comhairleachta Gnó na Roinne Airgeadais agus Pearsanra chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar mhaoiniú do ranna ullmhúcháin scoileanna gramadaí agus chun tuairisc ar na torthaí a sholáthar don Roinn.

In line with this recommendation my Department commissioned the Department of Finance and Personnel’s, Business Consultancy Service, to undertake a review of funding to preparatory departments of grammar schools and to provide a report on their findings to the Department.

The report concludes that the Department should consider the withdrawal of funding to preparatory departments on the basis of equality of access.

I have accepted the main findings in the report and have indicated that the recommendation to withdraw funding from preparatory departments should be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment before a final decision on implementation is taken.

The draft Equality Impact Assessment went out for consultation on 7 January 2010 and the deadline for responses is 4 March 2010.

I do not consider that discussion with Executive colleagues was necessary prior to the review of funding to preparatory departments of grammar schools.

Capital Projects

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education what criteria her Department will use to prioritise capital projects during 2010/11.

(AQW 4821/10)

Minister of Education: Tá mo Roinn ag déanamh athbhreithnithe ar gach tionscadal caipitil faoi láthair lena chinntiú go bhfuil an t-infheistiú san earnáil oideachais i gcomhréir agus tacúil leis an chreat beartais atá mé á chur i bhfeidhm lena chinntiú go mbaineann muid amach ár ndualgais reachtúla ar chomhionannas agus ar spriocdhírú ar bhonn riachtanais oibiachtúil.

My Department is currently reviewing all capital projects to ensure that the investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place to ensure we meet our statutory duties on equality and targeting on the basis of objective need.

The outcome of the review will inform the development of a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and management of the schools estate

Consultant's Fees

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education whether any of her Department's capital budget for 2010/11 will be spent on consultant's fees; and if so, how much her Department has set aside for consultant's fees, broken down by each planned capital project.

(AQW 4822/10)

Minister of Education: Chun tionscadail chaipitil a fhorbairt tríd na próisis bhreithmheasa agus fhaofa, tabhaíonn mo Roinn caiteachas ar réimse seirbhísí gairmiúla.

In order to progress capital projects through the appraisal and approval processes, my Department incurs expenditure on a range of professional services.

As you are aware, I have commissioned a review of all planned capital works to ensure they are consistent with the overall policy framework and adhere to our statutory duties in relation to equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. The outcome of the capital review will be assessed against availability of resources to ensure effective use of the capital budget to deliver an improved education estate.

For major works projects currently under construction, £560k has been budgeted for professional fees in 2010/11.

Until it is determined which additional projects can be advanced in 2010/11, it is not possible to detail the total level of expenditure on professional services in 2010/11.

Consultant's Fees

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education how much of her Department's budget has been set aside for consultant's fees in the next financial year.

(AQW 4828/10)

Minister of Education: Tá mé ag meas roghanna faoi láthair chun na coigiltí breise atá riachtanach ón bhuiséad oideachais sa bhliain 2010/11 a dhéanamh. Ní féidir, mar sin, buiséid a dhearbhu don bhliain seo chugainn a dhearbhu faoi láthair. D'iarr mé ar m'fheidhmeannaigh measúnú comhionannais

a dhéanamh ar gach réimse atá á bhreithniú le haghaidh íslithe agus ní dhéanfaidh mé aon chinneadh go dtí go bhfeicfidh mé toradh na hoibre seo.

I am currently considering options for delivering the additional savings required in 2010/11 from the education budget and to address education pressures. It is therefore not possible to confirm at this stage budgets for next year. I have asked my officials to carry out an equality assessment on each of the areas under consideration for reduction and I will not make any decisions until I have seen the outcome of this work.

Attacks on Teaching Staff

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of attacks on teaching staff in each of the last two years.

(AQW 4829/10)

Minister of Education: The Department of Education does not collect the information requested.

Bailítear staitisticí ar na fáthanna ar fhionraíocht agus díbirt daltaí gach scoilbhliain ó na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne. Soláthraíonn an tábla thíos eolas ar líon na n-ócáidí a fionraíodh nó a díbríodh daltaí mar gheall ar ionsaí fisiciúil ar fhoireann i ngach bliain den dá scoilbhliain a chuaigh thart:-

However, statistics on the reasons for suspensions and expulsions of pupils are gathered each school year from Education and Library Boards. The table below provides the number of occasions where pupils were suspended or expelled for physical attack on staff in each of the last two school years:-

| | Number of suspensions for physical attack on staff | Number of expulsions for physical attack on staff |
|---------|--|---|
| 2007/08 | 228 | 1 |
| 2008/09 | 612 | 2 |

Notes

1. These figures relate to all pupils undertaking Key Stage 1-4 in primary and post-primary schools.
2. The information reflects the number of individual suspensions, as opposed to the number of pupils suspended. Pupils may be suspended more than once.

A working group was established last year under the aegis of the Teacher Negotiating Committee (TNC) to examine the problem of abuse of teachers, whether physical, verbal or electronic. A new document, Tackling Violence against Teachers, has been agreed by the TNC and will issue to schools shortly. The document includes guidance on the handling, recording and reporting of violent incidents against staff in schools.

Public Relations Services

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Education how much her Department has spent on public relations services from (i) PricewaterhouseCoopers; (ii) KMPG; (iii) Deloitte; and (iv) Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

(AQW 4847/10)

Minister of Education: *Níor thabhaigh an Roinn Oideachais aon chaiteachas ar sheirbhísí caidrimh phoiblí le ceann ar bith de na comhlachtaí atá liostaithe thuas ó mhí na Bealtaine 2007.*

The Department of Education has not incurred any expenditure on public relations services with any of the companies listed since May 2007.

New Build for St Teresa's School, Lurgan

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education when the conclusions of the BREEAM report in relation to the new build for St Teresa's, Lurgan, will be available.

(AQW 4854/10)

Minister of Education: Planning of the project to provide a new school for St Teresa's Primary School has experienced a number of delays since it was first included in my Department's Major Capital Programme. The delays can be attributed to the school authorities requesting a change in the scope of the project in 2008, which required an addendum to the Economic Appraisal, major re-design work and a new planning application. In addition, the Long Term Enrolment for the school was revised which resulted in a reduction from a 10 classbase school to 7 classbases.

A BREEAM Pre-Assessment report based on the revised proposals was received by my Department and was being considered by Technical Advisers. However, my Department has very recently been informed that the school authorities have now decided to revert back to the original proposal to provide the new school building for St Teresa's. As a result, the school's Project Manager has confirmed that the BREEAM report submitted is now invalid and that a new report will have to be undertaken. Until this has been received my Department is unable to comment on the BREEAM aspect of this scheme.

Is riachtanach a chinntiú go bhfuil an t-infheistiú san earnáil oideachais i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais atá á chur i bhfeidhm agam. Ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair 2009, d'fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil lena dhearbhu go bhfuil siad go léir i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais agus, mar sin, go mbeidh siad inmharthana san fhádtéarma. Cinnteoidh an t-athbhreithniú seo go n-úsáidtear gach acmhainn atá ar fáil chun na torthaí is fearr do pháistí agus an luach is fearr don cháinócóir a bhaint amach.

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 2009 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.

Until the that review is completed I will not in a position to state when the new build project for St Teresa's PS. will be completed.

New Build for St Teresa's School, Lurgan

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education to outline the timescale for the completion of the new build of St Teresa's primary school, Lurgan.

(AQW 4855/10)

Minister of Education: Planning of the project to provide a new school for St Teresa's Primary School has experienced a number of delays since it was first included in my Department's Major Capital Programme. The delays can be attributed to the school authorities requesting a change in the scope of the project in 2008, which required an addendum to the Economic Appraisal, major re-design work and a new planning application. In addition, the Long Term Enrolment for the school was revised which resulted in a reduction from a 10 classbase school to 7 classbases.

A BREEAM Pre-Assessment report based on the revised proposals was received by my Department and was being considered by Technical Advisers. However, my Department has very recently been informed that the school authorities have now decided to revert back to the original proposal to provide the new school building for St Teresa's. As a result, the school's Project Manager has confirmed that the BREEAM report submitted is now invalid and that a new report will have to be undertaken. Until this has been received my Department is unable to comment on the BREEAM aspect of this scheme.

Is riachtanach a chinntiú go bhfuil an t-infheistiú san earnáil oideachais i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais atá á chur i bhfeidhm agam. Ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair 2009, d'fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil lena dhearbhu go bhfuil siad go léir i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais agus, mar sin,

go mbeidh siad inmharthana san fhádtéarma. Cinnteoidh an t-athbhreithniú seo go n-úsáidtear gach acmhainn atá ar fáil chun na torthaí is fearr do pháistí agus an luach is fearr don cháiníocóir a bhaint amach.

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 2009 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.

Until the that review is completed I will not in a position to state when the new build project for St Teresa's P.S. will be completed.

Irish Classes for Departmental Staff

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Education (i) to detail the cost of her proposed initiative for teaching Irish to Departmental staff; and (ii) whether this proposed initiative has been equality proofed. **(AQW 4857/10)**

Minister of Education:

- (i) Ag an chéim seo, tá mo Roinn ag meas an leibhéil shuime sna ranganna agus ag iniúchadh cén dóigh a bhféadfaí iad a sholáthar; ní heol costais a bhaineann leo go fóill, mar sin, ach bítear ag súil go mbeidh siad íosta.
- (ii) At this stage my Department is gauging the level of interest in the classes and exploring how these might be provided; cost is therefore not yet known, but is expected to be minimal.
- (iii) The offer of voluntary classes in Irish goes some way to meet the Government's obligations under both the Good Friday Agreement and the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages to promote, facilitate and encourage the use of the Irish language in speech and in writing. It is also in line with the commitments made by my Department in its Language Policy for Irish. As an increasing volume of the work of my Department is carried out in Irish it is desirable for more staff to have an appreciation and understanding of the language hence the classes have been offered to all DE staff.

Irish Classes for Departmental Staff

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Education to detail what response she has had to her proposed initiative to arrange classes for teaching Irish to Departmental staff. **(AQW 4858/10)**

Minister of Education: Léirigh 37 ball d'fhoireann na Roinne spéis i bhfreastal ar ranganna lóin deonacha Gaeilge.

A total of 37 Departmental staff have expressed an interest in attending voluntary lunchtime Irish language classes.

International Fund for Ireland

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education what funding has been made available to her Department from the International fund for Ireland; and for what purposes. **(AQW 4861/10)**

Minister of Education: Tá an Ciste Idirnáisiúnta d'Éirinn faoi riarachán Bord neamhspleách a cheapann Rialtas na hÉireann agus Rialtas na Breataine le chéile agus baineann gach saincheist i dtaca le tionscadail a mhaoiú an Ciste leis an Bhord sin. Cuirfidh mé d'iarratas ar aghaidh chuig Cathaoirleach an Chiste Idirnáisiúnta d'Éirinn agus iarrfaidh mé air freagra a thabhairt duit go díreach.

As the Member may know, the International Fund for Ireland is administered by an independent Board appointed jointly by the British and Irish Governments and all matters pertaining to the projects supported by the Fund are a matter for that Board. I will forward your request to the Chairperson of the International Fund for Ireland and ask him to respond to you directly.

Pupil Enrollment

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education how many pupils enrolled for the 2009/10 academic year at (i) Whitehead primary school; (ii) Kilcoan primary school; (iii) Mullaghdubh primary school; and (iv) Ballycarry primary school.

(AQW 4869/10)

Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas a iarradh sa tábla thíos.

The information requested is contained in the table below.

ENROLMENTS AT 2004/05 AND 2009/10

| School name | 2004/ 05 | 2009/ 10 |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Whitehead Primary School | 397 | 414 |
| Kilcoan Primary School | 81 | 53 |
| Mullaghdubh Primary School | 63 | 45 |
| Ballycarry Primary School | 117 | 92 |

Source: School census

Note:

1. Figures for Whitehead primary school include a nursery class containing 52 pupils in both of the years listed.

Pupil Enrollment

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education how many pupils enrolled for the 2004/05 academic year at (i) Whitehead primary school; (ii) Kilcoan primary school; (iii) Mullaghdubh primary school; and (iv) Ballycarry primary school.

(AQW 4870/10)

Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas a iarradh sa tábla thíos.

The information requested is contained in the table below.

ENROLMENTS AT 2004/05 AND 2009/10

| School name | 2004/ 05 | 2009/ 10 |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Whitehead Primary School | 397 | 414 |
| Kilcoan Primary School | 81 | 53 |
| Mullaghdubh Primary School | 63 | 45 |
| Ballycarry Primary School | 117 | 92 |

Source: School census

Note:

2. Figures for Whitehead primary school include a nursery class containing 52 pupils in both of the years listed.

Young People not in Education, Employment or Training

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) what preventative programmes her Department has in place for young people not in education, employment or training; and (ii) the current level of funding for all such programmes.

(AQW 4871/10)

Minister of Education: Tá fócas mo Roinne dírithe ar thacú le páistí agus daoine óga de bheith bainteach le hoideachas tairbheach le linn na tréimhse a chaitheann siad i scolaíocht oibleagáideach.

The focus for my Department is on supporting children and young people to remain engaged in beneficial education throughout their period of compulsory schooling.

All pupils benefit from the revised curriculum which is less prescriptive and gives teachers more scope to tailor what they teach to best suit the needs, interests and circumstances of their pupils and to use teaching approaches that make education more enjoyable, motivating and engaging for today's young people. The new area of Personal Development & Mutual Understanding at primary and Learning for Life and Work at post-primary better equips young people to deal with the challenges of life.

At Key Stage 4, when pupils can be more inclined to disengage from education, the more flexible revised curriculum, coupled with the Entitlement Framework, widens the options for 15 and 16 year olds and beyond, and opens access to professional and technical courses alongside the more traditional subjects.

The Youth Service also exists to support and encourage children and young people to mature and reach their potential as valued individuals and responsible citizens. It provides them with opportunities to build self esteem, work as part of a team, make friends, socialise and take part in structured activities in a safe environment. By allowing young people to gain for themselves knowledge, skills and experience through active participation, they overcome barriers to learning and achieve positive outcomes which helps them fulfil their full potential.

Non-formal and informal learning are important elements in the learning process and are effective instruments for making learning attractive, developing lifelong learning and promoting the social integration of young people. They are of practical relevance to the labour market by helping young people back into education to acquire knowledge, qualifications and other key skills. More than £28m has been invested into the work of the Youth Service in 2009/10.

Pastoral care arrangements are in place in every school to support pupils when they are experiencing stress which might present as a barrier to learning. These pastoral care arrangements are augmented by support from a broad range of services provided to schools and pupils by the Education and Library Boards.

All Boards have Behaviour Support Teams which can provide advice on programmes to modify pupil behaviour including short-term support for individual pupils, advice on how to respond to serious incidents and advice on classroom management skills and whole school approaches to discipline. The Education Welfare Service supports pupils referred because of concerns about attendance and who have become disengaged from school. The Boards also make alternative education provision for pupils who cannot cope with the mainstream school regime.

Resources to support this work are allocated directly to schools through the Common Funding Formula or through the Boards' black grant. In addition, a further £9.8m ear-marked funding has been allocated to the Boards for pupil support services in 2009/10.

In addition, all post-primary schools which wish it have access to independent professional counselling support for young people during difficult and vulnerable periods in their lives. Counselling contributes to tackling barriers to learning which may result from personal trauma, difficult home circumstances, stress, bullying and child abuse. The funding for this support during 2009/10 is £1.8m.

Finally, my Department is developing a Pupils' Emotional Health and Well-being Programme which will contribute to the building of resilient emotional health. It is intended to be a vehicle for providing the

“glue” to integrate, at school level, curriculum activities, policies and support systems which promote pupil wellbeing in a consistent and coherent way and prevent disengagement from education.

International Fund for Ireland

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) what funding has been made available to her Department from the International fund for Ireland to address the needs of young people aged 16 and 17 who are not in education, employment or training; and (ii) how this money will be used and the measures under which it will be provided.

(AQW 4873/10)

Minister of Education: Tá an Ciste Idirnáisiúnta d'Éirinn faoi riarachán Bord neamhspleách a cheapann Rialtas na hÉireann agus Rialtas na Breataine le chéile agus baineann gach saincheist i dtaca le tionscadail a mhaoiníonn an Ciste leis an Bhord sin. Cuirfidh mé d'iarratas ar aghaidh chuig Cathaoirleach an Chiste Idirnáisiúnta d'Éirinn agus iarrfaidh mé air freagra a thabhairt duit go díreach.

As the Member may know, the International Fund for Ireland is administered by an independent Board appointed jointly by the British and Irish Governments and all matters pertaining to the projects supported by the Fund are a matter for that Board. I will forward your request to the Chairperson of the International Fund for Ireland and ask him to respond to you directly.

Catholic Maintained Primary Schools

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Education (i) to detail (a) the number of Catholic maintained primary schools; and (b) the number of pupils attending each institution for the academic year 2008/09; and (ii) the amount of funding each institution received for the academic year 2009/10.

(AQW 4875/10)

Minister of Education: *Mar gheall ar an méid eolais a iarradh, cuireadh an freagra ar fáil i Leabharlann an Tionóil.*

In view of the amount of information requested, the answer has been placed in the Assembly library.

Irish-medium primary Schools

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Education (i) to detail (a) the number of Irish-medium primary schools; and (b) the number of pupils attending each institution for the academic year 2008/09; and (ii) the amount of funding each institution received for the academic year 2009/10.

(AQW 4876/10)

Minister of Education: Ba í an bhliain dheireanach dona bhfuil sonraí ar fáil ná an bhliain 2008/09. Mionsonraíonn an tábla thíos an méid maoiniú athfhillteach tarmligthe agus neamhtharmligthe agus caiteachas caipitil ó na Boird a fuair gach Gaelscoil. Cuimsíonn an tábla seo sonraí rollaithe don bhliain acadúil 2007/08 mar go mbaineadh úsáid as na figiúirí seo chun maoiniú athfhillteach a áireamh.

The latest full financial year for which data is available is 2008/09. The amount of delegated and non-delegated recurrent funding and capital expenditure by the Boards that each Irish-medium primary school received is shown in the table below. This table also includes enrolment data for the 2007/08 academic year as these figures were used to calculate recurrent funding.

| School Name | Enrolment 2007/08 | Total Recurrent Funding (£) for 2008/09 |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain | 71 | 298,079 |
| Bunscoil Phobal Feirste | 294 | 880,507 |
| Gaelscoil Na Bhfál | 211 | 765,227 |

| School Name | Enrolment 2007/08 | Total Recurrent Funding (£) for 2008/09 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Bunscoil An Tsléibhe Dhuibh | 168 | 610,835 |
| Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin | 119 | 431,464 |
| Scoil An Droichid | 103 | 462,048 |
| Gaelscoil An Damba | 29 | 83,416 |
| Gaelscoil Na Móna | 72 | 353,865 |
| Gaelscoil An Lonnáin | 44 | 265,246 |
| Bunscoil Cholmcille | 159 | 557,305 |
| Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh | 130 | 473,760 |
| Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir | 135 | 496,273 |
| Bunscoil An Traonaigh | 27 | 176,968 |
| Gaelscoil Na Gcrann | 45 | 200,883 |
| Bunscoil An Chastil | 75 | 275,799 |
| Gaelscoil Na Speiríní | 23 | 138,386 |
| Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach | 19 | 136,190 |
| Gaelscoil Éanna | 12 | 131,474 |
| Scoil Na Fuiseoige | 133 | 515,574 |
| Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche | 48 | 218,103 |
| Bunscoil An Iúir | 102 | 401,888 |
| Gaelscoil Uí Néill | 113 | 408,188 |

Note:

1. Enrolment figures sourced from annual school census. They include nursery, reception and Year 1 – 7 pupils.
2. As well as the Irish medium primary schools listed, there are 634 pupils in Irish medium units in other primary schools. Funding information in relation to Irish-medium units attached to English-medium host schools has not been provided, as it is not possible to disaggregate the funding of the unit from the host school.

Education Sector - Spending

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to provide a breakdown of spending by each education sector in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4877/10)

Minister of Education: Is í an bhliain dheireanach dona bhfuil na sonraí sin ar fáil ná an bhliain 2008/09. Tá an méid caiteachas tarmligthe agus neamh-tharmligthe ar gach earnáil oideachais sna blianta airgeadais 2006/07, 2007/08 agus 2008/09 léirithe sa tábla thíos:

The latest full financial year for which this data is available is 2008/09. The amount of delegated and non-delegated recurrent expenditure for each education sector in each of the financial years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 is shown in the table below.

| Financial Year | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| School Phase & Type | Total Delegated and Non-Delegated Expenditure £ | | |
| Controlled Nursery | 12,666,724 | 13,620,872 | 15,075,927 |
| Maintained Nursery | 6,023,216 | 6,603,584 | 6,993,280 |
| Controlled Primary (Includes data on Nursery Units – see footnote) | 241,100,902 | 258,174,242 | 275,563,697 |
| Controlled Integrated Primary (Includes data on Nursery Units – see footnote) | 6,630,344 | 7,827,697 | 9,868,442 |
| Maintained Primary (includes data on Nursery Units and Irish-medium Units – see footnote) | 234,099,028 | 249,342,139 | 258,434,275 |
| Irish Medium Primary (includes data on Irish- medium Nursery Units – see footnote) | 6,433,950 | 7,444,409 | 8,262,508 |
| Controlled Secondary | 170,990,232 | 174,682,522 | 177,454,775 |
| Controlled Integrated Secondary | 8,939,315 | 11,118,969 | 11,328,481 |
| Controlled Grammar | 59,346,350 | 63,698,235 | 66,998,210 |
| Maintained Secondary (includes data on Irish- medium Units – see footnotes) | 194,728,244 | 201,831,749 | 210,843,241 |
| Irish Medium Secondary | 2,080,504 | 2,124,752 | 2,706,299 |
| Grant-Maintained Integrated Primary | 15,767,311 | 17,223,990 | 19,113,709 |
| Grant-Maintained Integrated Secondary | 41,626,579 | 43,988,882 | 47,792,902 |
| Voluntary Grammar | 198,617,015 | 207,049,601 | 215,369,311 |
| Total | 1,199,049,714 | 1,264,731,643 | 1,325,805,057 |

Footnote:

- (i) Funding information in relation to all Nursery Units, Irish-medium Nursery Units and Irish-medium Units attached to host schools is included in the funding of the host school. It is not possible to disaggregate the funding of the Unit from the host school.

Transfer 2010 Criteria

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Education how many post-primary schools use all of the Transfer 2010 criteria for selection.

(AQW 4889/10)

Minister of Education: The Department of Education's Transfer 2010 Guidance neither requires, nor does it recommend, a rigid set of admissions criteria that all post-primary schools should use. The Transfer 2010 Guidance provides a menu of recommended criteria for schools to draw upon in developing admissions criteria but allows adaptations to be made that reflect a school's priorities for admission. No school is required to use all of the Transfer 2010 recommended criteria.

Ní dhéanann an treoir aon trácht ar an ord ina n-úsáidfidh critéar molta aonair, ach amháin gur chóir don chritéar um theidilíocht béile scoil bheith mar chéad chritéar scoile le haghaidh iontrála.

The guidance makes no comment on the order in which each individual recommended criterion should be used, except that the recommended free school meal entitlement criterion should be a school's first criterion for admission.

For these reasons it is not possible to analyse the criteria used by schools in the manner invited by this question.

School Visits

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Education (i) to detail what (a) primary schools; (b) secondary schools she has visited since coming into office: and (ii) whether the primary schools were (a) Catholic; (b) Protestant; (c) integrated; (d) Irish-medium; (e) special needs; or (f) other; and (iii) whether the secondary schools were (a) grammar; or (b) non-grammar.

(AQW 4908/10)

Minister of Education: *Seo a leanas na scoileanna sna hearnálacha éagsúla ar thug mé cuairt orthu:-*

I visited the following schools in the various sectors as follows:-

| Primary | | |
|------------|--|-------------|
| Maintained | St Marys Star of the Sea (Damaged in Fire) | Belfast |
| | St John the Baptist Boys and Girls Primary | Belfast |
| | St Therese of Liseux Primary | Belfast |
| | St Mary's Primary | Belfast |
| | St Malachy's Primary | Belfast |
| | St Matthew's Primary | Belfast |
| | Holy Family Primary | Belfast |
| | St Oliver Plunkett Primary | Belfast |
| | St Joseph's Primary | Belfast |
| | Holy Children Primary | Derry |
| | St Conor's Primary | Omagh |
| | St Teresa's Primary | Sion Mills |
| | All Saints Primary | Omagh |
| | St Mary's Primary | Portglenone |

| Primary | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Maintained | St MacNissius Primary | Antrim |
| | St Brigid's Primary | Ballymena |
| | New Row Primary | Magherafelt |
| | St John Bosco Primary | Ballymena |
| | Anahorish Primary | Toomebridge |
| | Anahorish Primary | Toomebridge |
| | St Brigids Primary | Magherafelt |
| | St Colmcille's Primary | Ballymena |
| | St Patrick's Primary | Saul |
| | St Josephs Primary | Carryduff |
| | St Patrick's Primary | Castlewellan |
| | St Bernard's Primary | Belfast |
| | St Colman's Primary | Lambeg |
| | St Malachys Primary | Kilkoo |
| | St Malachys Primary | Castlewellan |
| | St Mary's Primary and Nursery | Newcastle |
| | St Oliver Plunkett Primary | Dundalk |
| | St Malachy's Primary | Armagh |
| | Dromintee Primary | Newry |
| | Christian Brothers Primary | Armagh |
| | St Malachy's Primary | Armagh |
| | St Oliver Plunkett's Primary | Newry |
| | St Patricks Primary | Newry |
| | St Patricks Primary | Crossmaglen |
| | Killeen Primary | Newry |
| | St Brigid's Primary | Newry |
| | St Clares Covent Primary | Newry |
| | Carrick Primary | Warrenpoint |
| | Carrick Primary | Warrenpoint |
| | St John's Primary | Newry |
| | St Patrick's Primary | Mayobridge |
| | St Mary's Primary | Rathfriland |
| St Marys Primary | Rathlin | |
| St Patrick's Primary | Hilltown | |

| Primary | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Maintained | St Mary's Primary | Banbridge |
| | St Colman's Primary | Banbridge |
| | St Malachy's Primary | Camlough |
| | St Malachys Primary | Newry |
| | St Mary's Primary | Mullaghbawn |
| | St Mary's Primary | Newry |
| | St Joseph's Primary | Newry |
| | Jonesborough Primary | Newry |
| | St Francis Primary | Banbridge |
| | St Colmans Primary | Kilkeel |
| | St Colman's Primary | Newry |
| | Primate Dixon Primary | Coalisland |
| | St Bronagh's Primary | Rostrevor |
| Controlled | Belmont Primary | Belfast |
| | Strandtown Primary | Belfast |
| | Edenbrooke Primary | Belfast |
| | Botanic Primary | Belfast |
| | Groarty Primary | Derry |
| | McClintock Controlled Primary | Omagh |
| | Ardstraw Primary | Newtownstewart |
| | Garryduff Primary | Ballymoney |
| | Woodburn Primary | Carrickfergus |
| | Whitehouse Primary (Damaged in Fire) | Belfast |
| | DH Christie Memorial Primary | Coleraine |
| | Millburn Primary | Coleraine |
| | Leaney Primary | Ballymoney |
| | Harpurs Hill Primary | Coleraine |
| | Ballysally Primary | Coleraine |
| | Castle Gardens Primary | Newtownards |
| | Ballynahinch Primary | Ballynahinch |
| | Gilnahirk Primary | Belfast |
| | Moy Regional Primary | Moy |
| | | |

| Primary | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| Integrated | Hazelwood Integrated Primary | Newtownabbey |
| | Omagh Intregrated Primary | Omagh |
| | Oakgrove Integrated Primay | Derry |
| | Millennium Integrated Primay | Saintfield |
| | Ballycastle Integrated Primary | Ballycastle |
| | Kindle Integrated Primary | Downpatrick |
| | All Children's Integrated Primary | Newcastle |
| Irish-medium | Bunscoil Phobal Feirste | Belfast |
| | Bunscoil an Tsleibhe Dhuibh | Belfast |
| | Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain | Belfast |
| | Scoil an Droichead | Belfast |
| | An Droichead | Belfast |
| | Bunscoil Na Móna | Belfast |
| | Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh | Strabane |
| | Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir | Derry |
| | Bunscoil an Traonaigh | Lisnaskea |
| | Gaelscoil na gCrann | Omagh |
| | Gaelscoil Ghleann Darach | Belfast |
| | Gaelscoil Eanna | Glengormley |
| | Bunscoil an Luir | Newry |
| Special Needs | Fleming Fulton Special | Belfast |
| | Harberton Special | Belfast |
| | Mitchell House Special | Belfast |
| | Fleming Fulton Special | Belfast |
| | Glenveagh Special | Belfast |
| | St Francis de Sales Special | Belfast |
| | St Gerard's Educational Resource Centre | Belfast |
| | Belmont House Special | Derry |
| | Foyle View Special | Derry |
| | Knockavoe Special | Strabane |
| | Rossmar Special | Limavady |
| | Dunfane Special | Ballymena |

| Primary | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| Special Needs | Roddensvale Special | Larne |
| | Riverside Special | Antrim |
| | Rathore Special | Newry |
| | Ceara Special | Lurgan |
| Pre-school | New Lodge Irish Medium Nursery | Belfast |
| | Our Lady's Nursery | Belfast |
| | Holy Trinity Nursery | Lisburn |
| | St Therese Nursery | Belfast |
| | Naíscoil Choin Rí Uladh | Ballymena |
| | Naíscoil uí chléirigh | Dungannon |
| | Naíscoil na Deirge | Castledearg |
| | Naíscoil an Iuir | Newry |
| Secondary/Grammar | St Mary's High | Downpatrick |
| | St Colms High | Dunmurray |
| | St Columbanus College | Bangor |
| | St Colmans College | Ballynahinch |
| | St Malachy's High | Castlewellan |
| | St Malachys HS | Castlewellan |
| | St Malachy's College | Castlewellan |
| | De La Salle High | Downpatrick |
| | De La Salle Boys High | Downpatrick |
| | De La Salle College | Belfast |
| | Shimna College | Newcastle |
| | Shimna Integrated College | Newcastle |
| | Strangford IC | Carrowdore |
| | Blackwater Integrated College | Downpatrick |
| | Ashfield Girls' School | Belfast |
| | Ashfield Girls' School | Belfast |
| | Girls' Model School | Belfast |
| | St Patricks College Bearnagheeha (vandalised) | Belfast |
| | St Louise's | Belfast |

| Primary | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Secondary/Grammar | St Rose's High | Belfast |
| | Glen Road Christian Brothers' | Belfast |
| | Corpus Christie High | Belfast |
| | Coláiste Feirste | Belfast |
| | Coláiste Feirste | Belfast |
| | Coláiste Feirste | Belfast |
| | Hazelwood College | Newtownabbey |
| | Limavady High | Limavady |
| | Limavady High | Limavady |
| | Lisneal College | Derry |
| | Newry High | Newry |
| | St Mary's College | Derry |
| | St Mary's College | Derry |
| | St Marys College | Derry |
| | St Fancheas College | Enniskillen |
| | St Joseph's College | Enniskillen |
| | St Eugene's High | Castledearg |
| | Dean Maguirc College | Omagh |
| | St Peter's High | Derry |
| | St Cecilians College | Derry |
| | St Brigid's College | Derry |
| | Immaculate Conception College | Derry |
| | Holy Cross College | Strabane |
| | Holy Cross College | Strabane |
| | Our Lady of Lourdes | Ballymoney |
| | St Colm's High | Draperstown |
| | St Paul's College | Coleraine |
| | Edmund Rice College | Glengormley |
| | St Benedict's College | Antrim |
| | St Mary's High | Downpatrick |
| | St Colms HS | Dunmurray |
| | St Columbanus College | Bangor |
| St Colmans College | Ballynahinch | |
| St Malachy's High | Castlewellan | |

| Primary | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Secondary/Grammar | St Malachys HS | Castlewellan |
| | St Malachy's College | Castlewellan |
| | De La Salle High | Downpatrick |
| | De La Salle Boys High | Downpatrick |
| | De La Salle College | Belfast |
| | Priory College | Hollywood |
| | Lagan College | Belfast |
| | Shimna College | Newcastle |
| | Shimna Integrated College | Newcastle |
| | Strangford Integrated College | Carrowdore |
| | Blackwater Integrated College | Downpatrick |
| | St Patrick's High School | Banbridge |
| | St Paul's Junior High | Craigavon |
| | St Mary's High | Newry |
| | St Marys HS | Newry |
| | St Mark's High | Warrenpoint |
| | St Mary's High | Newry |
| | St Marks High | Warrenpoint |
| | St Ciarain's High | Dungannon |
| | St Pauls High Bessbrook | Newry |
| | St Joseph's | Crossmaglen |
| | St Patrick's High | Keady |
| | Lismore High | Craigavon |
| | Lismore Comprehensive | Craigavon |
| | St Catherine's College | Armagh |
| | Holy Trinity College | Cookstown |
| | Bangor Grammar | Bangor |
| | Sullivan Upper | Hollywood |
| | St Patricks Grammar | Downpatrick |
| | OLSPCK | Belfast |
| | St Louis School | Kilkeel |
| | St Louis | Kilkeel |
| St Colman's College | Newry | |
| St Colmans College | Newry | |

| Primary | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Secondary/Grammar | St Colmans College | Newry |
| | Belfast Royal Academy | Belfast |
| | St Dominic's Grammar | Belfast |
| | St Malachy's College | Belfast |
| | Aquinas Grammar | Belfast |
| | Victoria College | Belfast |

GSCE Irish

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 4542/10, in relation to GSCE Irish entries in 2007/08 and 2008/09 to provide a breakdown of the 'other managed' management type to allow for the interrogation of figures in the controlled, controlled integrated, grant maintained integrated, and voluntary grammar sectors.

(AQW 4929/10)

Minister of Education: Tá miondealú ar an chineál bainistíochta 'bainistithe i tslí eile' d'iontrálacha sa GCSE Gaeilge cuimsithe sna táblaí thíos:

A breakdown of the 'other managed' management type for GCSE Irish entries is contained in the tables below:

| Management Type | Female | Male |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Other maintained | 36 | 37 |
| Grant maintained integrated | 23 | 12 |
| Voluntary | 0 | 0 |
| Controlled | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 59 | 49 |

| 2007/08 GCSE other managed Irish entries | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| School management type | Female | Male |
| Other maintained | 52 | 35 |
| Grant maintained integrated | # | # |
| Voluntary | * | 0 |
| Controlled | 0 | * |
| Total | 72 | 60 |

Source: RM Data Solutions

Notes:

* = relates to fewer than 5 cases.

= figure has been suppressed to prevent the identification of small cell values.

Primary Languages Programme

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education to provide details of the (i) assessment; inspection; and quality aspects of teaching of the Primary Languages programme; and (ii) how this compares to other peripatetic services offered to primary schools.

(AQW 4930/10)

Minister of Education: D'fhonn mo chlár um Theangacha Bunscoile a sholáthar, bunaíodh Grúpa Nua-Theangacha Bunscoile (GNTB) chun réimse teagascóirí taistil a earcú, a oiliúint agus a bhainistiú. Choinnigh sé cur chuige seasmhach ar bhainistiú agus soláthar an chlár.

In order to deliver my Primary Languages programme, a regional Primary Modern Languages Group (PMLG) was established to recruit, train and manage a range of peripatetic tutors. It has maintained a consistent approach to the management and delivery of the programme.

The PMLG maintains the quality of the programme by providing ongoing support and training to tutors and teachers which includes specific training in classroom activities by closely monitoring tutor evaluation reports and feedback provided by schools/teachers participating in the programme. It is currently planning to consult with pupils involved in the programme.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an evaluation of the programme, which was published in August 2009. The report was positive. It indicated that the quality of education provided through the programme is good and that it has important strengths in most of its provision. It concluded that the programme has made a positive start and is contributing significantly to the teaching of modern languages in our primary schools. The report also contained recommendations for some areas of improvement and development which are currently being taken forward.

The full report can be accessed via the Department's website or by the following link

http://www.etini.gov.uk/primary_modern_languages_programme_final_version.pdf

Capital Build Projects

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the capital build projects for schools in the (a) Larne Borough Council; (b) Carrickfergus Borough Council; and (c) Newtownabbey Borough Council areas, which are currently waiting for clearance by her Department; and (ii) the stage at which each proposal is.

(AQW 4933/10)

Minister of Education: B'fhéidir gurb eol duit gur choimisiúnaigh mé athbhreithniú i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2009 ar gach tionscadal caipitil lena dhearbhú go bhfuil siad i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais atá mé ag cur i bhfeidhm lena chinntiú go mbaineann muid ár ndualgais reachtúla amach ar chomhionannas agus ar spriocadh ar bhonn riachtanas sainaithe. Braithfidh dul chun cinn na dtionscadal seo ar thoradh an athbhreithnithe, a chuideoidh le cur chuige níos straitéisí a fhorbairt ar chinntí infheistiú caipitiúil agus bhainistiú an eastáit scoile. Ina dhiaidh seo, cuirfear tionscadail in ord tosaíochta le haghaidh dul chun cinn sna blianta airgeadais atá le teacht, ag cur infhaighteacht acmhainní san áireamh.

You may be aware that in October 2009, I commissioned a review of current projects to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework, I am putting in place to ensure we meet our statutory duties on equality and targeting on the basis of identified need. The progress of all projects will be dependent upon the outcome of the review, which will inform the development of a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and management of the schools estate. Projects will then be prioritised for progression in the coming financial years taking account of available resources.

Capital Build Projects

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education when her Department intends to announce which capital build projects will go ahead and which will be postponed in 2010/11.

(AQW 4942/10)

Minister of Education: Dhíreoinn aird an chomhalta ar an fhreagra a thug mé don AQW 4821 a chuir Mervyn Storey, Comhalta Aontroim Theas, síos a foilsíodh sa Tuairisc Oifigiúil dé hAoine 26 Feabhra 2010.

I would refer the member to my reply to AQW 4821/10 tabled by Mervyn Storey, Member for North Antrim, which was published in the Official Report on Friday 26 February 2010.

Capital Build Projects

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Education to list the capital building projects which have been completed since May 2007 in the South Belfast constituency, those currently underway and those which are at the planning stage.

(AQW 5011/10)

Minister of Education: There have been no major capital school projects completed in the South Belfast constituency since May 2007 and there are none currently on site.

The following 3 major capital school projects are currently at various stages of the planning process:-

| School Name | Project Details |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Methodist College | Extension & Refurbishment |
| Taughmonagh Primary School | New school on existing site |
| Victoria College | Extension & Refurbishment |

Tá sé riachtanach a chinntiú go bhfuil infheistiú san earnáil oideachais i gcomhréir agus tacúil leis an chreat beartais atá mé ag cur i bhfeidh lena chinntiú go mbaineann muid ár ndualgais reachtúla amach agus go spriocann muid ar bhonn riachtanas oibiachtúil. Ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair, mar sin, d'fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil lena dhearbhu go bhfuil siad i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais, agus go mbeidh siad inbhuanaithe inmharthana san fhadtearma mar gheall air sin.

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 to ensure we meet our statutory duties on equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. On 15 October 2009, 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.

New School for Lagan College

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Education for an update on the building of a new school for Lagan College.

(AQW 5012/10)

Minister of Education: Chríochnaigh mo Roinn a hiniúchadh ar an Chás Gnó Ceapacháin a chuir Seirbhís Oideachais na Comhpháirtíochta Príobháidí Poiblí i láthair agus, bunaithe air seo agus ar an Treoir reatha um Luach ar Airgead, tá an Roinn sásta ceadú a thabhairt don tionscadal a dhul ar aghaidh chun Tairgeoir Roghnaithe a cheapadh, agus chuir sí litir chuig Cathaoirleach Bhord an Tionscadail ar 22 Feabhra 2010 le hé seo a dhearbhu.

The Department has completed its examination of the Appointment Business Case presented by the PPP Education Service and based on this and current Guidance on Value for Money the Department is prepared to allow the project to proceed to the appointment of a Preferred Bidder and issued a letter to the Chair of the Project Board on 22 February 2010 confirming this. The appointment will be subject to the legal requirement of the Alcatel stand still period and any further details are commercial and in confidence until this period has expired.

Youth Projects

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Education what youth projects her Department is currently funding in the South Belfast constituency.

(AQW 5014/10)

Minister of Education: Soláthraíonn an Roinn Oideachais maoiniú do na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne chun Seirbhísí don Ógra a sholáthar ina gcuid ceantar. Is iad na Boird atá freagrach as an dóigh a leithdháileann siad a mbuiséid agus ní mór dóibh a chinntiú go riartar acmhainní ar bhonn cothrom agus go bhfuil leithdháileadh na n-acmhainní bunaithe ar riachtanas oibiachtúil.

The Department of Education provides funding to the Education and Library Boards for the provision of Youth Services in their areas. It is the responsibility of the Boards to decide how they distribute their budgets taking account of the need to ensure that resources are allocated on an equitable basis and based on an assessment of objective need.

The Chief Executives of the Belfast and the South Eastern Education and Library Boards who have responsibility for youth service provision in the South Belfast constituency area have provided the following information on projects/groups funded in the area in the financial year 2009/10:

FUNDED GROUPS/PROJECTS FUNDING (£)

| | |
|--|--------|
| 104th Belfast Scouts | 820 |
| 109th Girls Brigade | 600 |
| 10th Antrim Scout Group | 600 |
| 116th Girls Brigade | 600 |
| 151st Belfast Guides | 495 |
| 19th Belfast Brownies | 600 |
| 19th Belfast Guides | 600 |
| 20th Belfast Boys Brigade | 600 |
| 21st Belfast Scout Group | 600 |
| 44th Belfast Scouts (Malone) | 600 |
| 62nd Belfast Scouts | 600 |
| 68th Scout Group | 600 |
| 81st Belfast Scout Group | 600 |
| Ballynafeigh Community Development Association | 600 |
| Belfast Community Circus School | 600 |
| Belvoir Pres Church Friday Focus | 495 |
| Belvoir Youth Club | 37,212 |
| Bethany Every Boys' and Girls Rally | 600 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Breakout Newtownbreda Youth Group | 1,650 |
| Cairnshill Methodist Church Youth Club | 4,079 |
| Cairnshill Methodist GB | 495 |
| Charter Youth Group | 86,400 |
| Christ Church Balmoral | 600 |
| City YMCA | 7,000 |
| Crescent Senior Every Girls Rally | 600 |
| Donegall Pass Youth Group | 15,700 |
| Finaghy Methodist Youth Fellowship | 600 |
| Finaghy Youth Group | 72,500 |
| Fisherwick Youth Group | 600 |
| Fitzroy Youth Club | 600 |
| Fleming Fulton Youth Group | 5,500 |
| Forestside Christian Centre Group | 820 |
| Knockbreda Guides 55th Belfast | 820 |
| Lower Ormeau Residents Group | 600 |
| Newtownbreda Baptist Campaigners | 820 |
| Nubia Youth Group | 64,400 |
| Rosario Youth Group | 67,100 |
| Sandy Row Community Forum Kite | 600 |
| South Belfast Area Project | 74,500 |
| Southcity Resource and Development Centre | 600 |
| St Brigid's Youth Group | 3,800 |
| St John Vianney Youth Group | 64,000 |
| St Malachy's Youth Group | 14,900 |
| Suffolk Youth Group | 41,000 |
| Taughmonagh Youth Group | 38,300 |

In addition the Bytes project, which is funded by the Departments of Education and Employment and Learning, has a funded centre based in the constituency. A figure for the funding made specifically to that centre during this financial year is not available at this time.

StreetSafe Scheme

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education what financial support her Department or its agencies are providing for the StreetSafe scheme.

(AQW 5032/10)

Minister of Education: Ní sholáthraíonn an Roinn Oideachais ná na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne maoiniú don scéim um Shábháilteacht ar na Sráideanna.

Neither the Department of Education nor the Education and Library Boards provide funding to the Streets Safe scheme.

Music Therapy for Children with Autism

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Education if her Department provides art and music therapy for primary school aged children with autism; and how this therapy can be accessed by these children and their teachers.

(AQW 5070/10)

Minister of Education: Chuir Príomhfheidhmeannaigh na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOLanna) in iúl dom go soláthraítear teiripe ealaíne agus teiripe cheoil do gach páiste le huathachas, lena n-áirítear páistí bunscoile, má tá sé seo sonraithe i ráiteas ar riachtanais oideachais speisialta an pháiste.

I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) that art and music therapy is provided for all children with autism, including primary aged children, if this is specified in the child's statement of special educational needs.

In most special schools art and music therapy is provided for all children, including those with autism.

As art and music therapy are recognised and regulated allied health professions and as such are the responsibility of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), ELBs access these services from the appropriate health and social care trust.

The Centre for Autism at Middletown is providing training in musical intervention. The training will address how this can be used in school to facilitate communication, social interaction, creative and interactive skills for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder. A number of teachers and ELB personnel have applied to attend this training.

Cost of Translation

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Education the cost to her Department of translating publications into (i) Irish; (ii) Ulster Scots; and (iii) Braille in 2009.

(AQW 5075/10)

Minister of Education: Seo a leanas an costas a bhí ar fhoilseacháin a aistriú go Gaeilge, go hAilbinis-Uladh agus go Braille sa bhliain airgeadais a chuaigh thart, idir Aibreán 2008- Márta 2009.

The cost of translating publications into Irish, Ulster-Scots and Braille for the last financial year, April 2008 – March 2009, was as follows:

| Language | (i) Irish | (ii) Ulster-Scots | (iii) Braille |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| Cost | £39,422 | £238 | Nil |

The information is collated on an annual basis and I am therefore providing details for the last financial year.

Buddy Bear Trust

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Education (i) for her assessment of the work being carried out by the Buddy Bear Trust; (ii) to detail the level of funding from her Department to the Buddy Bear Trust in the current financial year; and (iii) whether she can commit to long-term funding.

(AQW 5085/10)

Minister of Education: Bhuail mé le Cathaoirleach an Buddy Bear Trust agus le dealagáideacht tuismitheoirí, páistí agus ionadaithe eile de chuid an Buddy Bear Trust ar 23 Eanáir 2008 chun plé a dhéanamh ar thograí maoinithe i dtaca le todhchaí Scoil Buddy Bear.

I met with the Chairperson of the Buddy Bear Trust and a delegation of parents, children and other Buddy Bear Trust (BBT) representatives on 23 January 2008 to discuss funding proposals in relation to the future of the Buddy Bear School.

At this meeting I was presented with a proposals document setting out several options regarding the future viability of the school and, on 12 June 2008, I responded to those proposals, comprehensively setting out the Department of Education's (DE) position in relation to them, and concluding that they were unviable.

On 28 November 2008, the BBT presented further proposals to DE in a different format from those previously presented. DE has consulted both in the north and south of Ireland as well as with the Office of the First Minister/deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSS&PS). Following detailed consideration of the funding options, DE again concluded that the proposed funding options continue to be unviable. I subsequently wrote to the Chairperson of the BBT setting out my response on 2 April 2009.

The Chairperson of the BBT, has recently written to me, Michael McGimpsey, the Minister for the DHSS&PS and OFMDFM asking to meet to discuss a position paper entitled "Hope for the Future".

It would be DE's opinion that the paper does not contain any new or significantly different proposals from those previously presented and I responded on 14 January 2010, in full detail, directly to the BBT on the contents of the paper. As a result the request for a meeting was declined in this instance.

I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards that one Education and Library Board is paying school fees totalling £23,665 in the financial year 2009/10 in relation to placement in the Buddy Bear School.

While my Department does not directly fund schools in the independent sector, should an Education and Library Board place a child in any independent school they -

- (a) shall pay the fees payable in respect of the education provided for the child at the school;
- (b) may pay any fees payable in respect of board and lodging provided for the child at the school; and
- (c) may provide transport for the child to facilitate his or her attendance at the school.

Cost of Staff Attending Conferences and Courses

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Education how much money has been spent by her Department on (i) fees; and (ii) all travel costs, including subsistence costs, for staff attending conferences and courses in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5090/10)

Minister of Education: Leagtha amach sa tábla thíos atá miondealú ar chaiteachas na Roinne Oideachais ar bhailt fhoirinn atá ag freastal ar chomhdhálaí agus ar chúrsaí i ngach bliain de na trí bliana a chuaigh thart:

A breakdown of expenditure by the Department of Education on staff attending conferences and courses in each of the last three years is set out in the table below:

| | Fees | Travel and Subsistence Costs | Total |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Financial Year | £ | £ | £ |
| 2006-07 | 129,999 | 40,550 | 170,549 |
| 2007-08 | 111,052 | 40,481 | 151,533 |

| | Fees | Travel and Subsistence Costs | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Financial Year | £ | £ | £ |
| 2008-09 | 210,170 | 39,592 | 249,762 |
| Total | 451,221 | 120,623 | 571,844 |

Rural Schools

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Education what steps she intends to take to protect the future of rural primary and secondary schools which deliver a first-class education service but fail to meet the enrolment figures outlined in the Bain Report.

(AQW 5094/10)

Minister of Education: Dhíreoinn aird an Chomhalta ar an fhreagra a thug mé do Tommy Gallagher, Comhalta do dháilcheantar Fhearmanach agus Thír Eoghain Theas, ar AQO 103/10 a foilsíodh sa Tuairisc Oifigiúil ar 02 Deireadh Fómhair 2009.

I refer the Member to answer I provided to Tommy Gallagher, the Member for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, to AQO 103/10 published in the Official Report on 02 October 2009.

Transport Needs of 16+ Students

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Education if he has plans to address the transport needs of 16+ students who are attending full-time education courses in post-primary schools and colleges of further education.

(AQW 5101/10)

Minister of Education: Feadfar daltaí atá thar uasteorainn na haoise scoile reachtúla agus a leanann san oideachas ar scoil a mheas do chúnamh iompair faoin bheartas reatha um iompar, a fhad is a bhaineann siad na critéir cháilíochta amach.

Pupils who are over the upper limit of compulsory school age and continue their education at school can be considered for transport assistance under the existing transport policy, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

The Home to College Transport budget, administered by the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) on behalf of the Department for Employment and Learning, is used to facilitate the attendance of students at further education colleges. Home to College Transport is implemented on the basis of the Department of Education's policy.

'Invest to Save' Initiative

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Education what bids her Department has made in relation to the 'Invest to Save' initiative; and what consideration was given to bids that seek to address communal segregation in service provision and to promote integration.

(AQW 5112/10)

Minister of Education: Níl sé de nós agam sonraí ar ghnó an Tionóil a nochtadh. Tá gach gné de ghnó an Choiste Feidhmeannaigh faoi rún.

It is not my practice to disclose details of Executive business. All aspects of Executive business are confidential.

Sure Start Centres

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education for her assessment of the effectiveness of Sure Start centres.

(AQW 5120/10)

Minister of Education: Sure Start is designed and delivered at a local level through a network of local statutory agencies and community based organisations working in the fields of health, early education and family support. Each of the 32 Sure Start Programmes have a Lead and an Accountable Body whose roles are to manage the Programme's coordination and administration respectively, and which are accountable to the Sure Start Management Committee. Services are generally delivered across various locations and settings rather than within a single location or centre.

Is í is príomhaidhm do Thús Cinnte ná a chinntiú go bhfuil tús maith sa saol ag gach páiste, go háirithe na páistí sin laistigh dár sochaí atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste, trí obair chun forbairt intleachtach, fhisiceach, shóisailta agus mhothúcháin na bpáistí réamhscoile a chur chun cinn agus trí chuidiú a thabhairt dóibh le linn na luathbhlianta tábhachtacha seo- nuair atá siad sa bhaile agus nuair a thosaíonn siad ar scoil araon.

The main aim of Sure Start is to ensure as far as possible that every child has a good start in life, particularly those within our society who are disadvantaged, by working to promote the intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of pre school children, to help them flourish during those important early years - both at home and when they start school.

Sure Start is an important Programme and there is a need to ensure it is making a real and lasting difference to our young children and their families, particularly those who may need the most support. My Department is therefore currently giving consideration to the commissioning of a comprehensive evaluation of Sure Start in the north of Ireland. This will provide useful information in considering the future development of Sure Start.

Ulster-Scots Language and Culture

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Education for her assessment of the feasibility of a school dedicated to teaching Ulster-Scots language and culture.

(AQW 5156/10)

Minister of Education: The opening of any new school requires the publication of a Development Proposal.

Tugann próiseas an Togra Forbartha deis le haghaidh comhairliú áitiúil fairsing roimh fhoilsiú, agus bíonn tréimhse reachtúil chomhairlithe i ndiaidh foilsithe fosta. Ag deireadh na tréimhse sin, cuirim san áireamh gach eolas ábharthach i dtaca leis an togra, lena n-áirítear gach iarratas a cuireadh isteach, an t-éileamh atá ar an fhoráil agus an tionchar a bheadh ar scoileanna bunaithe, agus chun mo chinneadh a dhéanamh, ní mór dom bheith sásta go mbeadh an toradh ina chúis le scoil inmharthana, a sholáthraíonn oideachas ar chaighdeán maith dá daltaí.

The Development Proposal process provides an opportunity for extensive local consultation before publication as well as a statutory two-month consultation period following publication. At the end of that period, I take into account all relevant information relating to the proposal, including all representations made, demand for the provision and the impact on established schools, and in making my decision would need to be satisfied that the outcome would result in a viable school, providing good quality education for its pupils.

New Build Schools in Holywood

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Education for an update on replacement new build schools in Holywood.

(AQW 5159/10)

Minister of Education: It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place to ensure we meet our statutory duties on equality and targeting on the basis of identified need. In October 2009, I commissioned a review of current projects, including those for Priory Integrated College, an amalgamated Holywood and Redburn Primary School and Holywood Nursery School, to validate that all are consistent with the policy framework and hence will be viable and sustainable in the long term.

Braithfidh dul chun cinn na dtionscadal seo ar thoradh an athbhreithnithe, a chuideoidh le cur chuige níos straitéisí a fhorbairt ar chinntí infheistiú caipitiúil agus bhainistiú an eastáit scoile. Ina dhiaidh seo, cuirfear tionscadail in ord tosaíochta le haghaidh dul chun cinn sna blianta airgeadais atá le teacht, ag cur infhaighteacht acmhainní san áireamh.

The outcome of the review will inform the development of a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and management of the schools estate and projects will then be prioritised for progression in the coming financial years.

Use of 'Northern Ireland' in Written Communication

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Education if she has given a decree that staff in her Department should not refer to 'Northern Ireland' in written communication.

(AQW 5160/10)

Minister of Education: Níor thug mé forógra riamh nár chóir go dtagródh baill foirne sa Roinn do 'Tuaisceart Éireann', ach is fearr liom féin 'tuaisceart na hÉireann' a úsáid agus léirítear é seo i ngach cumarsáid ó mo Roinn.

I have never given a decree that staff in my Department should not refer to 'Northern Ireland', however it is my personal preference to use 'north of Ireland' and reflect this in all my Departmental communications.

New Build Schools for the East Antrim Constituency

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Education for an update on replacement new build schools for the East Antrim constituency.

(AQW 5209/10)

Minister of Education: Tá sé riachtanach a chinntiú go bhfuil infheistiú san earnáil oideachais i gcomhréir agus tacúil leis an chreat beartais atá mé ag cur i bhfeidh lena chinntiú go mbaineann muid ár ndualgais reachtúla amach agus go spriocann muid ar bhonn riachtanas oibiachtúil. Ar 15 Deireadh Fómhair, mar sin, d'fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil lena dhearbhu go bhfuil siad i gcomhréir leis an chreat beartais, agus go mbeidh siad inbhuanaithe inmharthana san fhadtéarma mar gheall air sin.

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 to ensure we meet our statutory duties on equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. On 15 October 2009, 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.

Pre-school Nursery Provision

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Education what action she is taking to address the shortfall in pre-school nursery provision in the East Belfast constituency.

(AQW 5224/10)

Minister of Education: I refer you to my response to your previous AQW 4898/10 -To ask the Minister of Education (i) how many children are due to start nursery school in East Belfast in September 2010; and (ii) how many nursery school places are available.

Mar a léirigh mé sa fhreagra sin, tá an próiseas rollaithe don scoilbhliain 2010/11 fós ar siúl agus coinneoidh na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an seasamh seo faoi bhreathnú lena chinntiú go mbaintear amach cuspóir beartais na Roinne chun áit chistithe réamhscoile a sholáthar do gach páiste ar mhian lena dtuismitheoirí ceann a fháil.

As indicated in that response, the enrolment process for the 2010/11 school year is still ongoing and the relevant Education and Library Boards will keep the position under review to ensure that the Department's policy objective to provide a funded pre-school place for every child whose parents wish them to have one is met.

Irish Medium Unit at St Joseph's Convent, Donaghmore

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education when the Irish-medium unit at St Joseph's Convent, Donaghmore will open.

(AQW 5248/10)

Minister of Education: A Development Proposal to support the intention to establish an Irish-medium unit at St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore with effect from 1 September 2010, was published by the Southern Education and Library Board on 17 December 2009.

Chríochnaigh an tréimhse reachtúil de 2 mhí, lena linn go bhféadfar barúil nó agóid a thabhairt don Roinn, ar 17 Feabhra agus déanfaidh mé cinneadh ar an togra a luaithe agus is féidir.

The statutory 2-month period during which comment or objection could be offered to the Department ended on 17 February and I will be making a decision on the proposal as soon as possible.

Preparatory Schools

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education how many pupils enrolled in preparatory schools in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5254/10)

Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas a iarradh soláthraithe sa tábla thíos.

The information requested is provided in the table below

Pupils enrolled in Preparatory Departments 2005/06 – 2009/10

| Year | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Pupils | 2,534 | 2,455 | 2,463 | 2,457 | 2,410 |

Source: School census.

Note:

1. Figures include children in nursery, reception and Year 1 – 7 classes.

Department for Employment and Learning

Steps to Work Programme

Lord Browne asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the cost of the Steps to Work programme; (ii) the job target levels for the training providers; and (iii) if these target levels are being met.

(AQW 4784/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning (Sir Reg Empey):

- (i) The cost of the Steps to Work for the period September 2008 to January 2010 was £17.5m.
- (ii) Providers' performance is monitored across a range of indicators including the quality of provision and contract conditions. Job target levels for contracted providers were set prior to the introduction of the programme. They do not take account of the impact of the recession.
 - (a) 25% of leavers to achieve employment (within 13 weeks of leaving contracted provision) and to sustain that employment for 13 weeks; and
 - (b) 85% of those who have sustained employment for 13 weeks to sustain employment for a further 13 weeks i.e. 26 weeks sustained employment in total.
- (iii) The structure of the programme combined with the nature of the targets make it too early to provide performance outcomes. Emerging indications are that in the current economic climate targets may not be met.

Redundancies at the Seagate Factory, Limavady

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an estimate of the number of people who are (i) receiving assistance for training; or (ii) receiving Job Seekers Allowance after being made redundant from the Seagate factory, Limavady.

(AQW 4839/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: My Department does not collect information that identifies individuals who enrol on training programmes after being made redundant. However, the Department has a range of services that are available to those made unemployed, such as Bridge to Employment and Steps to Work.

Staff Attacked by Students

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of (i) further education; and (ii) higher education staff who were attacked by students in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4890/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: In the last five years five Further Education staff have been attacked by students; one during 2005/06, one during 2007/08, one during 2008/09 and two during 2009/10.

In that period, Queen's University Belfast has recorded one incident, in 2007, of a member of staff having been attacked by a student. The three remaining Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions have no recorded incidents of staff being attacked by students in the last 5 years.

Public Relations Services Provided by Weber Shandwick

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how much his Department has spent on public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

(AQW 4927/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: The Department for Employment and Learning has not spent any monies on public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

Equality Impact Assessments

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what measures are included within Equality Impact Assessments conducted by his Department to ensure that the interests of people with identities outside the two perceived main traditions in Northern Ireland are taken into account.

(AQW 4972/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: In accordance with the requirements of Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (the Act), my Department has published an Equality Scheme which sets out how it will fulfil the duties imposed by the Act. It also closely follows Guidance produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland to ensure that all its policies are assessed for potential significant impact on equality of opportunity between the nine categories as listed in Section 75 of the Act which includes persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

Baker Hughes

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what progress he is making in securing enhanced redundancy provisions for employees at Baker Hughes.

(AQW 5118/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: It is regrettable that Hughes Christensen, a division of Baker Hughes Ltd announced, on 29th January 2010, its plans for the collective redundancies of its 209 strong workforce. Following that announcement Hughes Christensen commenced a 90 day consultation period with employees and employee representatives, amongst other interested parties. To date, Hughes Christensen have made clear their intention to meet their obligations and honour redundancy packages historically agreed and set out in the terms and conditions of employment of the employees at the East Belfast site. Hughes Christensen have advised that the redundancy package available to employees is a much enhanced package when compared with that available to other employees in Baker Hughes Ltd. I understand that this enhanced package has been offered to employees and employee representatives of Hughes Christensen who have responded with a request for further enhancements which Senior Management at Baker Hughes, Houston are currently considering. Whilst a regrettable situation for all those involved at Hughes Christensen, it would, nonetheless, be inappropriate for me or my Department to become involved in what is a matter for employees, employee representatives and the Company. I should add that my Department's remit in this regard is to process redundancy payments for qualifying employees when a company is insolvent and unable to meet its statutory obligations. In this case, Hughes Christensen is neither insolvent, nor is it unable to meet its statutory obligations in respect of the announced redundancies. Also, when companies face redundancies, my officials work 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 wide range of services to those affected by the redundancy. These services include advice on employment, education, training, re-skilling, job search and advice on benefits.

I will be meeting the Company today in my capacity as MLA for East Belfast and I look forward to hearing at first hand how employees are being assisted in their preparation for the transition into other employment or training opportunities.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Closure of Seagate and Other Industries

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what assistance is available from her Department to establish a special taskforce (i) to address the continuing outfall from the closure of Seagate and other industries; (ii) to identify a use for the former army base at Ballykelly; and (iii) to address the continuing closure of shops and small to medium-sized enterprises in the Limavady Borough Council area.

(AQW 4768/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster): Should there be a proposal for such a task force, the role of my Department and Invest NI would be to contribute advice on a range of Invest NI and EU schemes and programmes to promote foreign direct investment and encourage innovation, R&D and entrepreneurship.

Broadband in the Rasharkin and Portglenone Areas

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action her Department is taking to ensure that all households in the Rasharkin and Portglenone areas have access to broadband, particularly those who live in the Lisnagarran area and the Lisnahunshin Road.

(AQW 4817/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Broadband has been available across all of Northern Ireland, including Rasharkin and Portglenone, from December 2005 when work was completed under my Department's contract with BT for the delivery of 100% broadband access to a service of not less than 512Kbps. As a result of this contract, over 99% of premises can access broadband through a fixed wire line service, whilst the remaining premises have coverage through satellite technologies.

More recently I announced completion of one of the fixed wireless projects supported under the Northern Ireland Broadband Fund. The company delivering the project, North West Electronics, is already offering broadband speeds ranging from 2Mbps to 100Mbps for businesses across these areas and the company will also be able to offer services more generally in these areas by the summer of 2010.

On 3 December 2009, I also announced a £48m project which will deliver Next Generation Services to 85% of businesses across Northern Ireland by 2011. The exchange areas that will benefit from this investment have been listed in response to AQW 3333/10 published in the weekly answer book dated 18 December 2009. More detailed information on the rollout programme will be available on the website www.fasterbroadbandni.com which is planned to be available from end-February 2010. Whilst this action is targeted at businesses access to faster broadband, I expect that households will also benefit from this investment.

Redundancies at the Seagate factory, Limavady

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an estimate of the number of people who are (i) self-employed; or (ii) otherwise employed after being made redundant from the Seagate factory, Limavady.

(AQW 4838/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: It is not possible to answer this question as there are no official statistics available that record for each specific employer, the subsequent employment status of workers whom that employer has made redundant.

Stena-Line

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) to detail any discussions she has had with Stena-Line in relation to the change of the service from Belfast to Cairnryan; and (ii) how this change will impact the 'sail and rail' deal which operates from Belfast to Stranraer.

(AQW 4859/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: I have not held any discussions with Stena Line on this matter.

Stena Line, as part of their on-going rationalisation plan, has recently announced a significant investment in a new port facility at Loch Ryan, Scotland, which will by September 2011 replace the existing port in Stranraer. Stena Line has advised that they intend to continue providing their popular 'sail and rail' product from their new location.

Landfill Gas

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether landfill gas is a potential source of energy generation; and how she plans to develop this opportunity.

(AQW 4905/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: While landfill gas in Northern Ireland is likely to yield only around 15MW of generation capacity, it represents a useful addition to the renewables portfolio because it is able to generate on an almost continuous basis. I was pleased to open Belfast City Council's 5MW landfill gas generating station in August 2009.

In order to develop the potential of landfill gas, the Department successfully made the case to the European Commission last year that landfill gas generation in Northern Ireland should be retained at 1 Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) at a time when it was being reduced to 0.25 ROCs in the rest of the UK.

This agreed higher level of support for landfill gas in Northern Ireland will be brought into effect from 1 April 2010 should the Assembly approve the draft Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 which will be laid before it next month.

Monetary Policy Committee

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she has had any discussions with the Monetary Policy Committee in relation to delivering a better economy for Northern Ireland firms.

(AQW 4946/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Through the Bank of England regional agency network, my Department has held discussions on the current position and future prospects of the Northern Ireland economy.

The information collated from these and other meetings makes a direct and valuable contribution to the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee, which sets the interest rate for the benefit of the whole of the UK economy, including Northern Ireland.

Interface Conflict

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action Invest NI is taking, along with the PSNI and the local community, to help prevent incidents of interface conflict on the Old Mackie's site on the Springfield Road.

(AQW 4964/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Invest NI is one of a number of landowners in this area and relies entirely on the PSNI to enforce law and order.

In response to the most recent disturbances the agency increased the frequency of its private security patrols on the site. It has also reviewed its procedures to ensure that breaches of, and damage to, the fence are identified and remedied as quickly as possible.

Since 2004 the agency has spent approximately £135,000 on fencing works, providing new fencing to a small portion of the site & replacing and repairing significant parts of the perimeter fence & gates that have been subject to theft & vandalism. To date this year, approximately £5,000 has been spent on remedying theft and damage to the perimeter works.

Invest NI has actively engaged with local community groups, the police and other statutory agencies in seeking to address concerns over ongoing incidents. Following on from Invest NI's representations, the PSNI has increased its level of patrolling in the immediate area.

The agency developed its landholding in order to promote economic development and it is actively marketed to potential investors. Continuing disturbances could, however, seriously impact its ability to secure such investment projects at Forthriver.

Equality Impact Assessments

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what measures are included within Equality Impact Assessments conducted by her Department to ensure that the interests of people with identities other than the two perceived main traditions in Northern Ireland are taken into account.

(AQW 4975/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) undertaken by DETI are carried out in accordance with guidance produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and in line with commitments established in the Department's Equality Scheme. Accordingly, EQIAs on new or revised policies seek to identify and address any issues likely to impact upon equality of opportunity for the following nine categories established under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

- Persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Men and women generally;
- Persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Persons with dependants and persons without.

EQIAs also seek to identify and address any issues which may impact upon good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Draft EQIAs are issued for full public consultation to all those on the Department's Equality Consultation List which includes a wide range of representative organisations covering all nine section 75 equality categories.

Promotion of the Belfast Hills

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money the Northern Ireland Tourist Board has invested in promoting the Belfast Hills in each of the last five years; and (ii) what plans it has to promote and develop the Belfast Hills as a tourist attraction in the future.

(AQW 4980/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) expenditure on Marketing, Advertising & Promotion and Publications in each of the last five years is as follows:

| Year: | Marketing, Advertising & Promotion: | Publications: | Total: |
|---------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2004/05 | £ 4,610,000 | £ 332,000 | £ 4,942,000 |
| 2005/06 | £ 4,224,000 | £ 314,000 | £ 4,538,000 |
| 2006/07 | £ 4,705,000 | £ 223,000 | £ 4,928,000 |
| 2007/08 | £ 4,095,000 | £ 221,000 | £ 4,316,000 |
| 2008/09 | £ 8,243,000 | £ 411,000 | £ 8,654,000 |
| Total: | £ 25,877,000 | £ 1,501,000 | £ 27,378,000 |

This expenditure is Northern Ireland wide, and not attributable to specific constituencies, regions or areas.

NITB recognises that the Belfast Hills are an integral part of the Belfast tourism experience offering visitors panoramic views of the city and details on access are provided on the NITB consumer website discovernorthernireland.com. The Belfast Hills have also been mentioned in a Belfast City advertorial as part of NITB's wider spring 2010 marketing campaign.

The biggest development opportunity for the Belfast Hills is in walking. NITB through its Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Countryside Access and Activity Network (CAAN) is developing walks that give visitors the opportunity to access this area. CAAN works closely with the Belfast Hills Partnership and currently offers visitors and residents of Northern Ireland walks in Cave Hill Country Park, Carnmoney Hill, Belfast Castle Estate and Divis and the Black Mountain. NITB also has a SLA with the Belfast Visitor & Convention Bureau (BVCB) for visitor information and specific marketing.

In addition, NITB has been working with Belfast City Council and the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau to develop a Belfast Integrated Strategic Tourism Framework to drive forward Belfast tourism developments and opportunities over the next five years. This is being led by Belfast City Council. The draft of this framework is in its final stage and will be available for consultation within a few weeks.

People in Long-term Unemployment and Economically Inactive

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to list the 50 electoral wards with the highest proportion of people (i) in long-term unemployment; and (ii) economically inactive. **(AQW 5008/10)**

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Robust unemployment figures at electoral ward level are only available from the claimant count, which is a count of all those claiming unemployment related benefits.

It is not possible to provide the figures on the economically inactive by electoral ward.

The table below lists the fifty electoral wards (including corresponding district council and parliamentary constituency areas) with the highest proportion of resident working-age persons (females 16-59, males 16-64) who have been claiming unemployment related benefits for over one year at January 2010.

| Ward | District | Constituency | Proportion |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| The Diamond | Derry | Foyle | 4.2 |
| Callan Bridge | Armagh | Newry & Armagh | 3.6 |
| East | Strabane | West Tyrone | 3.5 |
| Clonard | Belfast | Belfast West | 3.3 |
| Victoria | Derry | Foyle | 3.2 |
| Strand | Derry | Foyle | 3.1 |
| Ballymote | Down | South Down | 3.1 |
| Corcrair | Craigavon | Upper Bann | 3.0 |
| Glentaisie | Moyle | North Antrim | 3.0 |
| Shankill | Belfast | Belfast West | 2.9 |
| North | Strabane | West Tyrone | 2.9 |
| Creggan South | Derry | Foyle | 2.8 |
| Dungiven | Limavady | East Londonderry | 2.8 |
| Falls | Belfast | Belfast West | 2.7 |
| Upper Springfield | Belfast | Belfast West | 2.7 |
| Creggan Central | Derry | Foyle | 2.7 |
| Greystone | Limavady | East Londonderry | 2.7 |

| Ward | District | Constituency | Proportion |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Whiterock | Belfast | Belfast West | 2.6 |
| Rosemount | Derry | Foyle | 2.6 |
| Westland | Derry | Foyle | 2.6 |
| Armoy | Moyle | North Antrim | 2.6 |
| Water Works | Belfast | Belfast North | 2.5 |
| Northland | Carrickfergus | East Antrim | 2.5 |
| Court | Craigavon | Upper Bann | 2.5 |
| Taghnevan | Craigavon | Upper Bann | 2.5 |
| Brandywell | Derry | Foyle | 2.5 |
| Devenish | Fermanagh | Fermanagh & South Tyrone | 2.5 |
| Camlough | Newry & Mourne | Newry & Armagh | 2.5 |
| Newbuildings | Cookstown | Mid Ulster | 2.4 |
| Ballysaggart | Dungannon | Fermanagh & South Tyrone | 2.4 |
| Collin Glen | Lisburn | Belfast West | 2.4 |
| Harbour | North Down | North Down | 2.4 |
| Drumglass | Dungannon | Fermanagh & South Tyrone | 2.3 |
| Twinbrook | Lisburn | Belfast West | 2.3 |
| Ballybot | Newry & Mourne | Newry & Armagh | 2.3 |
| Daisy Hill | Newry & Mourne | Newry & Armagh | 2.3 |
| Drumgullion | Newry & Mourne | Newry & Armagh | 2.3 |
| Fintona | Omagh | West Tyrone | 2.3 |
| Benvardin | Ballymoney | North Antrim | 2.2 |
| Newhill | Ballymoney | North Antrim | 2.2 |
| Beechmount | Belfast | Belfast West | 2.2 |
| Glencolin | Belfast | Belfast West | 2.2 |
| Woodvale | Belfast | Belfast North | 2.2 |
| Love Lane | Carrickfergus | East Antrim | 2.2 |
| Church | Craigavon | Upper Bann | 2.2 |
| Drumgask | Craigavon | Upper Bann | 2.2 |
| Killyleagh | Down | Strangford | 2.2 |
| Washing Bay | Dungannon | Mid Ulster | 2.2 |
| Irvinestown | Fermanagh | Fermanagh & South Tyrone | 2.2 |
| Feeny | Limavady | East Londonderry | 2.2 |

Source: Northern Ireland Claimant Count

Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Forms of Employment

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if her Department has invested in the development of sustainable and environmentally friendly forms of employment, and if so, to detail the level of investment in each of the last five financial years.

(AQW 5022/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Invest NI's objective is to work with and support those manufacturing and tradable services businesses in Northern Ireland, which have the potential and ambition to export, to improve their productivity and become more internationally competitive. The agency works with these businesses to stimulate investment projects that satisfy this objective by providing a wide portfolio of support. An increasingly important element of this support highlighted in Invest NI's Corporate Plan 2008 - 2011, particularly in response to the credit crunch and the need to save costs and resources, is that directed at adapting and exploiting sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies, processes and procedures.

Within this remit, Invest NI's Sustainable Development Team funds three UK wide resource efficiency Programmes – Envirowise, which has received funding of £1,795,000 from 2006 to date, the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) – which has received funding of £882,004 from 2007 to date and the Carbon Trust which has received funding of £20,721,044 from 2005 to date. These Programmes provide different but complimentary support to enable business to improve competitiveness, productivity and sustainability. Invest NI also provides consultancy support to help businesses move from awareness of sustainable development issues into taking action – it is anticipated that more than 100 consultancy projects with a combined value of more than £300k will be supported between 2008/09 and 2010/11. Invest NI has also dedicated specific resources to working with businesses to investigate and promote the economic potential from the growth of the renewable energy sector. Invest NI is developing a strategy for the renewables sector but several activities have already been initiated to promote and stimulate the uptake by Northern Ireland businesses of the opportunities that are rapidly unfolding. One activity of note was the very successful Northern Ireland Energy & Environment Conference in October 2009 which more than 650 local businesses attended.

Invest NI is currently working with a number of clients providing products and services in a wide range of renewable energy sub-sectors – including both onshore and offshore wind, marine, biomass, anaerobic digestion and solar thermal. Since April 2009 clients within the Renewables Sector have received financial assistance amounting to £4.4 million against total investment costs of £16.6 million for a range of activities including research and development, training, job creation and the development of Collaborative Networks. A number of other projects are at various stages of development and it is likely that some of these will come to fruition in the next financial year.

The Sustainable Energy Inter-Departmental Working Group, mandated by the Executive, demonstrates a strategic, joined-up Government approach to Sustainable Energy. An economic sub-group, chaired by Invest NI, has been set up to look specifically at opportunities for 'green jobs' and skills development within Northern Ireland.

Recovery of Grant Monies

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 4679/10, to detail from which companies the £28 million grant money was recovered; and under what criteria.

(AQW 5064/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The following entities repaid a total of £26.5m as the result of either closure of the company or the withdrawal of their NI operations:

- Xenosense Ltd
- AFA Systems (NI) Ltd
- ALR Waste Management
- Better Care Group Ltd

- Boxclever Systems Limited
- British Airways plc
- Buchanan Wire Mesh Ltd
- Castlewood Farm Products
- Courtalds Textiles (Holdings) Ltd
- Crane Furniture Ltd
- Curran Environmental Recycling Ltd
- Universal Meat Company
- Daewoo Electronics UK Ltd
- Diageo Global Supply IBC Ltd
- Dominic and Bronagh Crilly
- EFMB Ltd
- Emerging Business Trust
- Exus Energy Ltd
- F5 Networks Ltd
- Figure Retail Systems Ltd (Torex Retail)
- Flextronics (UK) Design Ltd
- Frances & Eithne McGuire
- Glen Dimplex Group
- Golden Vale/Rye Valley Foods
- Humax Electronics Co Ltd
- IJM Timber Frames Ltd
- Interior Trim Co Ltd
- Irlandus Circuits
- James Leckey Design Ltd
- Karl Construction Ltd
- Liam Seamus Brown
- Linian Knitwear Ltd
- Lucid Technologies Documentation Ltd
- M & M Software NI Ltd
- Marble Hill Soaps Ltd
- McCaw Allan & Co Ltd
- Mellon Country Inn
- Monlough Workshop Ltd
- Ms Catherine Johnston
- Nambarrie
- Nortel Networks Ltd
- Optech (NI) Ltd

- Loughford Timber Products
- Potato Pleasures Ltd
- Prudential Assurance Company Ltd
- Reed Managed Services plc
- RH Houston
- Rimedia Ltd
- Riverside Textiles Ltd
- Sanmina – SCI UK Ltd
- Seagate Technology Media (Limavady)
- Sendit.com Ltd
- Stitchwell Ltd
- The Zip Project
- Thermomax Ltd
- Thos McDonagh Ltd
- Trivirix International Ltd
- Tyrone Crystal Ltd
- Vision Business Solutions Ltd
- Vision Information Consulting Ltd
- Wavebob NI Ltd
- Wilson's Country Ltd
- Wind Synergy Ltd

The following entities repaid a total of £1.5m as the result of abandoning a previously supported project, disposal of previously grant assisted assets, or underperformance against agreed project targets:

- Energis (Ireland) Ltd
- Kiel Pharma Ltd
- Old Bushmills Distillery Company Ltd
- Sensor System Watchman Ltd

‘Invest to Save’ Initiative

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what bids her Department has made in relation to the ‘Invest to Save’ initiative; and what consideration was given to bids that seek to address communal segregation in service provision and to promote integration.

(AQW 5115/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: DETI did not make any bids against the ‘Invest to Save’ initiative.

Costs for Staff Attending Conferences and Courses

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money has been spent by her Department on (i) fees; and (ii) all travel costs, including subsistence costs, for staff attending conferences and courses in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5141/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:

(i) The amount spent on course and conference fees in the last three financial years is:

| | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Course Fees | £175,366 | £164,271 | £365,701 |
| Conference Fees | £ 2,268 | £6,117 | £15,081 |

(ii) Information on travel and subsistence costs specifically for staff attending conferences and courses is not available as travel costs are not recorded at this level.

Employee Representatives of Baker Hughes

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what plans she has to meet with employee representatives of Baker Hughes.

(AQW 5174/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: I can confirm today that I do plan to meet the Employee Representatives from Hughes Christensen as soon as possible in order to discuss the current situation in more detail.

I share the distress of the employees and their families at the current situation and I am in ongoing liaison with my officials in Invest NI to ensure that everything possible is being done to reduce the impact of the situation.

Relocated or Decentralised Posts

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what consideration she has given to posts within her Department that could be relocated or decentralised.

(AQW 5291/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: There are no proposals for the Department or its NDPBs to re-locate or decentralise.

Department of the Environment**Off-shore Wind Farms**

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the need to amend planning policy to promote the development of off-shore wind farms.

(AQW 4005/10)

Minister of the Environment (Mr E Poots): Planning jurisdiction does not extend beyond the low water mark. Consequently, there is no need to amend planning policy to promote the development of off-shore wind farms.

Goods and Services Paid for Online

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of the Environment 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 4294/10)

Minister of the Environment: My Department's Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) provides an online booking service for Driver and Vehicle Testing functions with all transactions being processed online by either a debit/credit card. The next Business Area to offer online services will be Planning Service when its new computerised system goes live during 2010-11.

The attached tables provide the information requested in relation to the DVA. Table 1 provides details for Driver Theory Testing and Table 2 provides details for Vehicle and Driver Testing.

TABLE 1

| Driver Theory Testing | 2009-10 to 31 Dec 09 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 | 2005-06 |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total number of transactions | 29,171 | 36,165 | 30,333 | 20,017 | 13,017 |
| % of bookings made by internet (online -card payment) | 67 | 63 | 51 | 37 | 26 |
| % of bookings made by telephone (online -card payment/ cheques) | 31 | 33 | 44 | 55 | 60 |
| % of bookings made by post - card payment/ cheques | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 14 |

TABLE 2

| Vehicle and Driver Testing | 2009-10 to 31 Dec 09 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07(on line service available from 10 January 07) | 2005-06 |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| Vehicle testing transactions | 159,864 | 137,244 | 65,622 | 2,968 | 0 |
| Driver testing transactions | 28,690 | 32,484 | 20,133 | 1,052 | 0 |
| Total number of transactions | 188,554 | 169,728 | 85,755 | 4,020 | 0 |
| * % of bookings made by internet (online -card payment) | 24 | 18 | 9 | 4 | 0 |

| Vehicle and Driver Testing | 2009-10 to 31 Dec 09 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07(on line service available from 10 January 07) | 2005-06 |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| * % of bookings made by telephone (online –card payment/cheques) | 37 | 39 | 42 | 43 | 0 |
| * % of bookings made by post - card payment/cheques | 39 | 43 | 49 | 53 | 0 |

* The percentage of payments made online compared with other payment methods information for Vehicle and Driver Testing are not available separately.

Availability of Council Minutes

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment if he will ensure that all councils have a link to council minutes on the home page of their websites.
(AQW 4523/10)

Minister of the Environment: It is for councils, as statutory bodies, to determine how they wish to conduct their business operation. It will be a matter for individual councils to determine how to give effect to my proposed requirement for increased transparency in the operation of councils including the publication of the minutes of council meetings, as outlined in my answer to AQW 4180/10.

New Pitches Near the Burrenbridge Road, Newcastle

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of the Environment when a decision will be made on the planning application made by the Down County Board on behalf of Bryansford Gaelic Athletic Club to build new pitches near the Burrenbridge Road between Newcastle and Castlewellan.
(AQW 4604/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Divisional Planning Manager met representatives of the Down County Board and their professional advisor on Wednesday 10 February, the day after the meeting between Roads Service and Councillor Jim Wells, MLA. The application remains under consideration and a decision will issue as soon as possible.

Compensation Claims

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 4475/10 and AQW 4477/10, to detail the monetary value of the compensation claims, broken down by council area.
(AQW 4852/10)

Minister of the Environment: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Road and Street Signs

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 4441/10, to detail for each of the last five years (i) the number of road and street signs which have been ordered by local councils and subsequently repaired or replaced due to (a) spelling mistakes; (b) punctuation mistakes; (c) other grammatical errors; (d) incorrect information; (e) missing information; and (f) any other similar reason; and (ii) the associated cost of correcting these errors, broken down by district council area.

(AQW 4956/10)

Minister of the Environment: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the annual running cost of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in each of the last three years; and (ii) the number of staff currently employed.

(AQW 4957/10)

Minister of the Environment: The annual running costs of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in each of the last three years was as follows:-

| 2009-10 | 2008-09 | 2007-08 |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| £26.4 million (estimated) | £28.1 million | £28.2 million |

Annual running costs comprise staff salaries and wages, accommodation, service contracts and other general administrative expenditure.

The total number of staff currently employed is 751.

Lecale Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of the Environment how much weight he intends to attach to the recommendations of his departmental consultant as opposed to the views of the two statutory body consultees in relation to the proposed exclusion of a stretch of coast between Rossglass and Tyrella in the Lecale coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

(AQW 4986/10)

Minister of the Environment: I await a report, which will shortly be submitted by NIEA officials, in which the criteria for designation of the proposed Strangford and Lecale AONB will be outlined together with a balanced account of the consultation with statutory consultees and the public. This will enable me to consider and confirm the final boundary taking account of all the relevant factors.

Advertising to Promote Road Safety

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment how much has been spent in each of the last three years on (i) television advertising; (ii) commercial radio advertising; and (iii) other forms of advertising to promote road safety.

(AQW 5001/10)

Minister of the Environment: In last three financial years my Department has spent the following amounts on road safety advertising:

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | 2009/2010 |
|----|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| TV | £1,070,868.51 | £1,037,129.02 | £891,448.41 |

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | 2009/2010 |
|-------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| RADIO | £97,402.83 | £97,822.20 | £121,861.90 |
| OTHER | £251,303.27 | £225,075.76 | £114,593.93 |

Over this period of time an additional £432,879.74 was spent on the production of new ad campaigns.

Building in Green Belt Areas

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment what advice is given to planning officers to ensure that developers deliver on agreed enhancements to compensate for loss of amenity when building in green belt areas.

(AQW 5004/10)

Minister of the Environment: Former Greenbelt policies have now been superseded by PPS 21. However, in the consideration of any planning application there are certain measures available to my Department to ensure that development is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

My Department may impose conditions when granting planning permission. This power is contained in Article 25 and 27 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. Conditions can enhance the quality of development and enable many development proposals to proceed where it would otherwise have been necessary to refuse planning permission. Article 76A of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 Order provides the Department with the legislative authority to issue a Breach of Condition Notice where a condition has clearly been breached.

Article 40 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 enables my Department to enter into a planning agreement with any person who has an estate in land by way of a legal document.

Guidance for planning officers on the use of conditions and Article 40 agreements is set out in the Development Management Manual.

Planning Officers

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment what guidance, including training, is given to planning officers to ensure that lobbying by elected members in relation to planning issues does not stray into interference in the planning process.

(AQW 5009/10)

Minister of the Environment: My Department has a statutory duty to consult District Councils on planning matters such as applications and development plans, as well as taking into account any representations received. In order to assist the planning process, guidance has been provided for planning officers when consultation with the Council is required. This guidance clarifies the role of my Department, as well as the Council and in some cases third parties. It also highlights which matters can be raised by Councils and legitimately considered by my Department. This guidance is contained in internal staff documents including the Development Management Manual and Planning Circulars.

Planning Applications

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment whether Mr Sammy Wilson made any representations to the Planning Service in relation to planning applications in the East Antrim constituency during his tenure as Environment Minister; and to list these planning applications.

(AQW 5016/10)

Minister of the Environment: I have attached for your consideration a list drawn from my Department's records of all planning applications on which Sammy Wilson MP MLA made representations to the Planning Service in relation to the East Antrim constituency during his tenure as Environment Minister. The list includes details of correspondence where it related to specific planning applications and also

applications discussed in office meetings with the Ballymena Divisional Planning Manager. As you will be aware these applications are open to public scrutiny on request through the appropriate Divisional Planning Office.

**ANNEX 1 AQW 5016 10
BALLYMENA DIVISION
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| F/2008/0330/F | Larne Road, Larne | Paintball Centre |
| V/2008/0077/F V/2009/0124/F | 66 Woodburn Road, Carrickfergus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use of yard area for storage of commercial vehicles for bus travel business ■ Proposed retention of parking area for 2no family owned 33-seater buses to lands south of and within the domestic curtilage of 66a Woodburn Road. |
| F/2008/0068/F | Land at 40 Brustin Brae Road, Larne | Residential development |
| F/2006/0012/F | Craigyhill, Larne | New Cemetery |
| F/2006/0030/F | 26 Glenfall Road, Glenoe | 8 no. Dwellings and 2 no. Apartments. |
| F/2007/0107/F | 31a Deerpark Road, Glenarm | Proposed replacement dwelling |
| F/2008/0036/F | Dickeystown Road, Glenarm | Replacement dwelling |
| V/2007/0158/F or V/2008/0308/F | Tesco Store, Carrickfergus | Extension |
| F/2008/0338/F | Adjacent to Redland Road, Larne | Proposed Vodafone Broadband Service Mast |
| F/2008/0123/F | 152-158 The Roddens Larne | Development comprising of 2 no. 2½ storey units consisting of 8 apartments, 4 garages, bin & bicycle store, parking & associated works |
| F/2007/0472/F | 22 Hillhead Road, Ballycarry | Build dwelling and integral garage with temporary access through adjoining land to the rear to the Lislavan Road |
| F/2007/0427/F | 10 Chaine Memorial Road, Larne | Additional windows |
| V/2008/0157/F | 95 Knockagh Road, Carrickfergus | Retrospective change of use |
| F/2008/0263/F | 8 Ballycoose Road, Cairncastle, Larne | Two storey rear extension to dwelling with minor alterations to existing |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|---|---|--|
| F/2008/0242/F | 58 Ballyboley Road, Larne | Development |
| V/2006/0246/F | Oakland Park, Carrickfergus | Hot Food bars |
| F/2007/0275/F | 15 Main Street, Larne and 28 Point Street, Larne | 3 no. retail units, 5 no. apartments and 5 no. offices |
| V/2005/0289/F, V/2005/0297/F, V/2005/0050/F, V/2005/0314/F | 75 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Residential development of 176 units with associated landscaping and access road ■ Proposed local foodstore and associated parking. ■ Document storage warehouse including ancillary office space and sprinkler tank. ■ Demolition of existing industrial buildings and construction of distribution warehouses, 2 no. car showrooms, enterprise park, office building and ancillary retail facilities. |
| F/2008/0017/F & F/2008/0279/F | 21 Tureagh Road, Raloo, Larne | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Erection of new 179 Sqm underground slurry store and 147 sqm shed directly above ■ Retrospective permission for 252m2 livestock shed with under ground slurry tank in existing farmyard complex. |
| F/2007/0088/F: | opposite Ballygally Castle Hotel, Ballygally | Change of use of existing craft shop and extension to the east side to form hotel suite. New hotel suite to the east of similar size and character |
| F/2007/0424/F | Harbour Highway to the north east, Circular Road, to the north west and the Inver River | Erection of 2no retail warehouse units with a total gross floorspace of 3562sq m, associated landscaping, access, infrastructure and riverside walkway with fishing points |
| F/2008/0080/F | Junction Road, Ballyboley | Change of house type- to that previously approved under ref:- F/2006/0129/RM involving increased ridge height and additional sunroom. |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|--|--|---|
| F/2008/0030/F | 28 Regents Park, Larne | Two storey extension to south side of existing dwelling, new garage with bedroom and bathroom over |
| F/2006/0281/O, F/2007/0012/O F/2008/0011/F | Adj. to 40 Craiganee Road, Larne | Replacement dwelling & garage |
| V/2009/0015/F: | 13 Rhanbuoy Park, Carrickfergus | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 no apartments and 1 no townhouse. |
| F/2007/0268/A | 100 Glenarm Road, Larne | Free-Standing Rectangular Sign (amended position, 3m from boundary with no. 102) |
| V/2005/0297/F | Lidl foodstore at site 80m northeast of Hotel, 75 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim | Proposed local foodstore and associated parking |
| F2007/0470/F | 11 Glenburn Avenue, Glynn, Larne | 2 Storey extension to the south of the dwelling to include, garage, lounge, upstairs & downstairs bathroom and 2 No. bedrooms (amended plans) |
| F/2007/0262/F | 41 and 43 Ballystrudder Road, Islandmagee, Larne | Alterations and extension to dwelling to include granny flat attached at side and rear, and a detached garage. |
| V/2006/0196/F: | Site adjacent to both 80 Cable Road, & 22 Belfast Road, Whitehead. | Residential development consisting of 10 apartments (Amended Scheme) |
| F/2000/0049/F F/2004/0392/F F/2005/0154/F | 24 Whinfield, Larne | Request for a report on Dwelling |

**ANNEX 2 AQW 5016 10
BALLYMENA DIVISION
DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE**

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|---------------|---|---|
| V/2006/0310/F | Lands adjacent to Bashfordsland and Marshallstown Road, Carrickfergus | Development of apartments and associated parking, landscaping and open space (48 units) |
| F/2007/0467/F | 130-136 Curran Road, Larne | 15 two bedroom apartments and associated site works |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|--|--|
| F/2007/0418/F | Land at junction of Redlands Crescent and Redlands Road, Larne | Mixed use development |
| F/2007/0467/F | 130-136 Curran Road, Larne | 15 two bedroom apartments and associated site works |
| F/2009/0065/F | Drumalla House, 111 Bay Road, Carnlough including lands to the west of 17a and 17b Ballymena Road, Carnlough | Demolition of existing "Drumalla House" Field Study Centre and development of 18 residential units with associated gardens, access road and amenity spaces |
| F/2008/0199/F | 11 and 13 Tower Road, Larne | Housing development consisting of 12 units with associated site works |
| V/2009/0085/F | 184m North of 19 Main Bentra Road, Ballycarry | Erection of a 150kw wind turbine |
| F/2009/0177/F | Topping Meats, Old Belfast Road, Millbrook, Larne | Change of use from chilled carcass holding/boning into a multi-species butchery incorporating slaughtering, chill holding and further processing. |
| F/2009/0182/F | 82 Coast Road, Drains Bay, Larne | First floor development including replacement roof |
| F/2009/0206/F | Ballystrudder Waste Water Treatment Works, Lough Road, Larne | Re-development of Ballystrudder WWTP to include pumping station, screening facility, storm storage tanks and retention of existing control house |
| F/2007/0410/F | Land between 75 and 79 Millbay Road, Islandmagee, Larne | Residential development – 25 residential units |
| F/2007/0410/F | Land between 75 and 79 Millbay Road, Islandmagee, Larne | Residential development – 25 residential units |

**ANNEX 3 AQW 5016 10
BALLYMENA DIVISION
OFFICE MEETINGS**

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|---------------------|---|
| F/2005/0154/F | 24 Whinfield, Larne | Retrospective amendment to previously approved house type & retention of 2 Gabbion walls. |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|---------------|--|---|
| F/2007/0088/F | Ballygally Castle Hotel, Coast Road, Ballygally | Change of use of existing craft shop and extension to the east side to form hotel suite. New hotel suite to the east of similar size and character |
| F/2007/0418/F | Land at junction of Redlands Crescent and Redlands Road, Larne | Proposed mixed-use development comprising food superstore, multi screen cinema/restaurants, stand alone restaurant, car parking and other associated site works |
| F/2008/0001/F | 109A Drumahoe Road, Larne | 'Drumahoe Court' Site of proposed development of 10 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 4 no. 3 bedroom apartments with associated parking and amenity areas (amended proposal). |
| F/2008/0092/F | 41 Drumcrow Road, Drumcrow, Glenarm | Application for change of use of barn (formerly shop) to Saddlery |
| F/2008/0123/F | 134b The Roddens, Larne (land adjacent to no. 1 Dunboyne Park) | Development comprising of 2 no. 2½ storey units consisting of 8 apartments, 4 garages, bin & bicycle store, parking & associated works |
| F/2008/0179/O | Land 150m East of 115 Ballymena Road, Carnlough | Erection of greenhouses, plant packing facilities & nursery areas adjacent to new woodland planted to naturalise shade loving speciality plants underneath for existing mail-order plant business |
| F/2008/0191/F | 65m North of No. 4 Junction Road, Ballyclare | Proposed Farm Store and relocation of entrance-new access location to superceed access approved in applications F/2008/0080/F and F/2006/0129/RM. |
| F/2008/0240/F | 36 Waterfall Road, Larne | Replacement Dwelling 30m North East of Existing Farm Dwelling & Yard |
| V/2005/0297/F | Lidl foodstore at site 80m northeast of Hotel, 75 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim | Proposed local foodstore and associated parking. |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|--|--|
| V/2007/0213/F | 13 Rhanbuoy Park, Carrickfergus | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 6 No. Sea Front Apartments (2 bedrooms) |
| V/2008/0096/F | 26 Victoria Avenue, Whitehead | 2No. 3 bed apartments |
| V/2008/0105/F | 37 Knockfergus Park, Greenisland | Two storey extension to side elevation to include carport at ground and bedroom at first. Two storey extension to rear to extend kitchen at ground and bedrooms at first. Also single storey sun-lounge to rear (amended proposal) |
| F/2007/0424/F | Land at Circular Road, Larne (adjoining The Harbour Highway to the north east, Circular Road, to the north west and the Inver River to the south west) | Erection of 2no retail warehouse units with a total gross floorspace of 3562sq m, associated landscaping, access, infrastructure and riverside walkway with fishing points |
| F/2008/0030/F | 28 Regents Park, Larne | Two storey extension to south side of existing dwelling, new garage with bedroom and bathroom over |
| F/2008/0036/F | 54 Dickeystown Road, Glenarm | Replacement Dwelling House |
| F/2006/0281/O | Adj. to 40 Craiganee Road, Larne, BT40 3JE | Replacement dwelling & garage |
| F/2006/0298/F | 8 Marine Road, Carnlough, Ballymena | Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and garage and construction of a single retail unit and 2 No. 3 bedroom apartments (Revised Scheme). |
| F/2007/0268/A | 100 Glenarm Road, Larne | Free-Standing Rectangular Sign (amended position, 3m from boundary with no. 102) |
| F/2007/0469/F | 9 Millvale, Ballygally, Larne | Replacement double garage with non-commercial workshop above |
| F/2007/0472/F | Site is between 18 and 22 Hillhead Road, Ballycarry | Proposed new build dwelling and integral garage with temporary access through adjoining land to the rear to the Lislavan Road |
| F/2008/0011/F | 40 Craiganee Road, Larne | Change of access to serve sites approved under planning reference F/2006/0281/O & F/2007/0012/O (amended access position) |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|-------------------|--|---|
| F/2008/0092/F | 41 Drumcrow Road, Drumcrow, Glenarm | Application for change of use of barn (formerly shop) to Saddlery |
| F/2008/0179/O | Land 150m East of 115 Ballymena Road, Carnlough | Erection of greenhouses, plant packing facilities & nursery areas adjacent to new woodland planted to naturalise shade loving speciality plants underneath for existing mail-order plant business |
| F/2008/0191/F | 65m North of No. 4 Junction Road, Ballyclare | Proposed Farm Store and relocation of entrance-new access location to superceed access approved in applications F/2008/0080/F and F/2006/0129/RM. |
| V/2006/0246/F | 1 & 3 Oakland Park, Carrickfergus | Amended proposal. Proposed change of use from retail unit (3 Oakland Park) to hot food bar. No. 1 Oakland Park to remain in retail use. |
| V/2008/0198/F | 2 Donegall Gardens, Whitehead | 2no Semi-Detached Dwellings (amended proposal) |
| F/2007/0241/O | To the rear of 19 Largy Road, Carnlough | Site for new 4 bed wing to rear of existing residential home to accommodate specialist group |
| F/2007/0453/F | 8 Branch Road, Drainsbay, Larne | Demolish existing dwelling and erect one no 1 ½ storey block of apartments (5No.) to front of site and a 2 storey block to rear of site (4No.) - Total 9 apts & associated parking |
| F/2008/0001/F | 109A Drumahoe Road, Larne | 'Drumahoe Court' Site of proposed development of 10 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 4 no. 3 bedroom apartments with associated parking and amenity areas (amended proposal). |
| F/2008/0199/F | 11 & 13 Tower Road, Larne | Proposed housing development consisting of 12 no. units with associated site works. |
| Temp/ba/2008/1757 | Land Ajacent to Quarry Cottages, Quay Lane, Whitehead | Proposed site for mobile home |
| V/2005/0297/F | Lidl foodstore at site 80m northeast of Hotel, 75 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim | Proposed local foodstore and associated parking. |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|--|---|
| V/2007/0213/F | 13 Rhanbuoy Park, Carrickfergus | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 6 No. Sea Front Apartments (2 bedrooms) |
| F/2006/0360/O | Site adjacent to 68 Millbay Road, Islandmagee, Larne | Retirement Dwelling for Owner of Island Shellfish |
| F/2007/0183/F | 1 Whinfield, Larne | Demolition of existing dwelling and replacement with 1 apartment and 2 duplex units |
| F/2007/0252/F | Site 250 West of 411 Old Glenarm Road, with access off School Hill | Retirement dwelling and garage for retiring farmer. |
| F/2007/0470/F | 11 Glenburn Avenue, Glynn, Larne | 2 Storey extension to the south of the dwelling to include, garage, lounge, upstairs & downstairs bathroom and 2 No. bedrooms (amended plans) |
| V/2005/0297/F | Lidl foodstore at site 80m northeast of Hotel, 75 Belfast Road, Carrickfergus, Co Antrim | Proposed local foodstore and associated parking. |
| V/2007/0154/F | 54 Scotch Quarter, Carrickfergus | Change of use from residential to commercial (office use, non retail) |
| V/2007/0213/F | 13 Rhanbuoy Park, Carrickfergus | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 6 No. Sea Front Apartments (2 bedrooms) |
| F/2005/0320/O | to rear of 63/65 Victoria Road, Larne | 2 No. semi-detached town houses |
| F/2006/0051/F | Drumnagreagh, 408 Coast Road, Glenarm, Antrim, BT44 0BB | Refurbishment of existing hotel buildings with extension to provide 15 residential units with associated car parking and landscaping. |
| F/2008/0068/F | Lands at 40 Brustin Brae Road, Ballycraigy, Larne | Residential redevelopment for 19 dwellings including improvements to existing access and associated amenity space. |
| F/2008/0274/F | 100m South West of Larne Golf Club Clubhouse, 54 Ferris Bay Road, Islandmagee. | Proposed housing development - 10 No. dwellings -3 No. Detached single storey, 1 No. Detached 2 storey & 6 No. 2 storey semi-detached |
| F/2008/0330/F | 250m South West of the Junction of Deerpark Road & Larne Road, Ballynure | Proposed change of use from agricultural land to paint ball leisure complex & associated facilities (amended plans) |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|---|--|
| F/2009/0009/F | 83m East of 209 Middle Road, Islandmagee, Larne | Erection of a "Bonus 150KW" wind turbine height 30m. |
| F/2009/0010/F | 28m East of 275 Middle Road, Islandmagee, Larne. | Erection of a "Bonus 150KW" wind turbine height 30m. |
| F/2009/0025/F | Field South of 209 Middle Road, Islandmagee, Larne. | Moveable huts for the storage of animal food stuff and clay pigeon traps (Huts are 1850 x 1850 mm square) |
| F/2009/0048/F | 169 Gobbins Road, Islandmagee, Larne. | Replacement dwelling with retention of existing dwelling. |
| V/2006/0293/F | Lands to the South east of 1-9 Priory Drive and 1-5 Langford Close (fronting Sloefield Road and Belfast Road) Carrickfergus | Proposed residential development of 130 no. dwellings comprising of 39 no. apartments and 91 no. dwellings including new vehicular access onto Sloefield Road and associated siteworks |
| V/2008/0105/F | 37 Knockfergus Park, Greenisland | Two storey extension to side elevation to include carport at ground and bedroom at first. Two storey extension to rear to extend kitchen at ground and bedrooms at first. Also single storey sun-lounge to rear (amended proposal) |
| F/2003/0214/F | 10 Chainé Memorial Road, Curran And Drumaliss, Larne, Northern Ireland, BT40 1AD | Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of one block of 7 apartments |
| F/2005/0320/O | to rear of 63/65 Victoria Road, Larne | 2 No. semi-detached town houses |
| F/2007/0088/F | Ballygally Castle Hotel, Coast Road, Ballygally | Ballygally Castle Hotel, Coast Road, Ballygally |
| F/2007/0157/DCA | 8 Marine Road, Carnlough, Ballymena | Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and boundary walls with temporary weather proofing of the exposed gable on 6 Marine Road and construction of a single retail unit and 2 No. 3 bedroom apartments. |
| F/2007/0503/F | 67-69 Pound Street, Larne and area behind properties | Erection of retail development with 18 residential apartments over on ground & 3 upper levels, along with car parking and landscaped entrance court |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|---|---|
| F/2008/0001/F | 109A Drumahoe Road, Larne | 'Drumahoe Court' Site of proposed development of 10 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 4 no. 3 bedroom apartments with associated parking and amenity areas (amended proposal). |
| F/2008/0008/F | 81-103 Main Street, Larne Northern Ireland | Mixed use development comprising of ground floor retail, 57 no. apartments, gym and 57 no. car park spaces. |
| F/2008/0043/F | 9 Harbour Road, Carnlough, Ballymena | Proposed replacement of old railing fence at front of school with new 1.6m steel rail fencing at front of school on boundary edge between pavement and playground |
| F/2008/0085/F | Ballygally Castle Hotel, 274 Coast Road, Ballygally | Extension to existing function room together with 24 No New bedrooms on 2 floors located to the North west side and linked to existing block together with landscaping as required. |
| F/2008/0092/F | 41 Drumcrow Road, Drumcrow, Glenarm | Application for change of use of barn (formerly shop) to Saddlery |
| F/2009/0065/F | Drumalla House, 111 Bay Road, Carnlough, Ballymena, including lands to the West of Nos 17a & 17b Ballymena Road, Carnlough, Ballymena | Demolition of existing 'Drumalla House' Field Study Centre, and development of 18 residential units with associated gardens (front and rear), access road and amenity spaces. |
| F/2009/0100/F | Site to rear of 63-65 Victoria Road and 9-11 Prince's Gardens, Larne | Single storey dwelling with associated siteworks and landscaping |
| F/2009/0298/Q | Lands adjacent and West of 138 Shore Road, Magheramorne | Proposed extension to existing garden centre business to provide educational facility, retail outlet and restaurant |
| V/2008/0077/F | Adj. 66 Woodburn Road, Carrickfergus | Use of yard area for storage of commercial vehicles for bus travel business |
| V/2008/0157/F | 95A Knockagh Road, Carrickfergus | Retrospective change of use from domestic double garage to mechanical workshop (amended red line on site location plan) |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|------------------|--|--|
| V/2009/0057/F | 2 Donegall Gardens, Whitehead. | Proposed 2 Semi Detached Dwellings. |
| F/2006/0360/O | Site adjacent to 68 Millbay Road, Islandmagee, Larne | Retirement Dwelling for Owner of Island Shellfish |
| F/2007/0503/F | 67-69 Pound Street, Larne and area behind properties | Erection of retail development with 18 residential apartments over on ground & 3 upper levels, along with car parking and landscaped entrance court |
| F/2008/0008 | 81-103 Main Street, Larne Northern Ireland | Mixed use development comprising of ground floor retail, 57 no. apartments, gym and 57 no. car park spaces. |
| F/2008/0093/O | Lands North & North East of No.55 Raloo Road, Mounthill, Larne | Site of Residential Development |
| F/2008/0105/F | 121 Ballyboley Road, Larne and lands to the East of this property | Demolition of single storey dwelling construction of 102 residential units (38 detached, 24 semi detached, 26 townhouses & 14 apts, associated landscaping & new access onto Ballyboley Road and road improvements (Amended description and amended road alignment drawings submitted) |
| F/2008/0330/F | 250m South West of the Junction of Deerpark Road & Larne Road, Ballynure | Proposed change of use from agricultural land to paint ball leisure complex & associated facilities (amended plans) |
| F/2009/0134/F | 30m East of no.8 Branch Road, Larne | Single storey dwelling with integral garage |
| F/2009/0135/F | 6 Cairnhill Crescent, Ballygally, Larne | Demolition of existing dwelling and provision of 4no 2 storey dwellings & 4no apartments, with associated gardens, parking etc. |
| V/2003/0093/F | Grounds of Glynn Park, 102 Prince Andrew Way, Carrickfergus | Residential Development (24 Dwellings). |
| V/2009/0121/F | 109 Belfast Road, Whitehead | Proposed single dwelling adjacent to 109 Belfast Road |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|---------------|--|---|
| V/2009/0124/F | 66a Woodburn Road, Carrickfergus | Proposed retention of parking area for 2no family owned 33-seater buses to lands south of and within the domestic curtilage of 66a Woodburn Road. |
| V/2009/0125/F | 15 Tern Crescent, Carrickfergus | Single storey extension to side of dwelling for garage and single storey extension to rear of dwelling for sun room |
| F/2007/0062/O | 7 Tower Road, Larne, Co. Antrim | Residential development (apartments). |
| F/2009/0027/F | 96 Ballyvallagh Road, Larne. | Retrospective change of use from Aviary and Aviculture Sales to farm machinery and vehicle repair business. (within existing 58m2 structure). |
| F/2007/0280/O | Adj. to 10 Upper Cairncastle Road, Larne | Site of Dwelling and Garage. |
| F/2009/0113/O | 260m North West of 91 Ballymena Road, Carnlough | Site of dwelling on a farm |
| F/2009/0123/F | Site 140m North of 17 Island Road Lower, Ballycarry | Dwelling and double garage |
| F/2009/0172/O | Rear Of No 12 Sallagh Road, Cairncastle, Larne | Site Of Farm Dwelling Under Policy CTY10 |
| F/2009/0173/O | 80M South Of 7 Ballyrickard Road,Larne | Site Of Farm Dwelling Under Policy CTY10 |
| F/2009/0177/F | Topping Meats, Old Belfast Road, Millbrook, Larne | Change Of Use from chilled carcass holding/boning into a multi-species butchery incorporating slaughtering, chill holding and further processing. This will provide a needed high quality facility with total traceability for organic and other animals produced locally |
| F/2009/0204/F | Site consisting of 10 Croft Road, Ballygally and existing car-park between Coast Road & Croft Road, Ballygally | Proposed replacement dwelling (to replace 10 Croft Road), 2no ground floor retail units with community centre above |
| V/2009/0024/O | Adjacent to 80 Paisley Road, Carrickfergus. | Site of Dwelling and Garage. |
| V/2009/0085/F | 184m North of 19 Main Bentra Road, Ballycarry | Erection of a "Bonus 150KW" wind turbine (height 24m) |
| V/2009/0121/F | 109 Belfast Road, Whitehead | Proposed single dwelling adjacent to 109 Belfast Road |

| Reference | Site/Address | Detail |
|---------------|---|------------------------|
| V/2009/0167/Q | Health and Care Centre, DeCourcy Centre, Carrickfergus | Health and Care Centre |

**ANNEX 4 AQW 5016 10
BELFAST DIVISION
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

| REFERENCE | SITE/ADDRESS | DETAIL |
|---------------|--|--|
| U/2008/0358/A | Sanda Road | Totem Sign |
| U/2001/0551/F | Edenmore Court | Sewerage problems |
| U/2004/0756/F | 755a Shore Road | Infill development |
| U/2008/0332/F | 38 – 39 Old Manse Road | Residential Development |
| U/2009/0154/F | 133-135 Jordanstown Rd | Apartment Development |
| U/2007/0517/F | 16 – 18 Old Manse Rd | 14 units for Sheltered Accommodation |
| U/2009/0003/F | Lands to the north of 8 – 10 Berry Drive and to the South of 16-20 Berry crescent | 4 detached dwellings |
| U/2008/0034/F | 6 Glenkeen Avenue, Jordanstown | Erection of 3 dwellings |
| U/2008/0378/F | Rear of 67 – 85 Circular Road | Erection of 2 semi – detached dwellings |
| U/2007/0713/F | Jordanstown Schools, 85 Jordanstown Road | Replacement special school |
| U/2008/0399/F | Site running from Railway viaducts, to Monkstown ABC including paths to Ards Drive, Devinish Drive and Glenville Road. | Construction of 2.92km cycle paths/footways and construction of 1no footbridges |
| U/2008/0340/O | Lands opposite 584-598 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4DX | Mixed use development: storage/ distribution unit, start up business enterprise units, hotel with restaurant, local retail convenience unit with associated parking, landscaping |
| U/2007/0595RM | Glen House, Shore Road | Residential development of 35 units (13 dwellings and 22 apartments |
| U/2009/0117/F | 173 Braepark Road, Ballyclare | Agricultural shed for storage of farm implements. |

ANNEX 5 AQW 5016 10
BELFAST DIVISION
DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE

| REFERENCE | SITE/ADDRESS | DETAIL |
|---------------|--|---|
| U/2006/0062/F | 42 Circular Road | 13 Residential Units |
| U/2007/0678/F | 31 Sallybush Road | Erection of dwelling and detached garage. |
| U/2009/0004/F | 103-105 Monkstown Road, Monkstown, Newtownabbey, BT37 0LG | Extension of existing dental practice, incorporating neighbouring vacant residential dwelling, to provide additional treatment rooms and provision of additional car parking facilities, with external alterations including alteration to roofline, roof dormers and new external finishes |
| U/2008/0283/F | 133-135 Jordanstown Road, Monkstown, Newtownabbey | Demolition of existing detached houses and erection of 17 apartments, formation of courtyard and vehicular entrance |
| U/2009/0003/F | Lands to the North of 8-10 Berry Drive and to the South of 16-20 Berry Crescent, Jordanstown | 2 detached dwellings with carport, access landscaping and other associated site works |
| U/2009/0117/F | Braepark Road, Ballyclare | Agricultural shed for storage of farm implements |
| U/2009/0131/F | Rear of 67-85 circular Road, Jordanstown | Two storey dwelling and detached garage to rear of terrace |

Planning Applications in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Constituency

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment whether Mrs Arlene Foster made any representations to the Planning Service in relation to planning applications in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency during her tenure as Environment Minister; and to list these planning applications. **(AQW 5017/10)**

Minister of the Environment: An electronic search of the 20/20 database and Planning Service Correspondence Tracking System has identified three formal representations from Mrs Arlene Foster during her tenure as Environment Minister.

1. L/2007/1496/F

An objection on behalf of a number of constituents to a proposed change of use from Quarry to Tyre Recycling Facility involving outdoor tyre storage, two external processing plant, storage building, 1 internal plant within portal frame structure, 2 portacabins, car parking and external palisade fence.

Located at Mageradunbar Quarry, Magheradunbar, Loughshore Road, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

2. L/2007/0558/F

Deane Public Works – An objection on behalf of a constituent to a proposed Residential development comprising of 4 no. town houses, 36 no. semi detached, and 2 no. detached, 6 no. single garages and 6 no. double garages.

Located adjacent to & South of Silverhill Manor to rear of nos 1-10 Cinerama Court and nos 58-62 Loughshore Road, Silverhill, Enniskillen.

3. L/2007/0927/F

Ashmour Developments Ltd – An objection on behalf of a constituent to a demolition of existing dwellings and proposed construction of 1 no. apartment block, 3 storey (5 no. apartments), 2 no. semi-detached blocks, 3 storey (4 no. townhouses), bin/cycle store and new facing brick boundary wall and beech hedge.

Located at 5-7 Cooper Crescent, Enniskillen, BT74 6DQ

However, the Planning Service has identified 5,827 applications that fall under the timeframe and area of this request. In order to identify and obtain copies of all other information within this request will require a manual search of planning application files. This would require the diversion of staff from their normal duties and would have an adverse impact on Planning Service's ability to provide a statutory public service for which it is obligated.

The Department has concluded that the wider public interest is best served by the Department not diverting its resources from delivering its public service to facilitate the provision of this information.

EU Directive 2003/20/EC

Ms M Anderson asked the Minister of the Environment (i) if he is aware of the exemptions to EU Directive 2003/20/EC regarding the requirement to use appropriate child restraints when travelling in a car, van or goods vehicle; and (ii) if he intends to take any steps to remove these exemptions.

(AQW 5052/10)

Minister of the Environment: EU Directive 2003/20/EC deals with the compulsory use of child restraints and seat belts in cars, goods vehicles and buses and provides for a small number of exemptions for use in exceptional or emergency situations. I am fully aware of these exemptions and the rationale behind their inclusion in the legislation.

The law states that children under 3 years must use the child restraint appropriate for their weight in any vehicle (including vans and other goods vehicles). There is only one exception – a child under three years may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a taxi if the correct child restraint is not available.

In vehicles where seat belts are fitted, children from 3 years and up to 135cms in height or 12 years of age (whichever occurs first) must use the correct child restraint. In the rear seat only, three exemptions allow these children to use an adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available: (1) in a taxi; (2) for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; and (3) where two occupied child seats in the rear prevent the fitting of a third child seat.

The exemption in relation to travel in taxis recognises that it would be unreasonable to expect taxis to carry child seats or booster seats for the wide possible variety and combinations of children they might be asked to carry.

Similarly, the exemption in relation to an unexpected necessity ensures that no child is left in a potentially more dangerous situation and allows the police to apply discretion as an alternative to enforcement action if they are convinced of the circumstances.

I am content that the implementation of EU Directive 2003/20/EC has strengthened seat belt legislation in Northern Ireland. The exemptions it provides are only to be used in limited circumstances and do not apply to regular school runs or other journeys that are planned in advanced. Stiff penalties

are in place for those drivers who fail to ensure that child passengers use seat belts or appropriate child restraints

In light of all of the above, I am not planning to take any steps to remove these exemptions which have been included for important reasons and which still remain valid.

Osbourne Hotel Building, Warrenpoint

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the health and safety risks to local residents and members of the public due to the condition of the now derelict Osbourne Hotel building in Warrenpoint.

(AQW 5082/10)

Minister of the Environment: My Department does not have any powers to assess the health and safety risks to local residents and members of the public of derelict buildings and, consequently, has taken no such action.

Newry and Mourne District Council has powers under Article 65 of the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and Section 107 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 to deal with premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

I understand that as the building is currently secure, the Council is not proposing to take any action due to its condition at this stage.

Review of Public Administration

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment what measures his Department has taken to ensure that equality and fair and inclusive local government will be an integral part of the outcome of the Review of Public Administration.

(AQW 5089/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Local Government aspects of the Review of Public Administration will be taken forward with the introduction of the Local Government (Reorganisation) Bill, which will, inter alia, make provision for the governance arrangements that will apply to the new councils. The proposals will provide councils with the ability to select from a limited number of specified models the method it wishes to use for the allocation of positions within the council and on external bodies. The proposals also provide for a system of checks and balances to be put in place in relation to the decision making process.

These proposals have been developed mindful of the need to ensure effective and inclusive local democracy, to protect the rights of minorities, to prevent any direct or indirect discrimination, and to promote the need of equality of opportunity, as announced by Minister Foster in her statement to the Assembly on 31 March 2007.

Vehicles Clamped or Seized

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment how many vehicles have been clamped or seized in the last 12 months in the Carrickfergus area.

(AQW 5092/10)

Minister of the Environment: In the last 12 months, 64 unlicensed vehicles were clamped or seized in the Carrickfergus area.

Planning Applications in Carrickfergus

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications in Carrickfergus have been refused or are undetermined due to inadequate sewerage infrastructure, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5104/10)

Minister of the Environment: As this information is not readily available electronically a manual search of applications would have to be carried out. This would incur a significant and disproportionate cost.

A search of applications has been carried out limited to those received from the beginning of January 2009 to the end of February 2010. During this period no applications in Carrickfergus have been refused or remain undetermined due to inadequate sewerage infrastructure.

Carrickfergus Masterplan

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment if financial assistance will be made available to the owners of listed buildings under the Carrickfergus Masterplan proposal.

(AQW 5105/10)

Minister of the Environment: Financial assistance, by way of the listed buildings grant-aid scheme, is available for works of repair or maintenance of original fabric for most listed buildings throughout Northern Ireland. This is available to the owners of eligible listed buildings, and is provided irrespective of master planning etc.

Full details of the scheme, including eligibility, may be found at

http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/built-home/conservation_2/historic_buildings/historic_buildings_grants-2.htm

Planning Applications

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of the Environment how many applications the Planning Service has received (i) for houses in multiple occupation; and (ii) for building conversions to flats or apartments, in the South Belfast constituency, since January 2007.

(AQW 5122/10)

Minister of the Environment: I regret that Planning Service's current IT system does not record applications in sufficient detail to provide the information requested. Accurate figures for the years in question could only be provided through a manual exercise at a disproportionate cost.

George Best Belfast City

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether he has received legal advice in relation to the request from the George Best Belfast City Airport to remove the 'Seats for Sale' limit in its planning agreement; and to detail this advice; and (ii) for his assessment of whether this change would remove an important control in the Airport's planning agreement and possibly make the agreement enforceable.

(AQW 5124/10)

Minister of the Environment: My Department is currently awaiting legal advice on the validity of the request by George Best Belfast City Airport to remove the seats for sale restriction from the 2008 Planning Agreement. No assessment of the request has been undertaken pending the outcome of the legal advice. As such, I am not in a position at this time to comment on the implications of any possible future change(s) to the planning agreement.

High Hedges Consultation Document

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the High Hedges consultation document (i) to outline what is meant by the term 'affected residential property' and if this includes (a) hindering access to a property; and (b) reducing natural light to a property; and (ii) if there will be a stipulated distance between an affected property and the offending hedge before the hedge meets the term 'restricting access to light'

(AQW 5144/10)

Minister of the Environment: Under the draft High Hedges legislation, "affected residential property" means a dwelling or connected garden or yard.

The term "access" in the Bill refers to "access to light" as opposed to "physical access" to a property.

The legislation as currently drafted does not specify a stipulated distance between a hedge and an affected property. In each case it will be for the local council to decide as to whether or not a high hedge is affecting a domestic property detrimentally.

High Hedges Consultation Document

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the High Hedges Consultation document, what will be classified as 'evidence to resolve the problem' of the offending hedge between parties.

(AQW 5145/10)

Minister of the Environment: Evidence to resolve a high hedge problem between parties will take a variety of forms but may include records of discussions or attempts at discussion between the parties or copies of letters sent to the hedge owner by a complainant in which they have explained the issues and problems the hedge causes for them. Where appropriate, it may also include records of meetings attended by the parties and facilitated by mediation service providers.

High Hedges Consultation Document

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of the Environment what is the definition of 'reasonable height' in relation to the council issuing a remedial notice to a hedge owner to reduce the height of the offending hedge to a reasonable height, as detailed in the High Hedges consultation document.

(AQW 5146/10)

Minister of the Environment: Each council will treat each case on its merits and will decide what constitutes a "reasonable height", having taken account of the specific circumstances in the case in question.

High Hedges Consultation Document

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the High Hedges consultation document, how long the process will take from a complaint being received by the council in relation to an offending hedge and remedial action being instigated resulting in the offending hedge being reduced to a reasonable height.

(AQW 5147/10)

Minister of the Environment: This will be an operational matter for each council and will depend on the specific circumstances of each case.

Hedge Cutting Season

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of the Environment if he will consider extending the hedge cutting season to accommodate people who could not enter fields due to the recent bad weather.

(AQW 5151/10)

Minister of the Environment: My Department has responsibility for wildlife legislation but has not specified a closed period for hedge cutting. The dates of the closed period are set by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) taking account of the nesting behaviour of hedgerow birds in Northern Ireland.

Should DARD consider that there are grounds to consider extending the hedge cutting season, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency would be happy to consult with relevant stakeholders, including NGOs who have expressed views on this matter in the past.

Vehicles Clamped or Seized

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many vehicles have been (i) clamped; or (ii) seized in the last 12 months, in the North Down constituency.

(AQW 5177/10)

Minister of the Environment: Figures are held by postal town rather than by constituency, so for the purposes of this answer figures are being provided for vehicles clamped and seized in the postal towns of Bangor, Holywood and Donaghadee, to represent the North Down constituency.

In the last 12 months 147 vehicles were clamped in these towns, and, of these, one vehicle was seized, that is, removed direct to the vehicle pound without first being clamped.

High Hedges Consultation Document

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the High Hedges consultation document, what fees may be levied against a complainant by a council when a complaint about an offending hedge is received; and would such fees be refunded if the council decides to uphold the complaint.

(AQW 5183/10)

Minister of the Environment: Under the draft legislation councils have discretionary powers to levy fees for complaints. Councils may decide to refund all or part of a fee in certain circumstances, for example where a complainant is financially disadvantaged. However it is not anticipated that councils will as a rule refund fees to complainants where a complaint has resulted in a remedial notice being issued and the height of a hedge reduced to a reasonable height.

Lisburn City Council's Planning Committee

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications, received by Lisburn City Council's Planning Committee, he has asked to be deferred since becoming Minister of the Environment; and to detail the name and location of these applications.

(AQW 5215/10)

Minister of the Environment: In line with current procedures on Council consultation planning officials ask Council to provide a reason why an application should be deferred. It is the corporate view of the Council that determines if a deferral is sought, not the view of an individual Councillor. Planning Service therefore does not keep a record of which Councillor initially requests the deferral of a planning application.

Planning Applications

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the time taken to process planning applications.

(AQO 856/10)

Minister of the Environment: With your permission Mr Speaker, I propose to answer Question 7 and 9 together:

First, can I acknowledge and welcome the recent report prepared by the Public Accounts Committee on the Performance of the Planning Service and the contribution made by the Member to that report in his role as Chairperson of the Committee. The report highlights a number of problem areas within the Planning Service. I have recognised for some time the problems identified by the Report and have been seeking to tackle these since I came into office.

Over the past year there have been a number of positive trends in the performance of the Planning Service. Application processing times have continued to show improvement and I am pleased to say that the Agency is now meeting its 2011 Programme for Government targets for intermediate and minor applications. By the end of 2009 the Planning Service had achieved 46% Major; 78% Intermediate; and 82% Minor compared to 2007/08 where performance against these targets was 40%; 51%; and 60%. Indeed, 70% of Intermediate applications were processed in 25 weeks compared to 35 weeks in 2008/09 and 80% of Minor applications were processed in 17 weeks compared to 24 weeks in 2008/09. This is a considerable improvement and I am confident that it will continue.

There also has been steady improvement on timescales for processing major applications. The numbers of decisions issued (or withdrawn) continues to exceed the number of applications received building on a trend since 2007. The scheme of streamlined council consultation is now operating successfully in all 26 councils and means that one in three decisions is now issued in an average of 33 working days. Indeed, this scheme recently won a prestigious UK and Ireland Royal Town Planning Institute Award.

In addition, 21 Article 31 applications representing investment in the region of £500 million, together with a further 17 applications of economic significance, have been processed (to recommendation or decision) by the Strategic Projects Teams.

These are encouraging signs, but I recognise that there is still some way to go. One of my first responsibilities when I took up my post as Minister of the Environment in July 2009 was to secure Executive agreement to a consultation on extensive and far reaching proposals for complete reform and overhaul of the system. I am continuing to drive that reform agenda forward and I am glad say that the Executive agreed to the final policy proposals at last Thursday's Executive meeting. This will now allow us to move forward to draft the legislation required to give effect to the reforms and to the transfer of the majority of planning functions to local government. I intend to make a statement to the Assembly tomorrow to outline the final policy agreed by the Executive.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan; and for his assessment of the effectiveness of the process for developing area plans.

(AQO 857/10)

Minister of the Environment: The BMAP Public Inquiry concluded in May 2008, and the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) is currently considering all the information before it prior to completing its report and making its recommendations to the Department.

The PAC has indicated a preliminary timescale for delivery of the report to Planning Service as early summer 2010. Upon receipt of the report, Planning Service will consider the recommendations of the PAC, and the Plan will then be prepared for adoption.

The date of adoption will be dependent on the date that the PAC Report is received, and on its content. However, upon receipt of the PAC Report I will consider any available options for expediting the adoption of BMAP.

In terms of my assessment of the process of developing area plans, I have already acknowledged, through Planning Reform, that there are a number of problems with the current process. I believe that it currently takes too long to prepare, amend and adopt plans and that they are no longer providing an effective enough planning framework for today's fast changing society. Of particular concern has been the independent examination/public inquiry stage of the process, which has resulted in significant delays to plans in recent years.

To address these issues and others I am committed to extensive reform of the overall planning system. One of the most fundamental aspects of this are proposals for a new local development plan system which will take account of both the transfer of functions under RPA and the need for a more streamlined and effective plan system. The new local development plan system will be designed to speed up the plan preparation process, ensure more effective participation from the public and other key stakeholders early in the plan preparation process, and provide a more flexible approach that is responsive to change and capable of faster review.

Planning Service

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the work of the Planning Service since he came to office.

(AQO 858/10)

Minister of the Environment: With your permission Mr Speaker, I propose to answer Question 7 and 9 together:

First, can I acknowledge and welcome the recent report prepared by the Public Accounts Committee on the Performance of the Planning Service and the contribution made by the Member to that report in his role as Chairperson of the Committee. The report highlights a number of problem areas within the Planning Service. I have recognised for some time the problems identified by the Report and have been seeking to tackle these since I came into office.

Over the past year there have been a number of positive trends in the performance of the Planning Service. Application processing times have continued to show improvement and I am pleased to say that the Agency is now meeting its 2011 Programme for Government targets for intermediate and minor applications. By the end of 2009 the Planning Service had achieved 46% Major; 78% Intermediate; and 82% Minor compared to 2007/08 where performance against these targets was 40%; 51%; and 60%. Indeed, 70% of Intermediate applications were processed in 25 weeks compared to 35 weeks in 2008/09 and 80% of Minor applications were processed in 17 weeks compared to 24 weeks in 2008/09. This is a considerable improvement and I am confident that it will continue.

There also has been steady improvement on timescales for processing major applications. The numbers of decisions issued (or withdrawn) continues to exceed the number of applications received building on a trend since 2007. The scheme of streamlined council consultation is now operating successfully in all 26 councils and means that one in three decisions is now issued in an average of 33 working days. Indeed, this scheme recently won a prestigious UK and Ireland Royal Town Planning Institute Award.

In addition, 21 Article 31 applications representing investment in the region of £500 million, together with a further 17 applications of economic significance, have been processed (to recommendation or decision) by the Strategic Projects Teams.

These are encouraging signs, but I recognise that there is still some way to go. One of my first responsibilities when I took up my post as Minister of the Environment in July 2009 was to secure Executive agreement to a consultation on extensive and far reaching proposals for complete reform and overhaul of the system. I am continuing to drive that reform agenda forward and I am glad say that the

Executive agreed to the final policy proposals at last Thursday's Executive meeting. This will now allow us to move forward to draft the legislation required to give effect to the reforms and to the transfer of the majority of planning functions to local government. I intend to make a statement to the Assembly tomorrow to outline the final policy agreed by the Executive.

Road Safety: Legislation

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of the Environment what legislation he plans to bring forward to improve road safety.

(AQO 859/10)

Minister of the Environment: There are a number of pieces of legislation both ongoing and planned which I will introduce to improve road safety in Northern Ireland.

I have a programme of subordinate legislation for the remainder of this Assembly term. This will include a suite of eight regulations to introduce a graduated fixed penalty and deposit scheme which will allow DVA to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of offences such as overloading, drivers' hours, tachograph records, driver licensing and vehicle excise duty. I will also be introducing regulations to improve the signage and lighting on school buses, to address road safety concerns particularly when children are getting on and off.

Following the recent passage through the Assembly of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 2010, I will be bringing forward a number of sets of Regulations to bring the new licensing regime into effect.

I will shortly be bringing forward a package of measures on drink driving. I will also be consulting on reform of the learner and R driver schemes and the introduction of a new system of graduated driver licensing the implementation of which would require legislative underpinning. I will also be consulting on a new road safety strategy which includes over 170 measures, some of which would require legislation.

DOE: Efficiency Savings

Mr J McCallister asked the Minister of the Environment for an update on his Department's efficiency savings under the Comprehensive Spending Review.

(AQO 860/10)

Minister of the Environment: As part of the CSR 2007 process, which covers the period 2008/09 to 2010/11, my Department's overall cash efficiency targets are £3.92m, £7.73m and £11.42m respectively.

In terms of progress my Department has met its efficiency target for 2008/09 and is on track to meet its efficiency targets for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Ringsend: Landfill Sites

Mr B Leonard asked the Minister of the Environment if any discussions have taken place between his departmental officials and planners, and applicants for planning permission for three landfill sites in the Ringsend area; and for his assessment of the need for three landfill sites given increased recycling, landfill trends and region-wide waste management targets.

(AQO 861/10)

Minister of the Environment: There are three sites within the Ringsend area either currently the subject of a planning application or already in receipt of planning permission. They are known locally as Craigmore Landfill, Cam Road and Belraugh Road. I propose to deal with each in turn.

Craigmore Landfill is an approved landfill site and has been in operation since the mid 1970s. In 2005 three planning applications were submitted to Planning Service for consideration. These sought to

upgrade the landfill such that it would be able to operate to current standards and to establish a waste transfer and materials recovery facility on the site. Planning permission was granted in all three cases. On 1 April 2008 the then Minister of the Environment met with local residents in relation to these proposals. In dealing with the planning applications my officials would have had an ongoing dialogue with the applicant and agents.

Cam Road is currently the subject of a planning application to develop a non-hazardous landfill facility. On 21 September 2009 I personally received separate delegations representing local residents and the applicant. This is an Article 31 major application and there have been regular meetings between planning officials and the applicant/agents.

Belraugh Road is the subject of a planning application for the development and operation of an inert landfill facility. Again my planning officials have had regular and ongoing discussions with the applicant/agents.

Waste management planning is a function of local government. The North West Waste Management Group has identified the Cam Road site as the preferred site to address their landfill needs into the future. The site at Belraugh Road is an application on behalf of a private operator designed to meet a specific need. Craigmore is already an approved facility. The current applications will be determined taking into account the relevant plan and policy provisions and all other material considerations. It would be inappropriate for me to prejudge the outcome of this process.

Tourism: Historic Sites

Mr S Neeson asked the Minister of the Environment what plans the Environment Agency has to make its historic sites more accessible to tourists.

(AQO 862/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency is already engaged in a programme of upgrading signage, on-site interpretation and visitor facilities at many of the 190 historic monuments in State Care or Guardianship for which it is responsible.

Particular attention will be paid in the coming year to monuments which represent key tourist destinations within NITB signature project areas. These include Carrickfergus, Kinbane, Dunluce and Dundrum Castles, Inch and Grey Abbeys and Nendrum and Devenish Monastic Sites.

In the future NIEA plans to extend public access at Carrickfergus Castle to spaces currently closed to visitors, including the wall walk of the Norman Keep. The Agency also intends to extend car parking and improve traffic management at Dunluce Castle.

As resources become available NIEA plans to enhance the tourism value of the County Down Tower Houses by installing exhibitions.

NIEA will seek to acquire and develop public access to selected monuments with tourism potential where this is currently lacking, and to engage with community organisations over the opening and interpretation of smaller monuments of local interest.

Clean Neighbourhoods Bill

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment when the Clean Neighbourhoods Bill will be published for consultation.

(AQO 863/10)

Minister of the Environment: I am pleased to be able to announce that the consultation exercise on a draft Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill has been cleared by the Executive. I will be making a statement to the Assembly in the next few weeks.

DOE: Recruitment and Promotion

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister of the Environment what effect the current moratorium on recruitment and promotion is having on his Department's ability to deliver an effective and improved service.

(AQO 864/10)

Minister of the Environment: Since the current embargo on recruitment and promotion in the General Service grades was introduced as recently as 10 February, it is not having any noticeable effect on the service my Department is delivering. I would assure members that my officials will continue to monitor the situation and take any necessary steps to ensure that the service DOE provides to the public is maintained to as high a level as practicable.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Civil Service Posts

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many new Civil Service posts have been created in each of the last five years, broken down by job title and grade.

(AQW 4208/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr S Wilson): The information sought is not available in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

However, for the purposes of monitoring the current and previous Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) periods (Budget 07 and CSR04 respectively) details of the new posts created over the past five years has been collated by Corporate HR, DFP. Details of the new posts created are set out in the table attached and where known, the job title and grade have been provided. The figures are shown on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis.

It should be noted that, in overall terms, during both the CSR 04 and Budget 07 period (to date) the overall number of FTE posts in the 11 Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments has reduced and this downward trend is expected to continue until the end of the Budget 07 period.

New Civil Service Posts created in the 11 Government Departments since 1 April 2005.

| CSR 04 Period (1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008) | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|---|--|
| Department | Number of posts (FTE) | Job Title | Grade | Purpose/Business Area |
| DARD | 22 | | 1 Divisional Veterinary Officer 2 Veterinary Officers 7 Inspector Group1 12 Meat Inspector | Animal Testing for Dept of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) |
| DCAL | 7.5 | | 1 Grade 7, 2.5 Deputy Principals (DP), 1 Staff Officer (SO), 1 Executive Officer 2 (EO2), 2 Administrative Officers(AO) | 2012 Olympics |

| CSR 04 Period (1 April 2005 to 31 March 2008) | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Department | Number of posts (FTE) | Job Title | Grade | Purpose/Business Area |
| DEL | 83.5 | Various: E01 Pathways to Work Team Leaders E02 Pathways to Work Personal Advisers AO Pathways to Work Admin Support. | E01 / E02 /AO | Pathways to Work |
| DETI | 6 | Trainee Health & Safety Officers. Gas Compliance Officers. | E01 | New Work Pressures within Health and Safety ExecutiveNI |
| DFF | 44 8 | | Various General Service grades AA - DP | Rates Collection Agency* Land Registry - increased work. |
| DOE | 349 | | Various General Service and other grades | Driver and Vehicle Agency*, NI Environment Agency* and Planning Service* - includes non- NICS funded posts. Increased workload |
| DSD | 68 30 | | Various administrative grades | Child Support Agency and Belfast Benefit Delivery Centre – increased work*, Pathways to Work |
| OFMDFM | 8 | | Administrative grades | Crumlin Road Gaol, Records NI, NI Investment Strategy |
| Total | 626 | | | |

| Budget 07 period -to date. (1 April 2008 to date 1 January 2010) | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Department | Number of posts (FTE) | Job Title | Grade | Purpose/Business Area |
| DCAL | 19 | | 1G7, 1 SO, 4 AO, 1AA, 12 Technical Grades – E01/2 equivalent | Transfer into the Department of the Fisheries Conservancy Board. |
| DEL | 138 | Various AO Job Search Officers and E02 Work Focused Adviser posts | AO / E02 | Increased benefit uptake |
| DFP | 28 | | Various administrative grades AA – DP | Transfer into the Department of procurement posts from Northern Ireland Office |
| DSD | 212 197 13 | | Various administrative grades | Employment Support Allowance (decision still awaited as to the number of these posts which are temporary) Increased benefit uptake. New initiatives in Housing Directorate (fuel poverty). |
| DE | 4 | Programme Director Project Officer Finance Officer Admin Support | DP SO E02 AO | International Fund for Ireland (IFI) Education Programme* |
| Total | 611 | | | |

Notes:

* Non-NI Block funded posts which are funded by receipts, GB Departments or other means.

Some of the new permanent posts created during the CSR 04 period have since ceased during the Budget 07 period.

FTE – Full Time equivalent

Advice Provided by Mr Paul Maguire QC

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 4452/10, (i) what guidelines or grounds he used to form the opinion that it would not be appropriate to publish details of the instructions sent to Senior Counsel; (ii) if he will publish the advice provided by Mr Paul Maguire QC on 3 February 2010; and (iii) what was the total fee paid to Mr Maguire.

(AQW 4806/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The relationship between legal adviser and client is based on confidentiality and this applies in government as in the private sphere. Confidentiality applies to protect the instructions sent to Counsel as well as the advice given by Counsel. The need for confidentiality is recognised by the Courts, by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and by the Freedom of Information Act.

I have no plans to publish the advice given by Senior Crown Counsel.

No fee note has been received from Counsel as yet.

Weber Shandwick

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how much his Department has spent on public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

(AQW 4920/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: My Department has not spent any money on public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick since May 2007

Transfer of Pensions

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the current arrangements for the transfer of pensions for public sector personnel leaving Northern Ireland to live in other parts of the United Kingdom.

(AQW 4953/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Individual pension schemes have arrangements for the transfer of pensions for public sector personnel leaving Northern Ireland to live in other parts of the United Kingdom to transfer their accrued pension benefits to any scheme in the United Kingdom.

These arrangements enable a transfer payment to be calculated by converting the value of the member's rights in each of the schemes to a current cash equivalent value using factors supplied by the scheme actuary. The receiving scheme then converts this to accrued benefits.

Civil Service Back Pay

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he intends to reconsider his decision not to award back pay to those civil servants who had retired before August 2008.

(AQW 4954/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: I do not intend to reconsider the position of those civil servants who left or retired from the NICS before 1 August 2008, who are not eligible for inclusion in the NICS equal pay settlement.

Civil Service Back Pay

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if it is possible to consider the eligibility of retired civil servants for back pay on the basis of length of service.

(AQW 4955/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The terms of the NICS equal pay settlement have been agreed by the Executive and by NIPSA and there will be no further consideration of eligibility for those excluded from the terms of the settlement.

First Minister: Legal Opinion

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the remit of the QC who was appointed by the Minister of Finance and Personnel to provide a legal opinion on the conduct of the First Minister in relation to his wife's finances.

(AQO 847/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Departmental Solicitor instructed Senior Crown Counsel to provide legal advice in relation to the allegation in the Spotlight programme that the First Minister had acted in breach of the Ministerial Code, the Ministerial Code of Conduct and the Pledge of Office.

Lone Pensioners' Allowance

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the number and the total value of Lone Pensioners' Allowance awards made in the last financial year and in this financial year to date.

(AQW 5054/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: As at 31 January 2010 there are 24,624 current awards of Lone Pensioner Allowance with a total value of £3,830,017.17

For the financial year ended 31 March 2009 there were 21,767 Lone Pensioner Allowance awards made with a total value of £2,994,541.53.

Severely or Profoundly Deaf Civil Service Staff

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many people currently working in the Civil Service are severely or profoundly deaf; and how this figure compares to 2000.

(AQW 5073/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The NICS does not hold the information in the specific format requested, however, NICS equality monitoring data at January 2000 shows that 108 people had declared that they had a hearing impairment and in 2010 personnel records indicate that 145 staff have a hearing impairment.

It should be noted that this is a voluntary declaration by staff and it is possible that not all staff with a hearing impairment will have chosen to declare this. The information reported here can, therefore, only be considered to be an indication of the position.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Efficiency Plans

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his Department's efficiency plans.

(AQW 3926/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey): The Department, as part of CSR2007, is tasked with delivering efficiency savings of 5% per annum over the period of the review. This cumulative 15% reduction in costs over the years 2008-2011 is approximately £5m recurrent. In addition the Department will have to fund its share of the equal pay settlement from 2010/11. This is expected to be around £0.5m per year, giving a total of some £5.5m by March 2011.

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr M Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) if any bid was received from the Western Health and Social Care Trust in the past three years for development of services or

facilities for people with a learning disability; (ii) to detail the funding sought and purposes set out in any such bids; and (iii) to provide details of any successful bids.

(AQW 4314/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Health and Social Care Trusts have responsibility for the provision of services in Northern Ireland. Bidding for additional services is carried out on a regional basis as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The capital allocation process does not encompass a bidding process by Trusts to the Department. Capital projects are proposed by Trusts in conjunction with Commissioners based on identified need, highest priority and value for money. Allocations to the highest priority projects are made by the Minister taking account of financial constraints.

The table below details revenue bids made specifically by the Western Health and Social Care Trust for additional learning disability services and business cases received for learning disability capital schemes in the past 3 years.

ADDITIONAL REVENUE

| Reason | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Resettlement from LD hospitals | £750k | £235 | - |
| Delayed discharges from hospital | - | £395k | - |
| Crisis intervention service | £175k | £90k | - |
| Adult day opportunities | £175k | £110k | £104k |
| Adult respite services | £44k | - | - |
| Children's and adult respite services | - | £80k | - |
| Domiciliary care | - | £80k | £100k |
| Allied health professional infrastructure | - | £40k | - |
| Advocacy services | - | £30k | - |
| RQIA requirements for residential respite | - | £200k | - |

BIDS FOR CAPITAL SCHEMES

| Scheme | Bid | Outcome |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Replacement of Beltany Residential Respite Unit | £2.2m | Approved July 2009 |
| Glenside Adult Training Centre (equipment) | £15k | Approved and £15k transferred in 2009 |
| Omagh Local Hospital (which includes provision of specific Learning Disability services) | Under review | Under consideration |

Management Costs Within the Health Service

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an estimate of the total management costs within the Health Service during the current financial year; and how this figure compares to the 2006/07 financial year.

(AQW 4671/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The above information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Diabetes

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he is taking to address the statistic that three children are taken to A&E every week because of life threatening complications linked to diabetes.

(AQW 4678/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is extremely important that children diagnosed with diabetes in Northern Ireland have access to high quality diabetes care provided by the specialist paediatric diabetes teams. This enables children and their families to manage their condition effectively to minimise the risk of complications and emergency admissions to hospital. My Department, in partnership with the Department of Health and Children, is about to embark on a pilot project, a significant component of which will establish a Structured Education Programme targeted at children and adolescents with diabetes and their families. The pilot is being funded with a £1.6 million grant, secured from the EU INTERREG IVA Programme. It will be delivered on behalf of both Departments by Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT).

The programme is aimed at helping children and their families attain improved diabetes control and generally improve self-management of diabetes for this age group and prevent emergency hospital admissions.

Agenda for Change

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) former; and (ii) current Health Service staff have still to be paid arrears under Agenda for Change.

(AQW 4718/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Over 70,000 Health and Social Care staff have been paid their Agenda for Change arrears. There are 10,049 former employees and 121 (less than 1%) of the current Health and Social Care staff yet to receive arrears under Agenda for Change. Since April 2009 Agenda for Change arrears payments have been made to over 7,000 former staff and this process is continuing.

Health Service Dentists

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Health Service dentists there are.

(AQW 4719/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Figures provided by Family Practitioner Services - HSC Business Services Organisation show that as at February 2010, there were 860 dentists registered to provide Health Service dental services in Northern Ireland.

Educating Children on Dental Care

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if his Department has a strategy in place to work with the Department of Education to educate school children on the importance of looking after their teeth.

(AQW 4720/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department's Oral Health Strategy, 2007, aims to improve the oral health of the Northern Ireland population and reduce inequalities in oral health within our community. The Strategy contains an entire section addressing the oral health of children and specifically makes some seven recommendations regarding the integration of oral health improvement into the education sector.

The Oral Health Strategy is available on the Departmental website: www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/pgroups/dentalpubs.asp

Privately Run Residential Units and Foster Placements

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children have been placed in (i) privately run residential units; and (ii) privately funded foster placements, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4727/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested is detailed below in Tables, 1 and 2 respectively. To avoid personal disclosure and to take account of the format in which some information was returned to the DHSSPS by Trusts, figures in Table 1 have been presented for the five year period from 2005 to 2010.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN PRIVATELY RUN RESIDENTIAL UNITS 2005/10

| Year | 2005/10 |
|--------|---------|
| Number | 39 |

Notes: 2005/10 relates to the period from 1 April 2005 to 22 Feb 2010. The information reported in Table 1, was provided by Health and Social Care Trusts, and has not been validated by the DHSSPS. The figure reported is a count of the number of children placed in privately run residential units. Multiple placements for the same child are counted once only.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED IN PUBLICLY FUNDED FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS WITH INDEPENDENT FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS 2005/06 TO 2009/10

| Year | Number |
|---------|--------|
| 2009/10 | 28 |
| 2008/09 | 36 |
| 2007/08 | 43 |
| 2006/07 | 35 |
| 2005/06 | 37 |

Notes: Yearly figures relate to the period ending 31 March, except 2009/10, which covers the period from 1 April 2009 to 22 Feb 2010. The information reported in Table 1, was provided by Health and Social Care Trusts, and has not been validated by the DHSSPS. The figures reported are a count of the number of children placed in publicly funded foster care placements with independent foster care providers. Multiple placements for the same child are counted once only.

Regional Guidance for Police Involvement in Residential Units

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the current level of multi-disciplinary training that is available on the Regional Guidance for Police Involvement in Residential Units.

(AQW 4728/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Following initial joint HSC/PSNI awareness/training sessions in each of the five Health and Social Care areas a number of training sessions have been carried out jointly by Trusts and PSNI personnel in their local areas. The guidance has also been referenced in Child Protection training sessions delivered to residential staff and to a broad multi-disciplinary audience.

In line with normal PSNI procedures the guidance is due to be reviewed to take into account lessons learnt during its initial operation which includes changes in police operational procedures as well as new approaches to sexual exploitation, abduction and the issue of bail conditions.

Once the review is complete the intention is that Trusts/PSNI personnel will re-run an improved awareness raising and joint training programme with the updated guidance.

Children and Young People in Care

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children and young people from Northern Ireland have been placed in (i) residential care; (ii) secure accommodation; and (iii) foster care placements in (a) Great Britain; and (b) the Republic of Ireland, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4729/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested is detailed in Table 1. To avoid personal disclosure figures have been presented for the five year period from 2005/06 to 2009/10.

TABLE 1 NUMBERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND PLACED IN RESIDENTIAL CARE, SECURE ACCOMMODATION AND FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FROM 2005/06 TO 2009/10

| | Residential Care | | Secure Accommodation | | Foster Care | |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | Great Britain | Republic of Ireland | Great Britain | Republic of Ireland | Great Britain | Republic of Ireland |
| 2005/06-2009/10 | 20 | 0 | Less than 5 | 0 | 7 | 7 |

Notes: The five year period refers to 1 April 2005 to 22 February 2010. The information reported in Table 1 was provided by HSC Trusts and has not been validated by the DHSSPS. The figures reported are the numbers of children and young people in each placement type during the five year period, not the number of placements. Multiple placements for the same child or young person are counted once only within each placement type. Numbers less than five have been presented as 'Less than 5'

Umbilical Cord Blood

Mr M Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the policy on the collection of umbilical cord blood for the purpose of (i) stem cell research; and (ii) stem cell transplant provision.

(AQW 4739/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Ireland Cord Blood Bank is a public cord blood bank, meaning that cord blood is donated by voluntary antenatal donors at the time

of delivery of their baby and banked for 'public' use. This means that it may be used for any patient worldwide who is in need of a stem cell transplant. All cords in the public bank are registered with the British Bone Marrow Registry (BBMR), which also registers the cords from the NHS Cord Blood Bank (formerly London Cord Blood Bank) and are available for international donor search. Registered cords are available for clinical transplantation, clinical trials and research use.

In addition, a smaller number of 'dedicated cords' are banked every year: these are cords that are donated for a specific patient. The patient is usually a sibling of the newborn and generally has an illness, which may require a stem cell transplant in the future, such as acute leukaemia.

Approximately 300 cord blood units are banked annually in Northern Ireland. All our cord blood donors undergo an in-depth health screen prior to acceptance as a donor and all cord blood is tested rigorously for any infective agents. At present (Feb 2010) there are approximately 1000 cord blood units banked in the Belfast Bank. Cord blood units are collected from Royal-Jubilee Maternity Hospital and Mater Infirmorum.

The cord blood bank is regulated and licensed by the Human Tissue Authority (HTA), which carries out frequent inspections.

NHS Cord Blood Bank

Mr M Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether his Department has any targets which correspond with those set down for the NHS cord blood bank; (ii) if so, to detail those targets; and (iii) to outline any cooperation between the NHS cord blood bank and Northern Ireland facilities.

(AQW 4740/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: At present there are two NHS 'public' cord banks in the UK – based in Bristol, and Belfast respectively. A public Cord Blood Bank in Scotland is currently in development. In addition, The Anthony Nolan Trust has recently set up a public cord bank and there are several 'private' cord blood banks in the UK.

The NHS Cord Blood Bank in Bristol, is the fourth largest in the world with 14,500 banked donations. By comparison, the Northern Ireland Cord Blood Bank has around 1000 cords. These cords are registered with the British Bone Marrow Registry (BBMR) and are available to Transplant Centres worldwide. NHSBT has announced their target of 20,000 banked units by 2013.

The Northern Ireland Cord Blood Bank has indicated to NHSBT / BBMR that it wishes to contribute to the planned strategic review of cord blood banking in the UK. As one of currently only two NHS Cord Blood Banks in the UK, they have an important role to play in the continued provision of cord blood units for transplantation, and will be working closely with the strategic review to shape the future of the Northern Ireland Cord Blood Bank.

Multiple Sclerosis Respite in Dalriada Hospital

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the 12 beds for Multiple Sclerosis respite in Dalriada Hospital will be withdrawn in 2010/11 or 2011/12.

(AQW 4741/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Although none of the 12 beds will be withdrawn within the 2009/10 year the Northern Trust is currently negotiating with the Health and Social Care Board as service commissioners to determine the number of these beds which will be required in the future.

Waiting Time for Occupational Therapists

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are currently awaiting an assessment by an Occupational Therapist; and the average and longest waiting times.

(AQW 4742/10)

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

Cataract Surgery

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are currently awaiting cataract surgery; and the average and longest waiting times.

(AQW 4744/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of people waiting for cataract surgery, at 30th September 2009, the most recent quarter for which official data are available, was 2,133. The average number of days waiting was 55 days, and the longest waiting time was 253 days.

Respite Care

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what progress is being made on the expansion of respite care.

(AQW 4745/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Targets for respite care were set under my Priorities for Action 2008-2011. These included 200 new or enhanced learning disability respite packages providing 800 people with respite care; 200 new or enhanced physical and sensory disability respite packages providing a further 800 people with respite care; and 2000 additional dementia respite places. Work is underway to collate monitoring information to determine progress towards achieving these targets.

Ambulance Service Vehicles

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there will be an investigation to ascertain why a Northern Ireland Ambulance Service vehicle burst in to flames while transporting a patient to hospital; and if all other Ambulance Service vehicles from the same manufacturer will be checked.

(AQW 4754/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) is currently carrying out a full investigation into the cause of the fire which broke out in an ambulance vehicle on 14 February. When the investigation is completed, NIAS will consider its findings and, if necessary, carry out any checks required on similar vehicles in its fleet.

Accident and Emergency Department of the Causeway Hospital

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if any offensive weapons were detected in the Accident and Emergency Department of the Causeway Hospital in the last year; and if so, what action was taken.

(AQW 4759/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In the last year there were no offensive weapons detected in the Accident & Emergency Department of the Causeway Hospital.

Obesity

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what his Department is doing to combat obesity.

(AQW 4761/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department, in partnership with the Public Health Agency and other key stakeholders, undertakes a range of actions at both the local and regional level to encourage people to eat a healthy diet and participate in regular physical activity. In addition a range of initiatives are also in place through Fit Futures to prevent obesity in children and young people.

My Department is also leading on the development of a cross-departmental Obesity Prevention Strategic Framework which will set out a range of short, medium and long term outcomes to prevent obesity across the life course. It is anticipated that this Prevention Framework will be launched in 2010.

During 2009, the Health and Social Care Board has piloted a limited bariatric surgery scheme. Some 150 potential patients have been identified and pre-surgery assessment is almost complete.

GP Practices, through the Long-Term Condition Management Directed Enhanced Service, provide early detection and subsequent follow-up services for patients with a BMI greater than 30. This enhanced service includes follow up clinical tests and repeat weighing and includes a resource kit detailing information on local opportunities for sport, leisure, and quality physical activity.

H1N1 Virus and Influenza Virus

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of deaths as a result of the H1N1 virus; (ii) the number of deaths as a result of the influenza virus; (iii) the number of vaccines administered for the H1N1 virus; and (iv) the number of vaccines administered for the influenza virus, in 2009.

(AQW 4767/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: As of 6 February 2010 in Northern Ireland:

- (i) there have been 18 deaths as a result of H1N1 (swine flu) virus;
- (ii) there have been 3 deaths as a result of the influenza virus (as of 31 December 2009);
- (iii) 326,648 H1N1 (swine flu) vaccines have been administered;
- (iv) 319,431 seasonal flu vaccines have been administered (by 30 November 2009, latest data available on 2009/2010 flu season)

Hip Replacement

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the cost of a patient receiving a hip replacement in Northern Ireland compared to the cost of the patient being sent elsewhere in the UK for the operation.

(AQW 4776/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The estimated cost of a hip replacement in Northern Ireland is £6220.

The current estimated cost of sending a patient to elsewhere in the UK for the operation is £6,939

Interpreters

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on interpreters in each Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4777/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The table below sets out the interpreting costs for the Health and Social Care Trusts for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

| | Belfast Health & Social Care Trust | Northern Health & Social Care Trust | South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust | Southern Health & Social Care Trust | Western Health & Social Care Trust | Northern Ireland Ambulance Service |
|--------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2007/08 | £171,322.07 | £229,880.79 | £62,070.69 | £582,285.00 | £140,752.44 | £1,101.00 |
| 2008/09 | £251,520.17 | £240,919.88 | £68,121.66 | £609,834.92 | £121,191.51 | £830.00 |
| Total | £422,842.24 | £470,800.67 | £130,192.35 | £1,192,119.92 | £261,943.95 | £1,931.00 |

Information for 2006/07 is not readily available as it includes pre-RPA reorganisation and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Home Help Visits

Mr B Leonard asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) if the Western Health and Social Care Trust has instructed its home help staff to spend a maximum of thirty minutes per visit with elderly patients; (ii) if so, to outline the reasons for this instruction; and (iii) for his assessment of the impact on service provision to these patients, given that many visits require more than thirty minutes.

(AQW 4779/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Western Trust has advised that all clients are assessed using Regional Access Criteria for Domiciliary Care. Clients are assessed according to level of need/risk and are prioritised. Staff have not been instructed that visits can last no longer than thirty minutes. The length of visit is determined by each client's needs.

Brain Injury as a Result of a Road Traffic Accident

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been admitted to hospital with a brain injury as a result of a road traffic accident in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 4785/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is not available on the number of people who have been admitted to hospital with a brain injury as a result of a road traffic accident.

Nursing and Residential Homes

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nursing or residential homes are currently in operation; and how this figure compares to ten years ago.

(AQW 4802/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: At 30 June 2009, there were 251 nursing homes and 301 residential homes in Northern Ireland. This is a small decrease from 31 March 2000, at which there were 262 nursing homes and 312 residential homes in Northern Ireland.

Waiting Times

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current average and longest waiting times for (i) speech and language; (ii) physiotherapy; and (iii) occupational therapy (a) assessment; and (b) treatment.

(AQW 4808/10)

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

Swine Flu

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been admitted with swine flu to each hospital since 1 September 2009.

(AQW 4809/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of people admitted to hospital in Northern Ireland between 1 September 2009 and 21 January 2010 via A&E with a clinical diagnosis of swine flu broken down by hospital is given in the table below:

| Hospital | Number of Admissions to Hospital via A&E with a Clinical Diagnosis of Swine Flu |
|----------------------------|---|
| Belfast City | 9 |
| Mater | 38 |
| RBHSC | 145 |
| Royal Victoria | 92 |
| Antrim | 82 |
| Causeway | 12 |
| Mid Ulster | - |
| Whiteabbey | 0 |
| Ards Minor Injuries Unit | 0 |
| Bangor Minor Injuries Unit | 0 |
| Downe | 10 |
| Lagan Valley | 27 |
| Ulster | 76 |
| Armagh | - |
| Craigavon | 121 |
| Daisy Hill | 26 |
| Mullinure | 0 |
| South Tyrone | 0 |
| Altnagelvin | 54 |
| Erne | - |
| Tyrone County | 0 |

Note: Data is confidential. Cells with a value between 1 and 4 are anonymised and represented by a dash in the table.

Fracture and Orthopaedic Wards of the Royal Victoria Hospital

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what cover was in place in the fracture and orthopaedic wards of the Royal Victoria Hospital when all the relevant consultants were on annual leave over Christmas 2009.

(AQW 4830/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: All the relevant consultants in Royal Victoria Hospital's Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) wards were not on annual leave over Christmas 2009.

Midwifery Vacancies

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the long-term and short-term midwifery vacancies in each Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 4832/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested can be found in the Health & Social Care Vacancy Survey publication on the DHSSPS website at: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/work_force/stats-research.htm

High Dependency Unit in the Mid-Ulster Hospital

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there are plans to close the high dependency unit in the Mid-Ulster Hospital.

(AQW 4833/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: When inpatient surgical services were removed from the Mid Ulster Hospital in November 2009, the high dependency unit was retained to support patients receiving medial care, particularly those with acute cardiac problems. In continuing to provide acute medical services at the Mid Ulster Hospital, the Northern Health and Social Care Trust will ensure that patients are able to access the appropriate level of care within the hospital, including coronary care.

In the longer term, when the Mid Ulster becomes a local hospital as set out in Developing Better Services, it is not expected that patients who are admitted will require high dependency or coronary care. Rather, those who require such specialised care will be referred to an acute hospital where they will be able to receive the level of care appropriate to their clinical needs.

Child Protection Register

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of children on the Child Protection Register in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last five years, broken down by age and gender.

(AQW 4840/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested is detailed in Table 1.

TABLE 1 NUMBERS OF CHILDREN ON THE CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER IN THE SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST, IN EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS BY AGE AND GENDER

| Age Band | Year | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| Under 1 Year | 13 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 11 | 10 |
| 1-4 years | 33 | 25 | 32 | 35 | 30 | 26 | 40 | 37 |

| Age Band | Year | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2005 | | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
| | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls | Boys | Girls |
| 5-11 years | 35 | 25 | 39 | 42 | 44 | 40 | 63 | 45 |
| 12-15 years | 24 | 19 | 18 | 25 | 38 | 40 | 46 | 62 |
| All Ages | 105 | 81 | 100 | 108 | 124 | 113 | 160 | 154 |

Notes: The source of this information is Community Return CPR1, which is collected annually from Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. Table 1 details the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register at 31 March each year.

Final figures for 2009 are not available

Doctors and Nurses Sick Leave

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) doctors; and (ii) nurses are currently on paid or unpaid sick leave and have been for a period of six months or more. **(AQW 4844/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department does not collect the data requested broken down by 'paid and unpaid sick leave'.

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

Ambulance Fire Incident

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how an ambulance caught fire on the hard shoulder of the M2 on 14 February 2010. **(AQW 4845/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I refer the member to the answer I gave to AQW 4754/10 on 2 March 2010.

Incidents of Fires Starting on board Health Service Vehicles

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total number of recorded incidents of fires starting on board (i) ambulances; and (ii) other health service vehicles, in each of the last 10 years. **(AQW 4846/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) has advised that details of incidents in the period 2000-2006 could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The number of incidents from 2006-2009 are shown in the table below.

| Year | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| No. of Fire Incidents | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has recorded one incident of a vehicle fire in 2004.

Public Relations Services

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department has spent on public relations services from (i) PriceWaterhouseCoopers; (ii) KPMG; (iii) Deloitte; and (iv) Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

(AQW 4848/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department has not commissioned any public relations services from the organisations named. No expenditure has therefore been incurred.

Domicilliary Care for Elderly People

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there are any plans to withdraw domicilliary care for elderly people in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 4865/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are no plans to withdraw domiciliary care for older people in the SHSCT area and care will continue to be provided in accordance with the Regional Access Criteria for Domiciliary Care.

Waiting Times

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are currently awaiting assessment by (i) an occupational therapist; (ii) a physiotherapist; and (iii) a speech and language therapist.

(AQW 4866/10)

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

Cuts to Home-care Services

Ms M Anderson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he is aware of the concerns of local external charitable and private home-care providers who have been informed of upcoming cuts to home-care services by Health and Social Care Trusts; and if the Health Trusts will be making these cuts.

(AQW 4878/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: HSC Trusts have advised that, while they continue to consider how best to ensure that services are delivered within available resources, there are no current plans to reduce the level of services purchased from the independent and voluntary sectors.

However, in line with the cuts that were voted through the Assembly which will have a severe impact upon available monies, I cannot guarantee that this sector will be exempt

Home Help Services

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of (i) the number of visits undertaken by private home-help providers; and (ii) the impact on the quality and availability of home help services.

(AQW 4884/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information is not available in the form requested. Home help services can be provided by a range of providers including the HSC, voluntary sector and domiciliary care agencies as one of a range of services they may choose to provide.

All domiciliary care services are monitored by RQIA against minimum standards to ensure that, regardless of the provider, they are of suitable quality. RQIA inspects against these standards for both statutory sector providers and independent sector providers. These standards include the provision of a written agreement between the provider and the service user which sets out the care and services to be provided and arrangements for reviewing the agreement. In addition to the standards, the HSC undertakes regular reviews of service users needs to ensure that services provided remain appropriate to those needs.

Private Home Help Firms

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department monitors the service delivery standards of private home help firms to ensure that client needs are fully met.

(AQW 4885/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information is not available in the form requested. Home help services can be provided by a range of providers including the HSC, voluntary sector and domiciliary care agencies as one of a range of services they may choose to provide.

All domiciliary care services are monitored by RQIA against minimum standards to ensure that, regardless of the provider, they are of suitable quality. RQIA inspects against these standards for both statutory sector providers and independent sector providers. These standards include the provision of a written agreement between the provider and the service user which sets out the care and services to be provided and arrangements for reviewing the agreement. In addition to the standards, the HSC undertakes regular reviews of service users needs to ensure that services provided remain appropriate to those needs.

People Registered as Blind

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people are currently registered as blind; and what percentage of these people are of pensionable age.

(AQW 4886/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of people registered as blind is not collected centrally, but is recorded by each Health & Social Care (HSC) Trust. The information provided by the five HSC Trusts is detailed in the table below.

Persons Registered as Blind in HSC Trusts at 19th February 2010¹

| HSC Trust | Aged under 65 | | Aged 65 and over | | All persons | |
|------------------|---------------|----|------------------|----|-------------|-----|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Belfast | 299 | 26 | 871 | 74 | 1170 | 100 |
| Northern | 384 | 33 | 781 | 67 | 1165 | 100 |
| South Eastern | 192 | 34 | 372 | 66 | 564 | 100 |
| Southern | 252 | 37 | 436 | 63 | 688 | 100 |
| Western | 236 | 45 | 284 | 55 | 520 | 100 |
| Northern Ireland | 1363 | 33 | 2744 | 67 | 4107 | 100 |

1 The information recorded by HSC Trusts is not a register of those blind, as people may refuse to have their names added to relevant HSC Trust records.

Blind Persons

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many blind persons are dependent on a weekly allowance to enable them to pay someone to read their confidential correspondence; and for his assessment of this situation with respect to their right to privacy, independent living and the right to read.

(AQW 4887/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are currently no people known to be dependent on a specific weekly allowance to enable them to pay someone to read their confidential correspondence. However, individuals in receipt of Direct Payments may choose to use this to appoint a personal assistant, who would assist with a number of tasks as per the individual's assessed need, including the reading of confidential mail. Three people are known to use their Direct Payment in this way. Individuals may also apply for Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance, but as it is the client's individual choice as to how they choose to spend this money, it is not possible to estimate how many use it in this way. In other instances, service users may ask a social worker, carer, family member or voluntary organisation involved with them to read their mail.

Heart Operation Costs

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety the average cost of a heart operation compared to the rest of UK and the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 4888/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The most frequently performed heart operation in Northern Ireland is the coronary artery bypass graft.

The estimated average cost of a planned coronary bypass in Northern Ireland is £10,196. This does not include the cost of any coronary intensive care.

From English published reference costs the estimated average cost of a planned coronary bypass in England is £9,103. This does not include the cost of any coronary intensive care.

Please note - comparing the costs above in isolation can be misleading as clinical pathways may vary.

A comparable average cost of coronary bypass surgery in other UK regions and the Republic of Ireland is not available.

Transfer of Switchboard Services to Antrim Area Hospital

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) the cost of the transfer of switchboard services from the Mid-Ulster and Whiteabbey Hospitals to the Antrim Area Hospital will cost; (ii) when this transfer will take place; (iii) if staff at Antrim Area Hospital will be asked to take on any extra duties as a result; and (iv) to detail which staff and duties this will include.

(AQW 4904/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am advised that the total cost for this project, which is scheduled to take place before the end of June 2010, is £240,000. Included in this project are alarm upgrades, paging upgrades and improved contingency arrangements for the Northern Trust.

At this stage, it is not envisaged that staff at Antrim Area Hospital will be asked to take on additional duties. However if this does become necessary the Trust will work with the staff involved and ensure that all Human Resources policies and procedures are adhered to.

DHSSPS Planned Investment

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 3530/10, to detail the Department's £680m of planned investment.

(AQW 4907/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I was allocated £728m under Budget 2008 despite a bid for £1.1 billion. As a result of the economic downturn and the resultant fall in income from disposal of assets my budget has reduced to £680m. The impact of Swine Flu and service pressures alongside proposed cuts of almost £22m in 2010/11 will further reduce my CSR capital budget to £626m – this is a reduction of over £100m from the original 2008 budget allocation.

The funding is needed to meet contractual commitments across the HSC and NIFRS sector – new buildings, fleet, ICT and equipment.

Inquiry into Child Abuse

Ms M Anderson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department has taken to explore the feasibility of establishing an inquiry into child abuse following the Assembly motion passed on 2 November 2009.

(AQW 4911/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Any decision to establish an inquiry into historical child abuse in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Executive as a whole.

My officials are finalising an options paper which will help the Executive to decide the way ahead on historical child abuse within Northern Ireland and have consulted with other Departments, including the two other key Departments and Ministers with specific current and historical responsibilities for institutions in Northern Ireland similar to those covered by the Ryan Report.

I am awaiting a response to a number of issues from the Minister of one of these key Departments.

Health Service Charity Accounts

Mr M Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the proposed consolidation of health service charity accounts.

(AQW 4912/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am aware that under the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) that International Accounting Standard (IAS) 27 requires consolidation of accounts where one body has a measure of control over another. Applying this to Charitable Trust Fund (CTF) accounts within Trusts and other health bodies, would mean that one consolidated account would need to be prepared where Trust staff act as trustees of the CTF. I am concerned this could lead to a loss of independence for CTF if their assets are consolidated with Trusts assets.

However Treasury/DFP are also aware of the issues particularly relating to the independence of CTFs, and on 5 February 2010 they deferred implementing this standard within the public sector for another year to enable a review of the NHS charities in the context of the government accounting framework. I await the outcome of this review.

Fragility Fracture Working Group

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he is taking to implement the nine recommendations made in the 'Prevention and Management of Fragility Fractures

in Northern Ireland' report of the Fragility Fracture Working Group; and if he will involve the National Osteoporosis Society in implementing these recommendations.

(AQW 4913/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I would very much want to see this important work taken forward quickly however progress towards the implementation of the report recommendations will be dependent upon the availability of adequate service development monies in 2010/11.

The health service is faced with delivering £700m of existing efficiencies and a 9% increase in demand along with a further proposed budget reduction of over £113m. If implemented, this would take my Department's settlement to a meagre 0.3% above general inflation in 2010/11 – effectively a stand-still budget with the consequence that the opportunities to progress service improvements such as those recommended in the Fragility Fracture Working Group report will be severely limited.

Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if the Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network has any plans to produce updated guidelines for the management of osteoporosis and fragility structures.

(AQW 4914/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is assumed that this question refers to guidelines for the management of osteoporosis and fragility fractures.

My Department has established a formal link with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) under which all guidance published by the Institute from 1 July 2006 is reviewed locally for its applicability to the HSC.

The Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network (GAIN) does not produce guidance where NICE has undertaken this work or is known to be undertaking work on a specific area of guidance. I am advised that NICE has announced its intention to re-start their guideline development on osteoporosis. GAIN therefore has no current plans to update its previous guidance ahead of this work to be undertaken by NICE.

National Hip Fracture Database

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to ensure that all hospitals treating fracture patients register with, and provide information to, the National Hip Fracture database.

(AQW 4915/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: All trusts treating fracture patients in Northern Ireland are committed to submitting data to the National Hip Fracture database (NHFD). Presently two trusts provide data to the NHFD. The remaining trusts have submitted business cases to the HSC Board to allow their participation in the NHFD. The HSC Board expects to make a decision on taking these business cases forward in April.

Good Bone Health

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he is taking to encourage adults to gain sufficient amounts of vitamin D during the summer months, to promote good bone health.

(AQW 4916/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Vitamin D is necessary to build and maintain bone density. During the summer months, most people produce sufficient vitamin D in their bodies through normal daily exposure to sunlight. However certain groups, for example older people, may be

lacking in vitamin D and will need to seek medical advice in order to increase their levels through diet or supplements.

My Department is developing a new Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy which will be issued for public consultation later this year. The new strategy will focus primarily on the dangers of excess exposure to UV radiation in relation to skin cancer. The strategy will also highlight the importance of vitamin D for healthy bones and identify groups that are “at risk” of vitamin D deficiency.

Primary Medical Services (Direct Enhanced Services) Directive (NI) 2008 Scheme

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Primary Medical Services (Direct Enhanced Services) Directive (Northern Ireland) 2008 Scheme on osteoporosis and the secondary prevention of fractures, in improving the management of osteoporosis and fragility fractures.

(AQW 4917/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The 3 year Directed Enhanced Service (DES), for the identification, assessment and treatment of osteoporosis among older people who have already suffered a fragility fracture, came into operation in September 2008.

The effectiveness of the DES in preventing fractures cannot be properly assessed over such a short period of time as it is only 15 months since patient assessment commenced. Data on success rates will be readily available once the service becomes more established.

An in-depth review by the Health and Social Care Board of referrals to secondary care across N Ireland for DEXA scans on bone density noted a rise in referrals from GPs. This would suggest GPs are implementing the specification as directed.

Victims of Institutional and Clerical Abuse

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what his Department is doing to (i) uphold the rights of victims of institutional and clerical abuse; (ii) seek redress on their behalf; and (iii) ensure they have full access to justice.

(AQW 4936/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is for the Executive as a whole to decide on a way ahead in relation to historical child abuse and subsequent compensation arrangements in Northern Ireland. My officials are finalising an options paper to help inform their decision.

Victims of abuse can seek compensation through the Northern Ireland Compensation Agency. They are also free to pursue civil action against the individual or organisation involved. It will be for the Executive to determine in conjunction with the Secretary of State what arrangements should be made.

Within Northern Ireland, the statutory framework requires that where allegations of child abuse come to light these must be reported immediately to the PSNI for investigation. I would strongly encourage anyone who has such information to report this immediately to the PSNI so that it can be investigated and, where appropriate, the perpetrators can be brought before the courts. This will ensure that perpetrators are dealt with justly and appropriately and that other potential victims can be protected from those individuals who are still alive and may continue to pose a risk.

Public Health Agency

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the initial start up costs; and (ii) the projected annual running costs of the Public Health Agency.

(AQW 4945/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is not possible to separately identify any expenditure related to starting up the PHA without disproportionate effort.

The projected annual running costs of the Public Health Agency in 2009/10 are £17.9m.

Purchase of Stand Alone Scanners for People with Blindness

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that the Insight Trust for the Blind has been dissolved, if he has any plans to provide non-means tested funding to assist economically inactive blind people and blind people who are not in education with the purchase of stand alone scanners.

(AQW 4952/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are no such plans. Health and Social Care Trust Sensory Support Services provide specific services and support for people on the basis of assessed need, which may include access to aids and equipment. In addition, charitable organisations, such as the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Belfast Association for the Blind, and Gardner's Trust for the Blind, can also assist people with a visual impairment to secure stand alone scanners. Health and Social Care Trusts provide advice and support to service users in making applications for such financial assistance. Furthermore, work is already underway to establish the range of sensory equipment available across the HSC sector to help inform the development of a regional equipment policy.

Accident and Emergency Department at the Causeway Hospital

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he can confirm that the future of the Accident and Emergency department at the Causeway Hospital is secure.

(AQW 4960/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are no plans to change the provision of Accident and Emergency services at the Causeway Hospital.

Neuro-Physiotherapist at the Causeway or Altnagelvin Hospitals

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there is a neuro-physiotherapist based at the Causeway or Altnagelvin Hospitals to treat people with Multiple Sclerosis on a regular basis; or whether he has any plans to provide such a service.

(AQW 4962/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There is no dedicated Multiple Sclerosis (MS) service provided by neuro-physiotherapists at either hospital. All physiotherapists have the range of knowledge and skills required to delivery physiotherapy services to MS patients and the needs of this client group are met from within the general physiotherapy service resource.

I am committed to ensuring that the health and social care needs of people with MS are met. Any development of a specialised service for MS sufferers is a matter the Health and Social Care Board may wish to consider in light of an assessment of population need and in the context of competing priorities.

Allegations of Ill-treatment of Patients

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there have been any allegations of ill-treatment of patients made against staff from private care companies contracted by the Southern Health Care Trust in the last two years.

(AQW 4988/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There have been 15 such allegations of ill treatment across all programmes of care within the Southern HSC Trust in the last two years in respect of patients cared for in their own home and in respite or residential homes.

Early Years Funding

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the decision by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to reduce its funding to Early Years by 45% for the delivery of early years support and administration to pre-school, daycare and parent and toddler service providers, (i) what consultation was carried out with key stakeholders prior to making this decision; (ii) for his assessment of the impact the cut will have on the provision of these services; and (iii) what consideration was given to Early Years' proposal, made at a meeting with the Trust in September, of a 10% cut, with the organisation subsidising the cut through its own resources.

(AQW 5198/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: (i) The Early Years Teams within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and the District Childcare Co-ordinators for Early Years are satisfied that they have received appropriate feedback views of providers on the support received from the Early Years Organisation.

(ii) The BHSCT does not believe the reduction will have an adverse impact on the provision of services as the number of playgroups using this service has significantly declined.

(iii) The BHSCT gave due consideration of the proposed 10 % cut; however, the new funding level has been set to provide the level of service the Trust has identified to ensure the service is provided and delivered in the most efficient manner.

Safeguarding and Protecting Children

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the five work streams involved in safeguarding and protecting children, established following the North-South Ministerial Council meeting on 20 June 2008.

(AQW 5217/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The cross border officials group continues to oversee the:

- development of a joint protocol to deal with children in care or on the child protection register who move between jurisdictions;
- development of a joint communications strategy and communiqué along with advice and guidance material for parents/carers and employers;
- exchange of information on initiatives around internet safety;
- establishment of the North-South Child Protection Network: an internet database which brings together all child protection research in Ireland and the UK, all published policy, inquiry and guidance documents as well as all child protection related news items; and
- sharing of information and learning on developments in relation to Vetting and Barring within respective jurisdictions.

Department for Regional Development

Ulsterbus Comber Town Service

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development how many passengers travelled on the Ulsterbus Comber Town service in each year since it was established, including this year to date.

(AQW 4751/10)

Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy): The information cannot be provided in the format requested. However, the table below shows the number of passenger journeys made in each financial year.

| Year | Service | Journeys |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| 2003/04 | 311A & 311B | 3587 |
| 2004/05 | 311A & 311B | 3279 |
| 2005/06 | n/a** | 0 |
| 2006/07 | n/a** | 0 |
| 2007/08 | 311 | 1011 |
| 2008/09 | 311 | 1450 |
| 2009/10* | 311 | 629 |

* 2009/10 – only covers from 30/03/2009 – 24/01/2010

** The service was withdrawn in 2006 and reintroduced as a single service in 2007

Commuter Travelcard and School Passes are not included.

Number of Vehicles Using Main Street, Limavady

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the change in the number of vehicles using Main Street, Limavady, in each year since the opening of the Limavady bypass.

(AQW 4782/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that there have been no traffic counts conducted for Main Street, Limavady in recent years.

However there is a permanent traffic counting site located on the A2 Roe Bridge, on the western edge of Limavady town centre. Roads Service considers that the reduced traffic volumes at this location, since the opening of the Limavady bypass on 4 July 2003, are likely to be similar to those for Main Street, Limavady.

Details of the average annual daily traffic flows, recorded at this site, from 2002, the year prior to Limavady bypass opening to traffic, to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, are provided in the table below:

| Year | Vehicles | Decrease from 2002 |
|------|----------|--------------------|
| 2002 | 19,330 | N/A |
| 2003 | 16,150 | - 3,180 |
| 2004 | 10,190 | - 9,140 |
| 2005 | 10,010 | - 9,320 |
| 2006 | 8,450 | - 10,880 |

| Year | Vehicles | Decrease from 2002 |
|------|----------|--------------------|
| 2007 | 10,480 | - 8,850 |

Speed Management Policy

Mr M Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the speed management policy being developed by his Department.

(AQW 4823/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has been developing a new local speed management policy for the North that closely follows those produced in Britain by the Department for Transport (DfT), Transport Scotland and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Roads Service has taken on board comments received during the public consultation that took place from 21 January to 17 April 2009, and also updated guidance from the DfT.

I hope to publish the final speed management policy document before the end of March 2010.

Roads in the East Antrim Constituency

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the roads in the East Antrim constituency that have had a road bond for (i) one year; (ii) two years; (iii) three years; and (iv) more than three years and to specify the number of years for those in the category (iv).

(AQW 4862/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Details of the roads in the East Antrim constituency that have had a road bond for one year, two years, three years and more than three years, are set out in the tables below:

Road Bond – 1 year Scheme

- Mill Brae, Larne
- Old Glenarm Road, Larne
- Cable Road, Whitehead
- Craiglands (phase 7), Carrickfergus
- Edenvale Avenue, Carrickfergus
- Larne Road, Carrickfergus
- Larne Road, Carrickfergus

Road Bond – 2 years Scheme

- Bay Road, Carnlough
- Cairncastle Road , Larne
- Cairncastle Road, Larne
- Oakdene, Larne
- Lindara, Larne
- Lindara, Larne
- Lindara, Larne
- Mullaghboy Heights, Islandmagee

- Meadowbank Farm, Jordanstown (phase 2)
- Mountpleasant Road, Jordanstown (phase 9)

**Road Bond – 3 years
Scheme**

- Loranville, Larne
- South of Island Road, Ballycarry
- Bay Road, Carnlough
- The Oaks, Larne
- Hawthorn Hollow, Larne
- Hawthorn Hollow, Larne
- Beechlands, Carnlough
- The Hamptons, Larne
- The Hamptons, Larne
- The Hamptons, Larne
- The Hamptons, Larne
- Forthill, Ballycarry
- Forthill, Ballycarry
- The Kiln, Larne
- Oakdene, Larne
- Oakdene, Larne
- Lindara, Larne
- Lindara, Larne
- Lindara, Larne
- Lindara Larne
- Croft Hill, Carnlough
- Drumahoe Manor, Larne
- Cloughlands Park, Carrickfergus
- Craiglands, Carrickfergus (phase 6)
- Woodburn Avenue, Carrickfergus (site at No 77)
- Upper Road, Greenisland
- Circular Road, Jordanstown

| Road Bond – more than 3 years | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Scheme | No of years | Scheme | No of years |
| Weavers Court, Ballycarry | 4 | Bridewell Drive, Carrickfergus | 6 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Farm Lodge (phase 4) Greenisland | 6 |

| Road Bond – more than 3 years | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Scheme | No of years | Scheme | No of years |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Glynn Park (phase 1) Carrickfergus | 6 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Mountpleasant Road (Phase 9) Jordanstown | 6 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Castleview Cottages, Glenarm | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Lindara, Larne | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Gorman Close, Greenisland (phase 5) | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Farm Lodge (phase 3) Greenisland | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Loughview Village (phase 1), Greenisland | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Loughview Village (phase 2), Greenisland | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Woodburn Avenue, Carrickfergus | 7 |
| Blackthorn Hollow, Larne | 4 | Lindara, Larne | 8 |
| Hawthorne Grove, Glynn | 4 | Gorman Close, Greenisland (phase 4) | 8 |
| Oakdene, Larne | 4 | Farm Lodge (phase 2) Greenisland | 8 |
| Oakdene, Larne | 4 | North Lodge Court, Carrickfergus | 8 |
| Oakdene, Larne | 4 | The Beeches, Larne | 9 |
| Hampton Manor, Larne | 4 | Hampton Manor, Larne | 9 |
| Farm Lodge (phase 5), Greenisland | 4 | Ballyloran Manor, Larne | 9 |
| Farm Lodge Park, Greenisland | 4 | Brackenridge, Sloefield Road, Carrickfergus | 9 |
| Loughview Village (phase 3), Greenisland | 4 | Gorman Close, Greenisland (phase 3) | 10 |
| Riverford, Slaughterford Road, Carrick | 4 | Farm Lodge (phase 1) ,Greenisland | 10 |
| Walnut Hollow, Larne | 5 | Loughview Terrace (phase 2), Greenisland | 10 |

| Road Bond – more than 3 years | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| Scheme | No of years | Scheme | No of years |
| The Beeches, Larne | 5 | Swifts Quay (Maritime Area Phase 7), Carrickfergus | 10 |
| Lindara, Larne | 5 | Woodlawn, Woodburn Road, Carrick (phase 7) | 10 |
| Drumahoe Manor, Larne | 5 | Loughview Terrace (phase 1), Greenisland | 11 |
| Brooklands Gardens (phase 6), Whitehead | 5 | Riverbrook, Whitehead | 12 |
| Brooklands Gardens (phase 7), Whitehead | 5 | Swifts Quay (Maritime Area Phase 4), Carrickfergus | 12 |
| Gorman Close (The Close), Greenisland | 5 | Swifts Quay (Maritime Area Phase 5), Carrickfergus | 12 |
| Glynn Park (phase 2), Carrickfergus | 5 | Swifts Quay (Maritime Area Phase 3), Carrickfergus | 13 |
| Old Shore Court, Carrickfergus | 5 | Woodlawn, Woodburn Road, Carrick (phase6) | 13 |
| Riverford, Slaughterford Road, Carrick | 5 | Cambridge Close, Carrickfergus | 14 |
| Hampton Manor, Larne | 6 | Gorman Close, Greenisland (phase 2) | 14 |
| Lindara, Larne | 6 | Gorman Close, Greenisland (phase 1) | 15 |
| Croft Hill, Carnlough | 6 | Swifts Quay (Maritime Area Phase 1), Carrickfergus | 18 |

Road-bridge over the A1 Linking Sheepbridge Road and Corcreechy Road

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development when the new road-bridge over the A1 linking Sheepbridge Road and Corcreechy Road is due to open.

(AQW 4874/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the new road-bridge over the A1 linking Sheepbridge Road and Corcreechy Road is being constructed as part of the A1 Beech Hill to Cloghogue dual carriageway scheme.

Lagan Ferrovial, the Construction Contractor, has advised that the laying of the wearing course cannot be undertaken due to the current cold weather. However, once this surfacing has been completed the bridge and link road will be made available to traffic.

Roads Service Staff

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister for Regional Development how many Roads Service staff have been attacked in each of the last five years.

(AQW 4891/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it is aware of 9 attacks on Roads Service staff over the last 5 years as shown in the table below.

| Year | Number of Incidents (*) |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 2005/06 | 1 |
| 2006/07 | 0 |
| 2007/08 | 1 |
| 2008/09 | 3 |
| 2009/10 | 4 |
| Total | 9 |

(*) figures do not include attacks on Roads Service vehicles.

Survey of the Comber Greenway

Mrs N Long asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the terms of reference for McAdam Design in relation to its survey of the Comber Greenway.

(AQW 4893/10)

Minister for Regional Development: As part of its ongoing assessment of the route options for EWAY, Rapid Transit Division require an accurate topographical survey of the possible route alignments. Due to the limited land and road space available, there is a need to determine the likely impact of a public transport / rapid transit corridor on existing land use. Therefore, accurate topographical information regarding existing ground levels, carriageway geometry and location of street furniture is required.

McAdam Design was awarded the commission through DFP Central Procurement Directorate's 'Consultancy Framework Agreement'.

In summary, the Terms of Reference were

- The project objective is to provide information to enable Rapid Transit Division to assess the feasibility of a dedicated rapid transit bus network.
- The end product Rapid Transit Division requires is an accurate topographical survey as indicated on accompanying drawings. This involves processing of survey data, producing the specified survey report and survey data, 2D and 3D CAD drawings of the ground model plan, long sections and cross sections of the roads in the survey areas.

There is a detailed Survey Specification for the commission a copy of which will be placed in the Assembly Library.

Irish Language Lessons

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) for his assessment of the benefits for the general public of his Department paying for Irish Language lessons from his departmental budget; and (ii) how many telephone calls his Department has received from people who can only speak Irish.

(AQW 4925/10)

Minister for Regional Development:

- (i) The Irish language classes held in my Department will help to fulfil commitments under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. One of the objectives of the Charter is the facilitation and encouragement of the use of regional and minority languages in speech and writing in public and private life. The classes therefore have general cultural heritage benefits. There will also be practical benefits, as staff can use the skills they acquire to help the Department fulfil additional European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages commitments.
- (ii) My officials do not usually ask callers who wish to speak in Irish whether they also speak English.

William Street Car Park

Mr R McCartney asked the Minister for Regional Development if his Department has received a request from the Department for Social Development to transfer the William Street car park for development purposes.

(AQW 4961/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that officials met with their counterparts in the Department for Social Development to discuss arrangements for the transfer of William Street car park. However, as yet, a formal request to transfer this car park has not been received by Roads Service.

Enterprise Rail Service

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) pursuant to AQW 967/10 and AQW 968/10 to detail the final passenger and revenue figures relating to the loss of income on the Enterprise service since the collapse of the Malahide railway duct; and (ii) to provide an update on initiatives to encourage passengers back onto the Enterprise service.

(AQW 4974/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink have provided the following information for passenger journeys and revenue on the Enterprise service over the last four years.

| Period 6 started on 24/08/09 and period 10 ended on 24/01/10 | Passenger Journeys | Revenue (£) |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 2006/07 Periods 6-10 | 372,949 | 2,616,289 |
| 2007/08 Periods 6-10 | 362,429 | 2,652,866 |
| 2008/09 Periods 6-10 | 332,359 | 2,710,175 |
| 2009/10 Periods 6-10 | 249,826 | 1,528,350 |

A series of discount fare offers were made available by Iarnród Éireann and Translink to encourage passengers back on to the Enterprise service. The initial discount fares offer lasted until 3 January 2010 and aimed to entice passengers back to the service. Passenger miles increased by 240% from November to December, although this may have partially reflected the Christmas period. Given the success of this scheme a further fares discount scheme was introduced to run from 4 January to the end of February.

Translink and Iarnród Éireann are proposing to continue to offer discounted fares from 1 March. The proposed station fares from 1 March are 15% off the standard fares compared to the current promotion offering 25% off. The pre-Christmas offer provided a 50% discount on station fares. The proposed web fares will continue to be priced between £10 and £20 for a day return. It is also proposed to extend the web offers to cover a greater range of services and to include monthly Enterprise Class returns.

The above promotions are advertised heavily on line and through traditional advertising media.

Equality Impact Assessments

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures are included within Equality Impact Assessments conducted by his Department to ensure that the interests of people with identities other than the two perceived main traditions in Northern Ireland are taken into account.

(AQW 4976/10)

Minister for Regional Development: All of my Department's Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA) are carried out in accordance with the Department's Equality Scheme and the Equality Commission Guidance for Implementing Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

As part of the EQIA process, for each policy under consideration a full assessment of impacts is carried out for all nine Section 75 categories. The categories include persons of religious belief, political opinion and racial group. In addition, consideration is given in all EQIAs to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

The Section 75 categories for religious belief, racial group and political opinion cover a wide range of religions and racial groups and all political parties.

Road Surfaces

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development if he has plans to repair the road surfaces of (i) the Shore Road; (ii) the Drumenny Road; (iii) the Ballinderry Bridge Road; and (iv) the Coagh Road in the Cookstown District.

(AQW 4994/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that remedial repair works are ongoing on the Shore Road and Ballinderry Bridge Road.

I am also advised that resurfacing work will take place within the next few weeks on the Drumenny Road between the Mullan Road and Derrychrin Road junctions.

With regard to the Coagh Road, resurfacing work commenced on the Urbal Road, Coagh during the week beginning 22 February 2010. Resurfacing of further stretches of the Coagh Road has been deferred until summer 2010 to allow NI Water to install apparatus. Some localised patching has also taken place on the Coagh Road, in the last few weeks, at locations which have been prone to potholes.

Belfast to Larne Rail Line

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the annual passenger numbers on the Belfast to Larne rail line in each of the last three years; (ii) outline any initiatives to (a) encourage greater use of this sustainable mode of transport; and (b) ensure the availability and capacity of this service during the lifetime of the A2 Improvement Project.

(AQW 5029/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink have provided the following information for passenger journeys on the Larne line:

| 2009/10 | 2008/09 | 2007/08 | 2006/07 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2,078,966 (projected estimate) | 2,076,398 | 1,905,071 | 1,720,190 |

With respect to initiatives to promote rail use, Translink have indicated that they deliver a year-round programme of advertising and promotional activity to grow customer numbers targeted at the rail network overall and the Larne line in particular. This includes advertising, off-peak travel offers, summer/tourism travel offers and household mail drops of travel information/advertisements/trial

offers. In addition, travel by rail features in advertising and promotional campaigns through the year targeting students, school children, commuters and leisure travellers.

With respect to the A2 Improvement Project, subject to budget confirmation, this project is envisaged to be undertaken between 2011-2013. Translink have indicated their intention will be to keep the existing line fully open for the duration of the project and to increase existing service capacity where possible in line with any increase in passenger demand arising from the A2 Improvement project.

Traffic Calming Schemes

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the traffic calming schemes (i) implemented since May 2007; (ii) currently underway; and (iii) at the planning or consultation stage in the South Belfast constituency.

(AQW 5060/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Details of traffic calming schemes completed by my Department's Roads Service in the South Belfast constituency since May 2007 are set out in the table below:

| Traffic Calming Schemes implemented since May 2007 | |
|---|---|
| Name of Scheme | Streets included in scheme |
| Lemberg Street | Lemberg Street, Maldon Street, Rydalmere Street, Empire Street, Richview Street, Connaught Street. |
| Ardenlee Avenue | Ardenlee Avenue, Ardenlee Parade, Haddington Gardens, Onslow Gardens, Shelbourne Road, Finsbury Street. |
| Lockview Road | Lockview Road, Lucerne Parade, Sharman Road, Richmond Park, Belvedere Park, Cricklewood Park, Knightsbridge Park, Bladon Drive, Deramore Drive. |
| Lenaghan Area | Lenaghan Park, Lenaghan Avenue, Lenaghan Crescent, Woodbreda Drive. |
| Maryville Park | Maryville Park, Myrtlefield Park. |
| Beechill Road | Beechill Road, Newtownbreda Road. |

Roads Service has also advised that there are no traffic calming schemes underway at present but there are plans to complete schemes at Friendly Street, Beechill Road and Newtownbreda Road before the end of the current financial year.

Finally, details of those traffic calming schemes at the planning or consultation stage are set out in the table below:

| Traffic Calming Schemes currently at the planning or consultation stage | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Finaghy Road North | Cairnshill Park | Wellington Park |
| Cranmore Park | Burnside Avenue | Wellington Park Avenue |
| Cranmore Avenue | Burnside Park | Wellington Park Terrace |
| Cranmore Gardens | Commons Brae | Eglantine Avenue |
| Osborne Park | Sicily Park | Eglantine Place |
| Osborne Gardens | Priory Park | Eglantine Gardens |

| Traffic Calming Schemes currently at the planning or consultation stage | | |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| Bawnmore Road | Locksley Park | Malone Avenue |
| Osborne Drive | Wellesley Avenue | |

Door-to-Door Service

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development how many requests for the Door-to-Door service have been made by Lisburn residents in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5103/10)

Minister for Regional Development: The information is not available in the form requested.

Door-to-Door transport has been operating in the Lisburn area (which includes both Lisburn and Dunmurry) since May 2007 and only combined statistical data is available for the 2007/08 financial year.

However, I can confirm that there were 4,515 requests made by Lisburn residents during the financial year April 2008 – March 2009 and 4,565 requests during the period April 2008 – January 2010.

During the period May 2007 – March 2008 there were 907 requests made by residents of Lisburn and Dunmurry.

Repairing Potholes

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) whether the Roads Service has considered the effectiveness of using ‘Jetpatcher’ machines in repairing potholes on rural roads; and (ii) whether he intends to purchase any.

(AQW 5123/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department’s Roads Service has, for over a decade, considered the use of velocity patching to be an effective and economical means of repairing potholes on rural roads, given the appropriate subsurface and weather conditions.

Roads Service uses velocity patching machines, supplied by Velocity Ltd, formerly Jetpatcher UK Ltd, and currently operates a fleet of 17 vehicles. It has no plans to purchase any further machines, at this time.

Late Night Train Service from Belfast to Coleraine

Mr D McClarty asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions he has had with Translink in relation to providing a late night train service from Belfast to Coleraine, given that the last train on Saturday currently departs at 21.10.

(AQW 5238/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink have indicated that while it may be possible for NIR to run a later train out of Belfast to arrive in Coleraine around midnight they are of the view that such a service would not generate enough revenue to cover costs.

Existing budget constraints mean that NIR cannot bear a direct increase in operating costs without this being balanced by an equal or greater revenue benefit. Translink have also indicated that while no particular market research has been carried out to establish demand patterns for late night services, a review of the passenger loading profile, based on their experience of late night services on other lines, means that an equal or greater revenue benefit is unlikely to accrue at this time.

In the longer term Translink remains committed to further infrastructure developments on the entire Belfast-Derry line, including increased frequencies and passenger capacity on the line following completion of the New Trains Two programme and the Coleraine-Derry track re-lay. The new trains will be operational

in 2013 and at that time, subject to ongoing funding availability, Translink will be re-casting the entire timetable and may be in a better position to consider such a request.

Advertising Reduced Fares on the Enterprise

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 4974/10, how much Translink has spent on advertising the reduced fares on the Enterprise since full service resumed.
(AQW 5262/10)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink have informed me that they have spent a total of £50,000. This includes all production and media spend. The Enterprise recovery campaign, running from 21 November 2009 to 3 January 2010 cost £35,000. A further £15,000 was spent on the Enterprise fares promotion, running from January to March 2010.

Department for Social Development

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development if she will review the criteria used within the Warm Homes Scheme which precludes the upgrading of existing oil fired central heating in domestic properties.
(AQW 4841/10)

Minister for Social Development (Ms M Ritchie): The new Warm Homes Scheme commenced on 1 July 2009 and I will review the scheme after it has been operational for one year to ensure that it is meeting its objectives.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister for Social Development if the entire budget set aside for the implementation of the Warm Homes Scheme will be fully utilised this financial year.
(AQW 4842/10)

Minister for Social Development: In the financial year 2009/10, I made approximately £27 million available to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the Warm Homes Scheme and Fuel Poverty interventions in both the social and private housing sectors. At this time it is predicted that the £27 million allocation will be spent by the end of the financial year, £9 million of which will be spent on the Warm Homes Scheme.

Weber Shandwick

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development how much her Department has spent on public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick since May 2007.
(AQW 4919/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Department for Social Development has undertaken no expenditure on public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick since May 2007.

Kilkeel Town Centre Improvement

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister for Social Development, in relation to the £1.2m Kilkeel town centre improvement, what she is doing to ensure that the town centre will remain welcoming to all sections of society; and if it is a condition of her spending plans that the town centre must present a neutral environment at every stage of the programme.
(AQW 4932/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department developed the Kilkeel town centre public realm scheme following significant public consultation with the local community, local businesses and statutory bodies. All parties are confident that this scheme will make Kilkeel more welcoming to visitors and that the entire community will be able to enjoy the shared space. My Department will oversee the delivery of the scheme to ensure that presenting a neutral environment is achieved throughout the programme.

Maintenance Budget

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Social Development what percentage of Housing Executive rent goes back into the maintenance budget.

(AQW 4938/10)

Minister for Social Development: 48.6% of the Housing Executive's rental income was used for revenue maintenance expenditure in the financial year 2008/09.

Kilcooley Community Forum Offices

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Social Development what will happen to the funding for the Kilcooley Community Forum Offices if there are no community workers to keep the offices open.

(AQW 4939/10)

Minister for Social Development: The running costs of the Kilcooley Community Forum Offices and the salary costs of the community workers are funded through one project and are therefore interdependent.

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Social Development how much the Housing Executive in North Down spent in securing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders in the last financial year.

(AQW 4940/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Housing Executive has not incurred any costs securing Anti Social Behaviour Orders in the North Down area in the last financial year.

Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme for the Kilcooley Estate

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Social Development what parts of the Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme for the Kilcooley Estate have yet to be completed.

(AQW 4941/10)

Minister for Social Development: The neighbourhood renewal strategy in Kilcooley is being progressed in line with the Kilcooley Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership's Vision Framework and 3 year rolling action plan for the regeneration of the estate. To date DSD funding of over £1,663,504 has been allocated to a range of projects emanating from the action plan with additional funding of £765,509 levered from other sources. The Partnership is shortly due to carry out its annual Action Plan review and project prioritisation exercise, which will determine its priorities for the next financial year and beyond.

Temporary and Agency Staff

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many (i) temporary; and (ii) agency staff are currently employed by her Department.

(AQW 4963/10)

Minister for Social Development: The table below provides the numbers of (i) temporary and (ii) agency staff employed in the Department as at 31 January 2010.

| | Number of temporary staff employed at 31 January 2010 | Number of Recruitment Agency staff employed at 31 January 2010 | Total |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| Department for Social Development | 227 | 57 | 284 |

Job Seekers Allowance

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of recipients of Job Seekers Allowance who have been subject to sanctions because they have breached rules relating to this allowance; and (ii) the length of these sanctions, in each office area, in each of the last two years. **(AQW 4966/10)**

Minister for Social Development: The information is not routinely recorded in the format requested.

Winter Fuel Allowance

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Social Development how many people from Northern Ireland living outside the UK or Ireland received (i) the winter fuel allowance; and (ii) any of the recent cold weather payments.

(AQW 4968/10)

Minister for Social Development: Information on the number of people from Northern Ireland living outside the United Kingdom who receive a Winter Fuel Payment is not recorded separately. However approximately 64,000 pensioners from the United Kingdom living overseas received a payment in 2008/09.

No cold weather payments were made to non resident Northern Ireland customers as it is a condition of entitlement to a qualifying income related benefit that a customer must be resident in Northern Ireland and live within the postcode area where the cold weather period has been notified by the Met Office.

Equality Impact Assessments

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Social Development what measures are included within Equality Impact Assessments conducted by her Department to ensure that the interests of people with identities outside the two perceived main traditions in Northern Ireland are taken into account.

(AQW 4979/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department is fully committed to complying with the Section 75 obligations of the Northern Ireland Act. The Department, in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Act, has set out in an Equality Scheme how it proposes to fulfil those obligations. The scheme details that the Department will carry out EQIA's in accordance with the seven steps set out in the Equality Commission's Guidance. In following these steps my Department ensures that any EQIA's carried out show due regard to the promotion equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, men and women generally, persons with a disability and persons without and persons with dependants and persons without and regard to the promotion of good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group.

Winter Fuel Payment

Ms M Anderson asked the Minister for Social Development if she has given any consideration to the extension of the Winter Fuel Payment to people under 60 years of age diagnosed with cancer ; and if she has lobbied, or intends to lobby, the British Government on this proposal.

(AQW 4985/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Winter Fuel Payment scheme provides help to people aged 60 and over. Older people are specifically targeted as they are acknowledged as being more vulnerable to the effects of cold weather during the winter months than other groups. People suffering from cancer or any other illness or disability who fall within this age group will benefit from the scheme.

There is a range of social security benefits available to people suffering from illness or disability including Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance.

Vandalism at Housing Executive-owned Traveller Sites

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the number of recorded incidents of vandalism at Housing Executive-owned traveller sites in each of the last five years; and the total amount of money spent repairing the damage caused by these acts of vandalism.

(AQW 4992/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive previously did not specifically record repairs and maintenance on Travellers sites as relating to incidents of vandalism. However, arrangements have now recently been put in place to record acts of vandalism on Travellers sites. One incident is recorded at an approximate cost of £20,000.

People in Receipt of Benefits

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development to list the 50 electoral wards with the highest proportion of people in receipt of (i) Job Seekers Allowance; (ii) Disability Living Allowance; and (iii) Employment and Support Allowance.

(AQW 5007/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information requested is set out in the table below. The percentages were calculated against the population eligible to be receiving the benefit. For Disability Living Allowance this was the entire population. For Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance this was calculated against the working age population.

| Jobseekers Allowance | | Employment & Support Allowance | | Disability Living Allowance | |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD |
| The Diamond | Derry | Duncairn | Belfast | Whiterock | Belfast |
| East | Strabane | Clonard | Belfast | Falls | Belfast |
| Strand (Derry) | Derry | Crumlin (Belfast) | Belfast | Crumlin (Belfast) | Belfast |
| Rosemount | Derry | Whiterock | Belfast | New Lodge | Belfast |
| Victoria (Derry) | Derry | Newhill | Ballymoney | Clonard | Belfast |
| Clonard | Belfast | Ballymacarrett | Belfast | Castledearg | Strabane |
| Falls | Belfast | Ballysaggart | Dungannon | Shankill | Belfast |

| Jobseekers Allowance | | Employment & Support Allowance | | Disability Living Allowance | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD |
| Creggan South | Derry | Termon | Omagh | Upper Springfield | Belfast |
| Dungiven | Limavady | Falls | Belfast | Shaftesbury | Belfast |
| Corcrair | Craigavon | Collin Glen | Lisburn | Ballymote | Down |
| Whiterock | Belfast | Callan Bridge | Armagh | Twinbrook | Lisburn |
| Shankill | Belfast | The Mount | Belfast | Coolnagard | Omagh |
| Greystone (Limavady) | Limavady | Shankill | Belfast | Brandywell | Derry |
| Glentaisie | Moyle | Water Works | Belfast | East | Strabane |
| Water Works | Belfast | The Diamond | Derry | Ardoyne | Belfast |
| Creggan Central | Derry | Drumgask | Craigavon | Duncairn | Belfast |
| Collin Glen | Lisburn | New Lodge | Belfast | The Mount | Belfast |
| Ballymote | Down | Victoria (Derry) | Derry | Drumgask | Craigavon |
| Callan Bridge | Armagh | Newbuildings | Cookstown | Ballymacarrett | Belfast |
| Upper Springfield | Belfast | Armoy | Moyle | Ballybot | Newry & Mourne |
| Ardoyne | Belfast | Money more | Cookstown | Court | Craigavon |
| Duncairn | Belfast | Dunanney | Newtownabbey | Shantallow East | Derry |
| Westland | Derry | Dundrum | Down | Drumnamoe | Craigavon |
| Woodvale | Belfast | Ardoyne | Belfast | Beechmount | Belfast |
| Newhill | Ballymoney | Carnany | Ballymoney | Glencolin | Belfast |
| North | StrabanE | Woodvale | Belfast | Coalisland North | Dungannon |

| Jobseekers Allowance | | Employment & Support Allowance | | Disability Living Allowance | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|---------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD |
| Shaftesbury | Belfast | Sunnylands | Carrickfergus | Creggan South | Derry |
| The Mount | Belfast | Ballybay | Craigavon | Collin Glen | Lisburn |
| New Lodge | Belfast | Glentaisie | Moyle | Beechwood | Derry |
| Crumlin (Belfast) | Belfast | Northland | Carrickfergus | Glen Road | Belfast |
| Blackstaff | Belfast | Antville | Larne | Taghnevan | Craigavon |

| Jobseekers Allowance | | Employment & Support Allowance | | Disability Living Allowance | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD | Ward | LGD |
| Armooy | Moyle | Washing Bay | Dungannon | Drumglass | Dungannon |
| Shantallow East | Derry | Moat | Ballymena | Westland | Derry |
| Beechmount | Belfast | Central (Coleraine) | Coleraine | Ardboe | Cookstown |
| Ballysaggart | Dungannon | Castlewellan | Down | Water Works | Belfast |
| Drumglass | Dungannon | Shaftesbury | Belfast | Camowen | Omagh |
| Bonamargy And Rathlin | Moyle | Gortalee | Carrickfergus | Gortrush | Omagh |
| Gortalee | Carrickfergus | Coolessan | Limavady | Woodvale | Belfast |
| Harbour (North Down) | North Down | Ardboe | Cookstown | Ballysaggart | Dungannon |
| Twinbrook | Lisburn | Castledawson | Magherafelt | The Diamond | Derry |
| Coolessan | Limavady | WeStland | Derry | Creggan Central | Derry |
| Bushmills | Moyle | Annagh | Craigavon | Kilwee | Lisburn |
| Dunanney | Newtownabbey | Forkhill | Newry & Mourne | Ladybrook | Belfast |
| Crevagh | Derry | Brandywell | Derry | Sion Mills | Strabane |
| Glencolin | Belfast | Moss-Side And Moyarget | Moyle | Andersonstown | Belfast |
| Coalisland South | Dungannon | Bellaghy | Magherafelt | Coalisland South | Dungannon |
| Creggan | Newry & Mourne | Derriaghy | Lisburn | Newhill | Ballymoney |
| Ballylough | Moyle | Dunclug | Ballymena | Crossmaglen | Newry & Mourne |
| Glencairn | Belfast | Woodstock | Belfast | Daisy Hill | NEwry & Mourne |
| Ballymacarrett | Belfast | Upper Glenshane | Limavady | Portavogie | Ards |

StreetSafe Scheme

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development what financial support her Department, or any of its agencies, provides for the StreetSafe Scheme.

(AQW 5025/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department does not provide any financial support to the Street Safe Scheme. The scheme is currently funded by the North Down Community Safety Partnership which, in turn, is funded through the Northern Ireland Office's Community Safety Strategy.

Social Housing Waiting List

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are currently on the social housing waiting list in each parliamentary constituency.

(AQW 5027/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested as the Housing Executive does not collate social housing waiting list information by parliamentary constituency. The table below details the social housing waiting list by Housing Executive District Office area as at 31 December 2009.

| District Office | Housing Applicants |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Belfast West | 2429 |
| Belfast East | 1871 |
| Belfast North | 2356 |
| Belfast Shankill | 850 |
| Belfast South | 2239 |
| Antrim | 962 |
| Ballycastle | 350 |
| Ballymena | 1422 |
| Ballymoney | 420 |
| Carrickfergus | 962 |
| Coleraine | 1163 |
| Larne | 513 |
| Newtownabbey 1 | 784 |
| Newtownabbey 2 | 887 |
| Armagh | 742 |
| Banbridge | 642 |
| Dungannon | 868 |
| Fermanagh | 822 |
| Lurgan | 1050 |
| Newry | 1762 |
| Portadown | 677 |
| Bangor | 1887 |
| Castlereagh | 1334 |
| Downpatrick | 1229 |
| Lisburn Antrim Street | 1897 |
| Dairy Farm | 634 |
| Newtownards | 1641 |
| Cookstown | 384 |

| District Office | Housing Applicants |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Waterloo Place | 861 |
| Waterside | 835 |
| Collon Tce | 788 |
| Limavady | 481 |
| Magherafelt | 482 |
| Omagh | 570 |
| Strabane | 501 |

Social Housing New Builds in the Lisburn City Council Area

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Social Development how many of this year's proposed social housing new builds in the Lisburn City Council area are bungalows.

(AQW 5047/10)

Minister for Social Development: There are no bungalows within this year's programmed schemes in the Lisburn City Council area.

Housing Development at the Donaghadee Road

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Social Development when the housing development by Connswater Housing Association at the Donaghadee Road, Newtownards will be completed.

(AQW 5080/10)

Minister for Social Development: The contract completion date for this scheme is 21 June 2010.

West Green Flats in Holywood

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development when a decision will be made on the future of the West Green flats in Holywood.

(AQW 5251/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department has been working closely with the Housing Executive to identify a way forward for the West Green flats at Loughview in Holywood. A revised Economic Appraisal has now been completed and is currently under technical assessment within my Department. I expect to be able to make a formal announcement in the coming weeks.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Flags

Mr D McKay asked the Assembly Commission to list the flags that are in the possession of the Assembly.

(AQW 4921/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The following flags are currently in the possession of the Assembly:

- 4 Union flags (of 2 different sizes)
- 1 Commonwealth flag

- 1 European Union flag
- 1 United States flag

Flags

Mr D McKay asked the Assembly Commission how much the Assembly has spent on flags in its possession since 1998.

(AQW 4922/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The Assembly has spent £1031.65 on flags since 1998.

Statues Within Parliament Buildings

Mr D McKay asked the Assembly Commission to list the number of statues of (i) Unionist politicians; and (ii) Nationalist/Republican politicians there are within Parliament Buildings and the Assembly grounds.

(AQW 4923/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The Assembly Commission can confirm that;

- (i) There is a bronze statue of Lord Craigavon, by L.S. Merrifield of Chelsea, located on the Ceremonial Stairs in the Great Hall of Parliament Buildings.

In addition to this is Lord Craigavon's Tomb, which is a sarcophagus of dressed Portland stone, in the grounds of Parliament Buildings.

Although not within the grounds of Parliament Buildings there is also a Statue of Lord Carson, in bronze by L.S. Merrifield at the roundabout in the Stormont Estate.

- (ii) There are currently no statues of Nationalist/Republican politicians within Parliament Buildings and the Assembly grounds.

Parliament Buildings: Roof Leaks

Mr T Burns asked the Assembly Commission for an update on the leaks in the roof of Parliament Buildings; and the cost of any repairs carried out.

(AQW 4989/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): During the summer recess of 2009, Building Services carried out the most extensive repairs to the roof of Parliament Buildings since the building was refurbished in 1998. This work consisted mainly of patch repairs to the waterproof membrane on the top surface of the roof slab.

Persistent inclement weather following on from that highlighted further problem areas that are being addressed with a series of ongoing repairs.

The total value of these patch repairs to date is £26k.

Other issues identified, including repairs to the 'barn' style roof over Room 401 and replacement of the sealant along the parapet walls can only be addressed during a spell of calm dry weather. A work order has been written for this work, and it will be carried out at the first available opportunity. The estimated value of this work is £33k.

Parliament Buildings: Mobile Telecommunication Signal

Mr G Savage asked the Assembly Commission what action is being taken to improve the quality of the mobile telecommunication signal within Parliament Buildings.

(AQW 5276/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): Further to AQW 6049/09 and AQW 7591/09 the Assembly Commission can confirm that signal boosters have been installed for Orange, O2 and Vodafone networks. This work has resulted in enhanced network coverage for users on these networks in particular in the Basement area of Parliament Buildings. As there had been no further complaints in relation to the mobile phone reception, no additional works have been planned.

Due to the nature of Parliament Buildings, it is very difficult to ensure that there is effective network coverage in all areas and, as a listed building there are only certain areas that signal boosters can be installed to ensure that they do not adversely affect the aesthetics of the building.

David Lynn, the Building Services Manager, can be contacted on (028 905) 21346 to discuss any specific issues.

Written Answers Inex

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Department for Regional Development | 177 | Vandalism at Housing Executive-owned Traveller Sites | 190 |
| Advertising Reduced Fares on the Enterprise | 187 | Warm Homes Scheme | 187 |
| Belfast to Larne Rail Line | 184 | Warm Homes Scheme | 187 |
| Door-to-Door Service | 186 | Weber Shandwick | 187 |
| Enterprise Rail Service | 183 | West Green Flats in Holywood | 194 |
| Equality Impact Assessments | 184 | Winter Fuel Allowance | 189 |
| Irish Language Lessons | 182 | Winter Fuel Payment | 190 |
| Late Night Train Service from Belfast to Coleraine | 186 | | |
| Number of Vehicles Using Main Street, Limavady | 177 | Department of Agriculture and Rural Development | 65 |
| Repairing Potholes | 186 | Equality Impact Assessments | 66 |
| Road-bridge over the A1 Linking Sheepbridge Road and Corcreechy Road | 181 | European Fisheries Fund | 66 |
| Roads in the East Antrim Constituency | 178 | Foaming on the Surface of Larne Lough | 68 |
| Roads Service Staff | 182 | Forest and Woodland | 68 |
| Road Surfaces | 184 | Forestry Production | 69 |
| Speed Management Policy | 178 | Grants from the European Fisheries Fund | 65 |
| Survey of the Comber Greenway | 182 | Land Covered by Environmental Enhancement Agreements | 65 |
| Traffic Calming Schemes | 185 | Licence for Fishing of White-fish | 65 |
| Ulsterbus Comber Town Service | 177 | Portavogie Harbour | 69 |
| William Street Car Park | 183 | Rose Energy | 68 |
| | | Single Farm Payments | 66 |
| Department for Employment and Learning | 114 | Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure | 69 |
| Baker Hughes | 116 | Access to the Arts | 71 |
| Equality Impact Assessments | 115 | Access to the Arts | 74 |
| Public Relations Services Provided by Weber Shandwick | 115 | Arts Funding | 79 |
| Redundancies at the Seagate Factory, Limavady | 115 | Cost of Staff Attending Conferences and Courses | 73 |
| Staff Attacked by Students | 115 | Creative Businesses | 80 |
| Steps to Work Programme | 114 | Cultural Activities: South Belfast | 81 |
| | | Ethnic Minority Arts | 69 |
| Department for Social Development | 187 | 'Invest to Save' Initiative | 70 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour Orders | 188 | Irish Language | 71 |
| Equality Impact Assessments | 189 | Irish Language | 74 |
| Housing Development at the Donaghadee Road | 194 | Libraries | 78 |
| Job Seekers Allowance | 189 | Lough Neagh and Upper Bann | 78 |
| Kilcooley Community Forum Offices | 188 | Northern Ireland International Air Show | 80 |
| Kilkeel Town Centre Improvement | 187 | PRONI site at Balmoral Avenue | 70 |
| Maintenance Budget | 188 | Public Libraries | 75 |
| Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme for the Kilcooley Estate | 188 | Public Libraries | 77 |
| People in Receipt of Benefits | 190 | Public Library at Monkstown Community High School | 75 |
| Social Housing New Builds in the Lisburn City Council Area | 194 | Re-imaging Communities Programme | 73 |
| Social Housing Waiting List | 193 | Sign Language | 72 |
| StreetSafe Scheme | 192 | Sports Facilities | 82 |
| Temporary and Agency Staff | 188 | Sports Museum at the Eddie Irvine Sports Arena in Bangor | 78 |
| | | Tollymore Mountain Centre | 80 |
| | | Ulster Scots Funding | 81 |
| | | Ulster-Scots Television Channel | 73 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|
| Windsor Park Football Stadium | 70 | Young People not in Education, Employment or Training | 93 |
| Department of Education | 82 | Youth Projects | 107 |
| Area Planning for Schools in East Antrim | 84 | Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment | 116 |
| Attacks on Teaching Staff | 89 | Broadband in the Rasharkin and Portglenone Areas | 117 |
| Buddy Bear Trust | 109 | Closure of Seagate and Other Industries | 116 |
| Capital Build Projects | 105 | Costs for Staff Attending Conferences and Courses | 124 |
| Capital Build Projects | 106 | Employee Representatives of Baker Hughes | 125 |
| Capital Build Projects | 106 | Equality Impact Assessments | 119 |
| Capital Projects | 88 | Interface Conflict | 118 |
| Catholic Maintained Primary Schools | 94 | 'Invest to Save' Initiative | 124 |
| Consultant's Fees | 88 | Landfill Gas | 117 |
| Consultant's Fees | 88 | Monetary Policy Committee | 118 |
| Cost of Staff Attending Conferences and Courses | 110 | People in Long-term Unemployment and Economically Inactive | 120 |
| Cost of Translation | 109 | Promotion of the Belfast Hills | 119 |
| Education Sector - Spending | 95 | Recovery of Grant Monies | 122 |
| Funding for Preparatory Departments | 87 | Redundancies at the Seagate factory, Limavady | 117 |
| GSCE Irish | 104 | Relocated or Decentralised Posts | 125 |
| Integrated Education | 85 | Stena-Line | 117 |
| International Fund for Ireland | 91 | Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Forms of Employment | 122 |
| International Fund for Ireland | 94 | Department of Finance and Personnel | 153 |
| 'Invest to Save' Initiative | 111 | Advice Provided by Mr Paul Maguire QC | 155 |
| Irish Classes for Departmental Staff | 91 | Civil Service Back Pay | 156 |
| Irish Classes for Departmental Staff | 91 | Civil Service Back Pay | 156 |
| Irish Medium Education | 85 | Civil Service Posts | 153 |
| Irish-medium primary Schools | 94 | First Minister: Legal Opinion | 157 |
| Irish Medium Unit at St Joseph's Convent, Donaghmore | 114 | Lone Pensioners' Allowance | 157 |
| Music Therapy for Children with Autism | 109 | Severely or Profoundly Deaf Civil Service Staff | 157 |
| New Build for St Teresa's School, Lurgan | 90 | Transfer of Pensions | 156 |
| New Build for St Teresa's School, Lurgan | 90 | Weber Shandwick | 156 |
| New Build Schools for the East Antrim Constituency | 113 | Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety | 157 |
| New Build Schools in Holywood | 112 | Accident and Emergency Department at the Causeway Hospital | 175 |
| New School for Lagan College | 106 | Accident and Emergency Department of the Causeway Hospital | 163 |
| Non-teaching Staff | 82 | Agenda for Change | 159 |
| Preparatory School Funding | 83 | Allegations of Ill-treatment of Patients | 175 |
| Preparatory School Funding | 84 | Ambulance Fire Incident | 168 |
| Preparatory Schools | 114 | Ambulance Service Vehicles | 163 |
| Pre-school Nursery Provision | 113 | Blind Persons | 171 |
| Primary Languages Programme | 105 | Brain Injury as a Result of a Road Traffic Accident | 165 |
| Public Relations Services | 89 | Cataract Surgery | 163 |
| Pupil Enrollment | 92 | Child Protection Register | 167 |
| Pupil Enrollment | 92 | | |
| Rural Schools | 111 | | |
| School Maintenance | 86 | | |
| School Visits | 97 | | |
| StreetSafe Scheme | 108 | | |
| Sure Start Centres | 112 | | |
| Transfer 2010 Criteria | 97 | | |
| Transport Needs of 16+ Students | 111 | | |
| Ulster-Scots Language and Culture | 112 | | |
| Use of 'Northern Ireland' in Written Communication | 113 | | |

| | | | |
|--|-----|---|-----|
| Children and Young People in Care | 161 | Victims of Institutional and Clerical Abuse | 174 |
| Cuts to Home-care Services | 169 | Waiting Time for Occupational Therapists | 163 |
| DHSSPS Planned Investment | 172 | Waiting Times | 166 |
| Diabetes | 159 | Waiting Times | 169 |
| Doctors and Nurses Sick Leave | 168 | Western Health and Social Care Trust | 157 |
| Domiciliary Care for Elderly People | 169 | Department of the Environment | 125 |
| Early Years Funding | 176 | Advertising to Promote Road Safety | 128 |
| Educating Children on Dental Care | 160 | Availability of Council Minutes | 127 |
| Efficiency Plans | 157 | Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan | 149 |
| Fracture and Orthopaedic Wards of the Royal Victoria Hospital | 167 | Building in Green Belt Areas | 129 |
| Fragility Fracture Working Group | 172 | Carrickfergus Masterplan | 146 |
| Good Bone Health | 173 | Clean Neighbourhoods Bill | 152 |
| Guidelines and Audit Implementation Network | 173 | Compensation Claims | 127 |
| H1N1 Virus and Influenza Virus | 164 | DOE: Efficiency Savings | 151 |
| Health Service Charity Accounts | 172 | DOE: Recruitment and Promotion | 153 |
| Health Service Dentists | 159 | EU Directive 2003/20/EC | 144 |
| Heart Operation Costs | 171 | George Best Belfast City | 146 |
| Home Help Services | 169 | Goods and Services Paid for Online | 125 |
| Home Help Visits | 165 | Hedge Cutting Season | 148 |
| Incidents of Fires Starting on board Health Service Vehicles | 168 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Inquiry into Child Abuse | 172 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Interpreters | 164 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Management Costs Within the Health Service | 159 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Midwifery Vacancies | 167 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Multiple Sclerosis Respite in Dalriada Hospital | 162 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| National Hip Fracture Database | 173 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Neuro-Physiotherapist at the Causeway or Altnagelvin Hospitals | 175 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| NHS Cord Blood Bank | 162 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Nursing and Residential Homes | 165 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 147 |
| Obesity | 164 | High Hedges Consultation Document | 148 |
| People Registered as Blind | 170 | Lecale Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | 128 |
| Primary Medical Services (Direct Enhanced Services) Directive (NI) 2008 Scheme | 174 | Lisburn City Council's Planning Committee | 148 |
| Private Home Help Firms | 170 | New Pitches Near the Burrenbridge Road, Newcastle | 127 |
| Privately Run Residential Units and Foster Placements | 160 | Northern Ireland Environment Agency | 128 |
| Public Health Agency | 174 | Off-shore Wind Farms | 125 |
| Public Relations Services | 169 | Osbourne Hotel Building, Warrenpoint | 145 |
| Purchase of Stand Alone Scanners for People with Blindness | 175 | Planning Applications | 129 |
| Regional Guidance for Police Involvement in Residential Units | 161 | Planning Applications | 146 |
| Respite Care | 163 | Planning Applications | 149 |
| Safeguarding and Protecting Children | 176 | Planning Applications in Carrickfergus | 146 |
| Swine Flu | 166 | Planning Applications in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone Constituency | 143 |
| Transfer of Switchboard Services to Antrim Area Hospital | 171 | Planning Officers | 129 |
| Umbilical Cord Blood | 161 | Planning Service | 150 |
| | | Review of Public Administration | 145 |
| | | Ringsend: Landfill Sites | 151 |
| | | Road and Street Signs | 128 |
| | | Road Safety: Legislation | 151 |
| | | Tourism: Historic Sites | 152 |
| | | Vehicles Clamped or Seized | 145 |
| | | Vehicles Clamped or Seized | 148 |
| | | Northern Ireland Assembly Commission | 194 |
| | | Flags | 194 |
| | | Flags | 195 |
| | | Parliament Buildings: Mobile Telecommunication Signal | 196 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Parliament Buildings: Roof Leaks | 195 |
| Statues Within Parliament Buildings | 195 |

Office of the First Minister and deputy First

| | |
|--|----|
| Minister | 1 |
| Bank Accounts | 63 |
| British Irish Council Workstream | 56 |
| Child Poverty | 58 |
| Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy | 62 |
| Community Relations Posts in Local Councils | 53 |
| Department of Justice Bill | 57 |
| Fair Employment Monitoring | 64 |
| Funding for Victims' Groups | 63 |
| Good Relations | 63 |
| Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland | 1 |
| Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland | 18 |
| Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland | 35 |
| Lifetime Opportunities Strategy | 52 |
| Planning Appeals | 64 |
| Poverty and Social Inclusion | 60 |
| Presbyterian Mutual Society | 61 |
| Programme for Government | 56 |
| Public Relations Services | 57 |
| Reform Programme | 57 |
| Salaries of External Bodies | 61 |
| South Belfast Constituency | 59 |
| Victims' Groups | 54 |
| Victims' Groups | 54 |
| Victims Strategy | 61 |

Revised Written Answers

Friday 5 March 2010

(AQW 4338/10)

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 | WTE ¹ |
|---------------|-----------|------------------|
| Belfast | 29 | 23.28 |
| Northern | 22 | 14.0 |
| South Eastern | 12 | 9.4 |
| Southern | 14 | 10.4 |
| Western | 12 | 10.22 |

Source: Health & Social Care Trusts

Notes:

1 WTE= whole-time equivalent

(AQW 4339/10)

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 | 12 | 9.4 | 14 | 10.4 |
| South Eastern | 9 | 6.4 | 9 | 6.4 | 10 | 7.4 | 10 | 7.4 | 12 | 9.4 |
| Northern † | | | | | | | | | 22 | 14 |
| 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.



Published by Authority of the Northern Ireland Assembly,
Belfast: The Stationery Office

and available from:

Online

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

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 978-0-339-70162-5



9 780339 701625