

Official Report (Hansard)

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 14 May 2010
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NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Friday 14 May 2010

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Senior Civil Service

Mrs C McGill asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an estimate of the annual efficiency savings from rationalising the senior civil service grades within their Department.

(AQO 1179/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness): In Budget 2008-11, the Executive agreed that departments would deliver 5% per annum administration efficiency savings over the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. OFMDFM is required to deliver £2 million in efficiency savings across the three years.

These measures will result in a reduction of approximately 51 full time equivalent posts across all grades, including the senior civil service. We estimate that annual efficiency savings of over £320,000 will be achieved through rationalisation of the senior civil service in the Department.

Parades Working Group

Mr D McNarry asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline how the sectarian harassment aspects of the Parades Working Group proposals would operate in practice.

(AQO 1180/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The consultation on the draft Public Assemblies, Parades and Protests Bill (Northern Ireland) began on 20 April and will run for 12 weeks until 14 July. The draft Bill was informed by the report of the Working Group on Parades and details the proposals for the future handling of all issues related to public assemblies, including parades and protests, and the new structures that will be created. Determining how any element of the proposals will work in practice can only be decided once the consultation is complete especially as it is possible for aspects of the draft document to change significantly following analysis of the responses received.

St Andrews Agreement: Working Group

Mr M Durkan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the working group set up to address outstanding issues from the St. Andrew's Agreement.

(AQO 1181/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: As part of the implementation of the commitments made in the Hillsborough Castle Agreement, the Executive agreed on 11 February to establish a Working Group to identify all matters contained in the St Andrews Agreement which had not been faithfully implemented or actioned, and to make recommendations on how progress could be made on those matters which had not been actioned.

This Working Group has not yet met pending the completion of necessary preliminary consultation with the other parties in the Executive on a schedule which we prepared showing each commitment and our respective assessments of its current status.

We have recently received responses from all three parties which we are currently considering. We hope to convene a meeting of the Working Group under the joint chairmanship of the OFMDFM Junior Ministers in the near future.

Reorganisation

Mr A Maginness asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many jobs will be lost as part of the re-organisation of their Department and at what grades; and whether senior civil service posts will be protected.

(AQO 1182/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In Budget 2008-11, the Executive agreed that departments would deliver 5% per annum administration efficiency savings over the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. OFMDFM is required to deliver £2 million in efficiency savings across the three years.

These measures will result in a reduction of approximately 51 full time equivalent posts.

These posts cover grades from Administrative Assistant up to and including Senior Civil Service posts, which are not protected in any way.

The objective is to redeploy staff within the Civil Service and suppress vacancies rather than making staff redundant or unemployed.

Our aim was to complete this exercise as far as possible by 1 April 2010. To date we have been able to implement 90% of the required reductions and the remainder will be achieved very soon.

The Department is engaging with Trade Union Side in taking this work forward.

North/South Ministerial Council

Mr C Boylan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the development of permanent headquarters for the North South Ministerial Council.

(AQO 1183/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Construction work on the permanent accommodation for the North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat was completed ahead of schedule on 26 February 2010 and the offices have been fully operational since 19 April 2010.

Savings Target

Mr D Kinahan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what portion of the original £11.1m savings target set for their Department in 2008 for the current Comprehensive Spending Review period has been realised to date.

(AQO 1184/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In 2008-09 the Department achieved its target efficiencies of £2.35 million in full.

In the first six months of 2009-10, OFMDFM achieved £3.53 million of efficiency savings equivalent to 76% of the target of £4.63 million for the full 2009-10 year. This is 4% higher than the average across all departments of 72%.

At the mid-point of the three-year Budget 2008-11 period, OFMDFM had delivered a total of £5.88 million of efficiencies, or 53.0% of its CSR efficiency target of £11.1 million.

Data on the efficiency savings achieved by OFMDFM for the 2009/10 financial year is currently being collated.

Civil Contingencies Policy Branch

Mr M Storey asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the work of the Civil Contingencies Policy Branch.

(AQO 1186/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The role of the Civil Contingencies Policy Branch, OFMDFM, is to promote the development and delivery of effective civil contingencies arrangements here. To deliver this, Civil Contingencies Policy Branch (CCPB) formulates cross-cutting policy on emergency preparedness and resilience; facilitates co-ordination of the response to emergencies having a major impact here; and represents our civil contingencies interests at UK level.

CCPB works closely with key stakeholder organisations in emergency preparedness and response to encourage adoption of best practice and co-ordination of approach. This is achieved by facilitation of the work of the Civil Contingencies Group, the membership of which includes all departments, the emergency services and district council representation. In addition, CCPB plays an active role in the work of a range of emergency preparedness groups including the Local Government Emergency Management Group (LGEMG), and has been involved in the development and implementation of the 'LGEMG Emergency Planning Strategy 2009-2014'.

During the past year, CCPB played a pivotal role in the non-health response to the swine flu pandemic both here and elsewhere in the UK. CCPB ensured that non-health organisations received the information they needed to prepare to deal with the impacts of the pandemic on their own services and their sectors. Currently the Branch is actively engaged in reviews of the response to the pandemic both here and elsewhere in the UK. The outcome of these reviews will inform an update of the Strategy for the non-health aspects of Pandemic Influenza.

Following the extensive flooding in Fermanagh during November 2009, OFMDFM led a cross-departmental Taskforce, established by the Executive, to identify lessons learned and measures to mitigate the impact of future flooding. CCPB facilitated the work of the Taskforce, including an extensive evidence gathering phase. The Branch continues to work with stakeholder departments and agencies to evaluate the evidence provided and to produce recommendations for consideration by the Executive. The outcome from this initiative will also inform the wider ongoing work on flood mitigation and response.

Most recently CCPB has been engaged in monitoring and assessing the impact of the Icelandic volcanic ash plume, and has shared information on the ongoing risk of further disruption with relevant organisations here. This work has involved liaison with a UK-level emergency committee and with the Office of Emergency Planning in Dublin. It is anticipated that this immediate response work will be followed up with more formalised contingency planning for the ongoing eruption.

British Irish Council

Miss M McIlveen asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made in establishing a standing secretariat for the British Irish Council.

(AQO 1187/10)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The establishment of a standing secretariat for the British Irish Council (the Council) has been discussed as one element of the BIC Strategic Review at recent BIC Summit meetings.

The core functions, staffing profiles, secondment arrangements and legal framework for the standing secretariat have been endorsed by the Council.

It is expected that a decision on location will be taken at the next BIC Summit in Guernsey in June.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Single Farm Payment

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many Single Farm Payment applications were unsuccessful in each constituency, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 6561/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew): To date, 329 applications to the 2009 Single Farm Payment Scheme have been determined as unsuccessful with no payment due. The numbers for scheme years 2008 and 2007 were 270 and 309 respectively.

The Department does not hold Single Farm Payment details on a constituency basis. The data is currently held by county and postcode where known. A list of the total numbers of unsuccessful applications received for years 2007, 2008 and 2009, as at 30 April 2010, for each postcode area is attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

UNSUCCESSFUL CLAIMS TO SINGLE FARM PAYMENT 2007 TO 2009 (BY POSTCODE)

Postcode	2007	2008	2009
BT1	0	0	3
BT2	0	0	0
BT3	0	0	0
BT4	1	0	2
BT5	0	0	0
BT6	0	0	0
BT7	0	0	0
BT8	2	3	2
BT9	1	0	1
BT10	0	0	0
BT11	0	0	0
BT12	0	0	1
BT13	0	0	0
BT14	1	1	1
BT15	1	0	0
BT16	1	2	0
BT17	0	0	0
BT18	0	0	0
BT19	1	0	0
BT20	2	1	0
BT21	0	0	0
BT22	4	1	1

Postcode	2007	2008	2009
BT23	12	3	7
BT24	4	5	7
BT25	3	2	7
BT26	1	0	1
BT27	5	3	2
BT28	4	4	6
BT29	2	3	5
BT30	7	4	10
BT31	1	0	0
BT32	2	4	7
BT33	1	0	0
BT34	18	10	12
BT35	10	12	14
BT36	0	0	0
BT37	0	0	1
BT38	1	0	1
BT39	8	2	2
BT40	3	3	1
BT41	4	3	3
BT42	11	6	4
BT43	1	2	4
BT44	10	7	6
BT45	7	7	3
BT46	5	4	4
BT47	8	8	11
BT48	1	0	1
BT49	8	6	4
BT50	0	0	0
BT51	7	9	10
BT52	3	1	0
BT53	5	7	7
BT54	0	0	1
BT55	0	0	0
BT56	5	1	1

Postcode	2007	2008	2009
BT57	0	0	0
BT58	0	0	0
BT59	0	0	0
BT60	4	7	9
BT61	1	5	6
BT62	8	11	3
BT63	3	4	1
BT64	0	0	0
BT65	1	0	0
BT66	6	6	4
BT67	2	1	1
BT68	0	1	1
BT69	3	3	1
BT70	11	8	10
BT71	15	8	13
BT72	0	0	0
BT73	0	0	0
BT74	8	7	17
BT75	2	3	5
BT76	0	2	2
BT77	2	2	3
BT78	12	14	21
BT79	16	10	12
BT80	8	8	9
BT81	5	3	5
BT82	4	4	6
BT83	0	0	0
BT84	0	0	0
BT85	0	0	0
BT86	0	0	0
BT87	0	0	0
BT88	0	0	0
BT89	0	0	0
BT90	0	0	0

Postcode	2007	2008	2009
BT91	0	0	0
BT92	6	16	17
BT93	5	7	14
BT94	5	8	9
No BT Postcode Held	11	8	7
Totals	309	270	329

Farms with Incinerators

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farms in each constituency have an incinerator on-site.

(AQW 6607/10)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I have provided in the attached table the number of on-farm animal carcass incinerators currently approved under the Animal By-Products Regulations (NI) 2003 by constituency.

NUMBER OF APPROVED ON-FARM INCINERATORS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND BY CONSTITUENCY AREA

Constituency area	Number of on-farm incinerators
Belfast East	0
Belfast North	0
Belfast South	0
Belfast West	0
East Antrim	1
North Antrim	7
South Antrim	1
North Down	0
South Down	6
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	21
Foyle	1
Lagan Valley	2
East Londonderry	3
Mid Ulster	13
Newry and Armagh	14
Strangford	2
West Tyrone	15
Upper Bann	0

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Maintenance of Libraries

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much his Department spent on the maintenance of libraries in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, in each of the last five years; and for a breakdown for each library.

(AQW 6434/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr N McCausland): The following table shows maintenance expenditure on libraries in the Belfast Education and Library Board area for the last five years.

Library	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Andersonstown	1,559	927	6,133	5,537	140
Ardoyne	1,687	3,420	6,935	4,300	3,639
Ballyhackamore	4,485	6,945	3,883	13,343	2,582
Ballymacarrett	2,763	810	1,949	5,715	919
Belfast Central Library	52,329	68,217	28,128	75,333	39,253
Chichester	3,139	2,833	5,197	6,492	22,003
Falls Road	5,464	5,049	20,030	9,295	10,749
Finaghy	731	2,196	4,520	14,556	1,421
Hollywood Road	2,354	4,963	3,194	7,498	406
Ligoniel	3,792	882	2,137	4,422	960
Lisburn Road	6,483	7,473	2,501	14,240	1,323
Oldpark	3,605	38,231	2,286	4,210	1,634
Ormeau	2,174	2,671	5,689	5,936	167
Sandy Row	311	498	1,648	2,638	240
Shankill	7,392	-399	3,859	10,971	368
*Skegoniel	3,063	1,756	1,161	3,414	
Suffolk	1,490	1,231	6,484	7,067	17,342
Whiterock	3,038	-1,052	3,736	11,114	2,576
Whitewell	117	85	900	1,362	872
Woodstock	4,024	11,766	6,784	15,136	784
Grove Wellbeing Centre				129	159
Total	110,000	158,502	117,154	222,708	107,537

* Skegoniel Library Closed in May 2008 and relocated to the Grove Wellbeing Centre.

The Chief Executive of BELB has advised me of the spend attributed to each branch library under his control as Accounting Officer in the period required.

The Accounts for Libraries NI have not yet been finalised and audited. These draft figures may be subject to adjustment.

Maintenance of Libraries

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much has been spent on maintenance at each of the Belfast Education and Library Board libraries since the establishment of Libraries NI. **(AQW 6453/10)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Libraries NI assumed responsibility for the Public Library Service on 1 April 2009.

The following table shows Libraries NI maintenance expenditure on premises in the Belfast Education and Library Board area.

Library	2009/10 (£)
Andersonstown	140
Ardoyne	3,639
Ballyhackamore	2,582
Ballymacarrett	919
Belfast Central Library	39,253
Chichester	22,003
Falls Road	10,749
Finaghy	1,421
Hollywood Road	406
Ligoniel	960
Lisburn Road	1,323
Oldpark	1,634
Ormeau	167
Sandy Row	240
Shankill	368
Suffolk	17,342
Whiterock	2,576
Whitewell	872
Woodstock	784
Grove Wellbeing Centre	159
Total	107,537

The 2009/10 Accounts for Libraries NI have not yet been finalised and audited. These draft figures may be subject to adjustment.

Libraries NI

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total annual cost of providing the Libraries NI library service for the 2009/10 financial year; and for a breakdown of the running cost of each library by cost code.

(AQW 6455/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The total annual net cost of providing the Libraries NI library service for the 2009/10 financial year was £42,547,000. This is a provisional figure that does not yet include a pension adjustment and is also subject to final audit. This amount is made up of:

Resource / DEL	Capital / DEL	Non-cash / AME	Total
£33,005k	£3,973k	£5,569k	£42,547k

A breakdown of the provisional running cost of each library by cost code is available in the Assembly Library.

Tony McCoy

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he would issue a statement congratulating Tony McCoy on his Grand National win.

(AQW 6562/10)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I am aware of Tony McCoy's win at the 2010 Grand National at Aintree on 10th April 2010. I wrote to Tony on 13 April 2010 to congratulate him on his achievement. A copy of my letter is attached.

Dear Tony,

I was delighted to hear of your success in winning the Grand National at Aintree on 10 April 2010.

To have finally won the Grand National at the 15th attempt is testament to your dedication, determination and resolve in the face of strong opposition and personal injury. Your achievement is one of which you and your family can be justifiably proud.

I should like to take this opportunity to convey my warmest congratulations on this your most recent achievement and to wish you every success for the future.

Nelson McCausland MLA

Minister of Culture Arts & Leisure

Department of Education

Schools in the Intervention Process

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education how many schools are currently in the intervention process, broken down by (i) sector; and (ii) Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 6278/10)

Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane): The school improvement policy I published last year sets out a clear commitment to ensure that all our young people receive a high quality education.

I gcásanna ina meastar go bhfuil scoileanna, tar éis iniúchta, níos lú ná sásúil, cuirtear iad anois i bpróiseas foirmeálta idirghabhála lena chinntiú go bhfaigheann siad an tacaíocht chuí a bhfuil de dhíth orthu óna mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOL) áitiúil, trína bheith ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht le heagraíochtaí tacaíochta eile, chun feabhsúchán a sholáthar.

Where schools are found, following inspection, to be less than satisfactory, they are now placed in a formal intervention process designed to ensure they receive the tailored support they need from their local ELB, working in partnership as appropriate with other support bodies, to deliver improvement.

The tables below provide a breakdown by sector and by ELB of the schools currently receiving that tailored support.

BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR

Sector	Controlled ¹	Catholic Maintained	Integrated (including Controlled Integrated)	Other Maintained - Irish-medium
Number	8	2	2	6

Note 1: includes controlled Irish-medium

BREAKDOWN BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (ELB) AREA

ELB Area	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB
Number	6	4	3	1	4

Schools in the Intervention Process

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education how many schools have been placed in the intervention process, broken down by (i) sector; and (ii) Education and Library Board area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 6328/10)

Minister of Education: The formal intervention process was introduced as part of the school improvement policy I published last April and therefore has only been in operation from the 2009/10 year.

Is é is aidhm leis an phróiseas foirmeálta idirghabhála ná a chinntiú go bhfaigheann scoileanna an tacaíocht chuí a bhfuil de dhíth orthu óna mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOL) áitiúil, trína bheith ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht le heagraíochtaí tacaíochta eile, chun feabhsúchán a sholáthar.

The formal intervention process is designed to ensure that schools receive the tailored support they need from their local Education & Library Board (ELB), working in partnership as appropriate with other support bodies, to deliver improvement.

The tables below provide a breakdown by sector and by ELB area of the schools placed in the formal intervention process in 2009/10.

2009/10 - BREAKDOWN BY SECTOR

Sector	Controlled ¹	Catholic Maintained	Integrated (including Controlled Integrated)	Other Maintained - Irish-medium
Number	8	2	2	6

Note 1: includes controlled Irish-medium

2009/10 - BREAKDOWN BY EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD (ELB) AREA

ELB Area	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB
Number	6	4	3	1	4

Job Evaluations within the Education and Library Boards

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Education whether she intends to lift the moratorium on job evaluations within the Education and Library Boards, given the delay in establishing the Education and Skills Authority structure.

(AQW 6337/10)

Minister of Education: Is fios do gach duine an mhoill atá ar bhunú ESA, ach geallaim duit go bhfuil a chruithú fós ina phríomhthosaíocht don Choiste Feidmhiúcháin agus go bhfuil dul chun cinn á dhéanamh tríd an Phlean Soláthair Choinbhéirseachta chun soláthar éifeachtach seirbhísí a chinntiú le linn na hidirthréimhse.

The delay in the establishment of ESA is well known however I can assure you that its creation remains an Executive priority and progress is being made through the Convergence Delivery Plan to ensure the efficient delivery of services in this transitional period.

With regard to the moratorium on job evaluations, this is applicable only to all new and re-evaluations and does not affect any evaluations already in the queue as part of the original job evaluation agreement. To this end therefore the priority for the Education & Library Boards is to complete all current outstanding job evaluations.

Furthermore, as you may be aware a 'Review on Job Evaluation in the Education & Library Boards' has been completed which includes recommendations on the most appropriate way forward, both in the interim period and for the longer term once ESA is established. You will appreciate however that the agreement of all parties, through the Joint Negotiating Council, to any proposed way forward is essential.

To conclude, therefore, once all current outstanding job evaluations are completed and the way forward agreed by all relevant parties the position regarding the moratorium will be reviewed.

Jordanstown Schools for Children with Auditory or Visual Impairments

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education (i) to detail (a) her Department's investment; and (b) all other investment in the Jordanstown Schools for Children with Auditory or Visual Impairments in each of the last three years; and (ii) for an estimate of the capital expenditure in the 2010/11 financial year.
(AQW 6379/10)

Minister of Education: Ní mhaoiníonn an Roinn Oideachais (RO) aon scoil speisialta go díreach. Leithdháiltear ar Bhoird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOLanna) an chuid is mó den chistiú d'oideachas speisialta mar chistiú nár cuireadh in áirithe, agus cineann na BOLanna úsáid an chistithe seo mar chuid dá gcinntí blaintúla ar leithdháileadh a mblocdheontais. Tá buiséid leatharmhligthe ag scoileanna speisialta, agus coinníonn na BOLanna féin gach costas atá bainteach le daltaí.

The Department of Education (DE) does not directly fund any special school.

The bulk of funding for special education is allocated to Education and Library Boards (ELBs) as non-earmarked funding, the deployment of which is determined by the ELBs as part of their annual decisions about the allocation of their block grant. Special schools have partially delegated budgets, with all pupil related costs being retained centrally by the ELBs.

I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the North-Eastern Education and Library Board that delegated and non-delegated budgets in respect of Jordanstown Schools in each of the last three financial years is as follows:-

2007/08	Budget	Expend	Balance
Delegated Budget	134,011	118,472	15,539
Non Delegated Budget			
Staffing	1,066,787	1,105,840	-39,053
Non Staffing	44,088	61,368	-17,280
	1,110,875	1,167,208	-56,333

2008/09	Budget	Expend	Balance
Delegated Budget	138,591	132,070	6,521
Non Delegated Budget			
Staffing	1,146,460	1,107,871	38,589
Non Staffing	64,769	44,512	20,257
	1,211,229	1,152,383	58,846

2009/10	Budget	Expend	Balance
Delegated Budget	147,115	130,967	16,148
Non Delegated Budget			
Staffing	1,186,449	1,164,093	22,356
Non Staffing	51,614	28,275	23,339
	1,238,063	1,192,368	45,695

Jordanstown Schools had approached DE about the possibility of accessing capital funding for the new build, but the school authorities were advised that any potential contribution from government funds would require strict compliance with guidance on tender procedures which would have involved publishing an invitation to tender via the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). As the school authorities acted independently and as the project was not taken forward as part of the DE's capital allocation process, no capital funding can be made available in 2010/11 or subsequent financial years.

New School Building for Young People with Visual Impairments

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the total investment in the new school building for young people with visual impairments; and (ii) how the upgraded facilities will impact on children with sensory impairment.

(AQW 6380/10)

Minister of Education: Mar atá luaite i mo fhreagra ar do AWQ 6379/10, ní mhaoiníonn an Roinn Oideachais (an RO) aon scoil speisialta go díreach. Leithdháiltear ar Bhoird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOLanna) an chuid is mó den chistiú d'oideachas speisialta mar chistiú nár cuireadh in áirithe, agus cineann na BOLanna úsáid an chistithe seo mar chuid dá gcinntí blaintúla ar leithdháileadh a mblocdheontais. Tá buiséid leatharmhligthe ag scoileanna speisialta, agus coinníonn na BOLanna féin gach costas atá bainteach le daltaí.

As stated in my response to your previous AQW 6379/10 the Department of Education (DE) does not directly fund any special school. The bulk of funding for special education is allocated to Education and Library Boards (ELBs) as non-earmarked funding, the deployment of which is determined by the ELBs

as part of their annual decisions about the allocation of their block grant. Special schools have partially delegated budgets, with all pupil related costs being retained centrally by the ELBs.

Jordanstown Schools had approached DE at an advanced stage of planning about the possibility of accessing capital funding for the new build, but the school authorities were advised that any potential contribution from government funds would require strict compliance with guidance on tender procedures which would have involved publishing an invitation to tender via the Official Journal of the European Union.

The school authorities decided, based on funds generated from a disposal of surplus, non-educational land to self-fund its capital development. In doing so, DE standard capital planning processes were not followed, including that of an economic appraisal. The designs were informally shared with DE and some guidance accepted to moderate the schedule of accommodation (SOA) provided and to bring costs to an affordable level for the school, although the SOA is still in excess of the type of provision that DE would have agreed for a school of this size.

As the school authorities acted independently and as the project was not taken forward as part of the DE's capital allocation process, no capital funding can, therefore, be made available.

In view of the above you will appreciate that, at this stage, I am not in a position to comment on how the upgraded facilities will impact on children with sensory impairment. In due course the Education and Training Inspectorate will have an opportunity to carry out an inspection of the education provision being delivered in the new school.

Jordanstown Schools for Children with Auditory or Visual Impairments

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education, given the capital investment in upgrading facilities at the Jordanstown Schools for Children with Auditory or Visual Impairments, why her Department plans to cut the resource budget which will result in fewer teaching staff and reduce the benefit of the new upgraded facilities for children.

(AQW 6381/10)

Minister of Education: Níl sé ar intinn ag an Roinn Oideachais (RO) buiséad acmhainne Scoileanna Bhaile Shiurdáin a laghdú mar ní mhaoiníonn an RO aon scoil speisialta go díreach. Mar atá luaite i mo fhreagra ar do AWQ 6379/10, leithdháiltear ar Bhoird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (BOLanna) an chuid is mó den chistiú d'oideachas speisialta mar chistiú nár cuireadh in áirithe, agus cineann na BOLanna úsáid an chistithe seo mar chuid dá gcinntí blaintúla ar leithdháileadh a mblocdheontais. Tá buiséid leatharmhligthe ag scoileanna speisialta, agus coinníonn na BOLanna féin gach costas atá bainteach le daltaí.

The Department of Education (DE) is not planning to cut the resource budget of Jordanstown Schools as DE does not directly fund any special schools. As stated in my answer to your previous AQW 6379/10 the bulk of funding for special education is allocated to Education and Library Boards (ELBs) as non-earmarked funding, the deployment of which is therefore determined by the ELBs as part of their annual decisions about the allocation of their block grant. Special schools have partially delegated budgets, with all pupil related costs being retained centrally by the ELBs.

The Chief Executive of the North-Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that the proposed reduction in the budget in 2010/11 is in respect of non delegated staffing as the school has been asked to reduce their staffing numbers to reflect the falling pupil enrolment in Jordanstown Schools.

Jordanstown Schools for Children with Auditory or Visual Impairments

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister of Education what consideration was given to the Education and Training Inspectorate's 2008 report, which stated that the Jordanstown Schools for Children with Auditory or Visual Impairments should co-ordinate the development of a regional sensory advisory support service, before the decision was taken to reduce the resource expenditure at Jordanstown Schools and to invest capital and resources in a further specialist unit for young people with visual impairments elsewhere.

(AQW 6382/10)

Minister of Education: As with all inspection reports the Department of Education (DE) gave full consideration to the 2008 focused inspection report of Jordanstown Schools.

However as special educational provision is the responsibility of the Education and Library Boards (ELBs), the 5-Board Regional Strategy Group for Special Educational Needs (RSG), at the request of DE, established a working group to promote a consistent approach to service delivery across all Boards which is in line with recommendations contained in the Audit Office report in 1998.

Mar atá luaite i mo fhreagra ar do AWQ 6381/10, ní mhaoiníonn an RO aon scoil speisialta go díreach agus, mar sin de, níl sé ar intinn aici an caiteachas acmhainne a laghdú ar Scoileanna i mBaile Shiurdáin.

As stated in my response to your previous AQW 6381/10 DE does not directly fund any special school and is not planning, therefore, to reduce the resource expenditure at Jordanstown Schools.

The background to the decision to invest capital funding in this resource and the RSG's decision to locate it in the former Castle High School, Belfast is outlined in my response to your previous AQW 6380/10.

I can assure you that the expertise of the staff in the Jordanstown Schools is very much valued. I understand that the Principal of Jordanstown Schools has attended meetings of the sub-group to contribute to discussion about the operational aspects of the centralised resource and the determining factors in establishing the regional resource base in Castle High School.

New School Builds

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to list the schools which will benefit from the budget announced for 2010/11 in relation to new school builds; and the value of each new build.

(AQW 6428/10)

Minister of Education: There are 16 major capital school projects currently on site, representing an investment of over £252m, which will require funding from the capital budget for 2010/11. These are as follows:-

School Name	Capital Cost £M
Assumption G.S. Ballynahinch	13.7
Banbridge Academy	17.9
Belfast Model School For Boys	32.7
Belfast Model School For Girls	30.9
Grosvenor G.S.	27.8
Lisbellaw P.S.	2.3
Lisnagelvin P.S. Derry	5.5
Magherafelt H.S.	10.5
Our Lady & St Patrick's College Knock	23.0
St Cecilia's College, Derry	19.8
St Dominic's H.S. Belfast	18.5
St Joseph's P.S. Carryduff	5.8
St Mary's College Derry	19.8
St Mary's P.S. Portglenone	3.9
St Patrick's G.S. Downpatrick	16.8
St Patrick's & St Brigid's P.S. Ballycastle	3.9

Tá an glanbhuiséad caipitil de £169 milliún don bhliain 2010-11 £84 milliún níos lú agus a bhí sé don bhliain 2009-10, agus ní dhearna mé aon chinneadh ar cé na foirgníochtaí nua scoile a bheidh in ann dul ar aghaidh sa bhliain airgeadais 2010/11. Tá athbhreithniú ar na hoibreacha caipitil faoi bhealach lena chinntiú go n-úsáidfear na sócmhainní atá ar fáil chun na torthaí is fearr a bhaint amach do pháistí agus chun an luach is fearr a bhaint amach do gach cáiníochóir. Mar gheall ar an staid airgeadais sa bhliain 2010/11, ní mór cinntí deacra a dhéanamh.

The net capital budget for 2010-11 of £169million is some £84 million lower in real terms than 2009-10, and I have not yet taken any decision on which new school builds will be able to proceed in the 2010/11 financial year. A review of capital works is underway to ensure that available resources are used to secure the best outcomes for children and maximise value for every taxpayer. Given the straitened financial position in 2010/11 tough decisions will have to be taken.

Capital Build Programme

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education what impact the budget announced for 2010/11 will have in relation to the overall review of the Capital Build Programme.

(AQW 6429/10)

Minister of Education: Is tábhachtach go mbeidh ár n-infheistiú in eastát na scoileanna inmharthana inbhuanaithe san fhadtárma agus go gcloífidh sé lenár ndualgais reachtúla um chomhionannas agus um spriocadh ar bhonn riachtanas cuspóireach. Is lárnach de seo atá Gach Scoil ina Scoil Mhaith, an Curaclam Athbhreithnithe, an Creat Teidlíochta, Scoileanna Inmharthana agus an tAthbhreithniú ar an Ghaelscolaíocht. Is é sin an fáth gur choimisiúnaigh mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal caipitil chun cuidiú le cur chuige níos straitéisí a fhorbairt ar chinntí infheistithe caipitil agus ar bhainistíocht eastát na scoileanna. Tá an t-athbhreithniú ceaptha lena chinntiú go gcuirfidh muid méid chuí agus cineál chuí scoile sa suíomh chuí chun riachtanais na bpáistí agus na ndaoine óga a bhaint amach.

It is critical that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework and adheres to the department's statutory duties in relation to equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. At the heart of this is Every School a Good School, Revised Curriculum, Entitlement Framework, Sustainable Schools and the Irish Medium Review. This is why I have commissioned a review of all capital projects to inform a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and management of the schools estate. The review is intended to ensure that we put the right size and type of school in the right location to meet the needs of children and young people.

The rate at which we can build new schools is a separate issue and dependent on the available resources. The Education budget as you will be aware is set by the Executive. In my budget statement on 21 April 2010 I highlighted the challenging financial position being faced. My Department has tough decisions to make and I look forward to support from all parties when I make bids for additional funding during in year monitoring rounds.

I have to emphasise that at this stage I have not withdrawn funding for any school. However, given the reduced funding available to my Department it is inevitable that not all capital projects can be progressed as planned.

Emotional Well-being in Schools

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 4197/10, to detail the participation levels in (i) mentoring, peer mediation and circle time; (ii) school councils and other pupil participation schemes; and (iii) volunteering, in each of the last three academic years.

(AQW 6456/10)

Minister of Education: The only information which my Department holds is in respect of volunteering through the Millennium Volunteers Programme.

The youth service has a strong voluntary ethos and actively encourages volunteering in a variety of ways, for example through the Millennium Volunteers programme (MV), which is funded by my

Department. Millennium Volunteers make their commitment through a Volunteer Plan that involves 50, 100 or 200 hours of voluntary service in a 12 month period.

Since 1999, over 5500 young people have registered on the programme, with over 4000 gaining the 100 hour Award and over 3000 gaining the Award of Excellence for over 200 hours of voluntary work.

Ina theannta sin, lainseáil Clár Oibríthe Deonacha na Mílaoise Bronnadh na Scoileanna sa bhliain 2007 chun aitheantas a thabhairt do dhaoine óga a bhíonn ag tairiscint cabhrach trína scoileanna. Go dtí seo, chuir 208 duine óg Bronnadh na Scoileanna i gcrích agus meastar go gcuirfidh 520 duine eile an bronnadh i gcrích i mbliana.

In addition, in 2007, the Millennium Volunteer Programme launched the Schools Award to recognise young people volunteering through their schools. To date 308 young people have completed the Schools Award, with a further 520 expected to complete the award this year.

Teacher-pupil Ratio

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the current; and (ii) the average teacher-pupil ratio in (a) each controlled school; and (b) each maintained school, broken down by (c) primary school; and (d) secondary school.

(AQW 6469/10)

Minister of Education: Soláthraítear Cóimheasa Daltaí le Múinteoirí (PTRanna) sna táblaí thíos.

The Pupil: Teacher Ratios (PTRs) are given in the tables below.

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Belfast Education and Library Board			Portrush Primary School	Portrush	21.13
Avoniel Primary School	Belfast	20.13	Portstewart Primary School	Portstewart	22.08
Ballygolan Primary School	Newtownabbey	10.95	Randalstown Central Primary School	Antrim	22.52
Ballysillan Primary School	Belfast	18.81	Rasharkin Primary School	Ballymena	21.00
Beechfield Primary School	Belfast	11.51	Rathcoole Primary School	Newtownabbey	20.28
Belmont Primary School	Belfast	23.24	Silverstream Primary School	Carrickfergus	18.55
Blackmountain Primary School	Belfast	17.14	Straid Primary School	Ballyclare	19.40
Blythefield Primary School	Belfast	15.67	Straidbilly Primary School	Ballymoney	17.20
Botanic Primary School	Belfast	20.48	Straidhavern Primary School	Crumlin	19.31
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	Belfast	15.79	Sunnylands Primary School	Carrickfergus	16.54

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Carr's Glen Primary School	Belfast	22.06	Templepatrick Primary School	Ballyclare	23.88
Cavehill Primary School	Belfast	23.53	The Diamond Primary School	Ballymena	17.00
Currie Primary School	Belfast	15.22	The Wm. Pinkerton Memorial Primary School	Ballymoney	18.94
Donegall Road Primary School	Belfast	17.79	Thompson Primary School	Ballyclare	20.00
Dundela Infants School	Belfast	21.75	Tildarg Primary School	Ballyclare	16.34
Edenbrooke Primary School	Belfast	13.28	Tobermore Primary School	Magherafelt	19.70
Elmgrove Primary School	Belfast	20.47	Toreagh Primary School	Larne	18.81
Euston Street Primary School	Belfast	20.20	Upper Ballyboley Primary School	Ballyclare	13.52
Fane Street Primary School	Belfast	17.50	Victoria Primary School	Carrickfergus	24.30
Finaghy Primary School	Belfast	24.19	Whiteabbey Primary School	Newtownabbey	24.06
Forth River Primary School	Belfast	22.83	Whitehead Primary School	Carrickfergus	22.00
Glenwood Primary School	Belfast	20.57	Whitehouse Primary School	Newtownabbey	21.60
Greenwood Primary School	Belfast	24.49	Woodburn Primary School	Carrickfergus	22.55
Grove Primary School	Belfast	16.17	Woodlawn Primary School	Carrickfergus	21.62
Harding Memorial Primary School	Belfast	20.63	South Eastern Education and Library Board		
Harmony Primary School	Belfast	19.45	Abbey Primary School	Newtownards	22.88
Knocknagoney Primary School	Belfast	14.86	Academy Primary School	Saintfield	22.44
Ligoniel Primary School	Belfast	20.17	Alexander Dickson Primary School	Newtownards	20.95
Lowwood Primary School	Belfast	25.93	Anahilt Primary School	Hillsborough	24.01

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools						
Malvern Primary School	Belfast	16.42		Andrews Memorial Primary School	Newtownards	22.60
Nettlefield Primary School	Belfast	17.13		Ballinderry Primary School	Lisburn	20.59
Orangefield Primary School	Belfast	23.51		Ballycarrickmaddy Primary School	Lisburn	22.43
Rosetta Primary School	Belfast	20.14		Ballycloughan Primary School	Saintfield	12.50
Seaview Primary School	Belfast	20.07		Ballyholme Primary School	Bangor	23.66
Springfield Primary School	Belfast	14.20		Ballykeigle Primary School	Newtownards	15.06
Springhill Primary School	Belfast	20.58		Ballymacash Primary School	Lisburn	22.07
Strandtown Primary School	Belfast	24.77		Ballymagee Primary School	Bangor	25.47
Stranmillis Primary School	Belfast	25.98		Ballynahinch Primary School	Ballynahinch	18.60
Suffolk Primary School	Belfast	11.44		Ballyvester Primary School	Donaghadee	15.47
Taughmonagh Primary School	Belfast	13.82		Ballywalter Primary School	Newtownards	19.48
Vere Foster Primary School	Belfast	14.75		Belvoir Park Primary School	Belfast	15.83
Victoria Park Primary School	Belfast	17.52		Bloomfield Primary School	Bangor	18.27
Wheatfield Primary School	Belfast	16.18		Braniel Primary School	Belfast	20.73
Western Education and Library Board				Brooklands Primary School	Belfast	19.05
Aghadrumsee Primary School	Enniskillen	16.53		Brownlee Primary School	Lisburn	20.88
Ardstraw Primary School	Omagh	19.67		Cairnshill Primary School	Belfast	22.80
Artigarvan Primary School	Strabane	22.08		Carr Primary School	Lisburn	18.82
Ashlea Primary School	Derry	17.09		Carrickmannon Primary School	Newtownards	19.59
Ballinamallard Primary School	Enniskillen	20.48		Carrowdore Primary School	Carrowdore	16.52

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Ballougry Primary School	Derry	22.32	Carryduff Primary School	Belfast	21.18
Ballykelly Primary School	Limavady	22.43	Castle Gardens Primary School	Newtownards	27.00
Bellarena Primary School	Limavady	13.98	Castlewellan Primary School	Castlewellan	15.60
Belleek Primary School	Enniskillen	15.83	Clandeboye Primary School	Bangor	18.89
Bready Jubilee Primary School	Strabane	19.55	Comber Primary School	Newtownards	18.61
Bridgehill Primary School	Castledearg	15.33	Crawfordsburn Primary School	Bangor	21.00
Brookeborough Primary School	Enniskillen	15.75	Cregagh Primary School	Belfast	15.47
Cooley Primary School	Omagh	21.17	Cumran Primary School	Downpatrick	19.95
Culmore Primary School	Derry	20.50	Derriaghy Primary School	Lisburn	11.90
Cumber Claudy Primary School	Derry	20.67	Derryboy Primary School	Crossgar	20.65
Denamona Primary School	Omagh	19.00	Donaghadee Primary School	Donaghadee	22.70
Derrygonnelly Primary School	Enniskillen	14.59	Downpatrick Primary School	Downpatrick	18.25
Donemana Primary School	Strabane	18.32	Downshire Primary School	Hillsborough	23.08
Dromore Primary School	Omagh	14.32	Dromara Primary School	Dromara	22.37
Drumachose Primary School	Limavady	20.18	Dundonald Primary School	Belfast	23.44
Drumahoe Primary School	Derry	19.97	Dunmurry Primary School	Belfast	19.66
Drumlegagh Primary School	Omagh	14.00	Fort Hill Primary School	Lisburn	24.27
Drumrane Primary School	Dungiven	23.25	Gilnahirk Primary School	Belfast	28.10
Dunmullan Primary School	Omagh	21.33	Glasswater Primary School	Downpatrick	17.77
Ebrington Controlled Primary School	Derry	21.02	Grange Park Primary School	Bangor	23.24

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Edwards Primary School	Castledearg	15.83	Grey Abbey Primary School	Newtownards	18.25
Eglinton Primary School	Derry	22.56	Harmony Hill Primary School	Lisburn	23.45
Enniskillen Model Primary School	Enniskillen	22.05	Hollywood Primary School	Hollywood	21.44
Erganagh Primary School	Castledearg	14.33	Kilcooley Primary School	Bangor	17.51
Florencecourt Primary School	Enniskillen	18.40	Killinchy Primary School	Newtownards	21.03
Fountain Primary School	Derry	16.67	Killowen Primary School	Lisburn	21.56
Gibson Primary School	Omagh	17.31	Killyleagh Primary School	Downpatrick	14.40
Gillygooley Primary School	Omagh	20.00	Kilmaine Primary School	Bangor	27.61
Gortin Primary School	Omagh	15.00	Kirkistown Primary School	Newtownards	20.31
Greenhaw Primary School	Derry	21.29	Knockbreda Primary School	Belfast	16.07
Irvinestown Primary School	Enniskillen	20.70	Knockmore Primary School	Lisburn	10.06
Jones Memorial Primary School	Enniskillen	19.28	Largymore Primary School	Lisburn	18.14
Kesh Primary School	Enniskillen	20.91	Lead Hill Primary School	Belfast	20.83
Killen Primary School	Castledearg	18.40	Lisburn Central Primary School	Lisburn	17.69
Lack Primary School	Enniskillen	17.00	Lisnasharragh Primary School	Belfast	21.45
Langfield Primary School	Omagh	20.00	Londonderry Primary School	Newtownards	20.84
Limavady Central Primary School	Limavady	23.39	Loughries Primary School	Newtownards	16.83
Lisbellaw Primary School	Enniskillen	21.36	Maghaberry Primary School	Craigavon	22.52
Lisnagelvin Primary School	Derry	23.78	McKinney Primary School (Dundrod)	Crumlin	16.59

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Derry Model Primary School	Derry	23.37	Meadow Bridge Primary School	Hillsborough	22.17
Maguiresbridge Primary School	Enniskillen	20.00	Millisle Primary School	Newtownards	17.64
McClintock Primary School	Omagh	16.47	Moira Primary School	Moira	23.60
Moat Primary School	Enniskillen	21.39	Moneyrea Primary School	Newtownards	19.24
Newbuildings Primary School	Derry	19.13	Newcastle Primary School	Newcastle	16.88
Newtownbutler Primary School	Enniskillen	16.60	Newtownards Model Primary School	Newtownards	21.74
Newtownstewart Model Primary School	Omagh	19.00	Newtownbreda Primary School	Belfast	15.60
Omagh County Primary School	Omagh	20.69	Old Warren Primary School	Lisburn	16.53
Queen Elizabeth II Primary School	Omagh	18.67	Pond Park Primary School	Lisburn	22.32
Sion Mills Primary School	Strabane	23.26	Portavogie Primary School	Newtownards	19.81
Strabane Controlled Primary School	Strabane	21.61	Rathmore Primary School	Bangor	22.66
Tempo Primary School	Enniskillen	21.00	Redburn Primary School	Holywood	17.86
North Eastern Education and Library Board					
Abbots Cross Primary School	Newtownabbey	24.25	Riverdale Primary School	Lisburn	22.69
Ampertaine Primary School	Maghera	21.19	Seymour Hill Primary School	Belfast	17.19
Antrim Primary School	Antrim	25.21	Spa Primary School	Ballynahinch	22.47
Armoy Primary School	Ballymoney	15.30	Tonagh Primary School	Lisburn	19.96
Ashgrove Primary School	Newtownabbey	21.92	Towerview Primary School	Bangor	19.80
Ballee Primary School	Ballymena	17.09	Tullycarnet Primary School	Belfast	14.20
			Victoria Primary School	Newtownards	22.83

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Ballycarry Primary School	Carrickfergus	18.88	Victoria Primary School (Ballyhalbert)	Newtownards	17.59
Ballyclare Primary School	Ballyclare	20.20	West Winds Primary School	Newtownards	19.43
Ballycraigy Primary School	Antrim	17.64	Southern Education and Library Board		
Ballyhenry Primary School	Newtownabbey	18.10	Abercorn Primary School	Banbridge	22.36
Ballykeel Primary School	Ballymena	19.49	Aghavilly Primary School	Armagh	15.00
Ballymena Primary School	Ballymena	21.00	Annalong Primary School	Newry	22.57
Ballymoney Primary School	Ballymoney	16.63	Armstrong Primary School	Armagh	17.42
Ballynure Primary School	Ballyclare	21.33	Augher Central Primary School	Augher	15.83
Ballysally Primary School	Coleraine	15.56	Aughnacloy Primary School	Aughnacloy	19.80
Ballytober Primary School	Bushmills	17.38	Ballydown Primary School	Banbridge	24.13
Balnamore Primary School	Ballymoney	20.41	Ballyoran Primary School	Portadown	18.11
Bellaghy Primary School	Magherafelt	16.36	Ballytrea Primary School	Dungannon	17.45
Broughshane Primary School	Ballymena	23.92	Benburb Primary School	Benburb	4.58
Buick Memorial Primary School	Ballymena	21.71	Bessbrook Primary School	Newry	19.60
Bushmills Primary School	Bushmills	18.92	Birches Primary School	Craigavon	22.50
Bushvalley Primary School	Ballymoney	18.69	Bleary Primary School	Craigavon	17.41
Cairncastle Primary School	Larne	18.74	Bocombra Primary School	Portadown	22.66
Camphill Primary School	Ballymena	24.16	Brackenagh West Primary School	Kilkeel	20.55
Carnaghts Primary School	Ballymena	15.49	Bronte Primary School	Banbridge	21.53
Carnalbanagh Primary School	Ballymena	13.84	Bush Primary School	Dungannon	21.50

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Carnalridge Primary School	Portrush	21.33	Carntall Primary School	Clogher	19.33
Carniny Primary School	Ballymena	21.80	Carrick Primary School	Lurgan	17.03
Carnmoney Primary School	Newtownabbey	21.58	Churchill Primary School	Caledon	18.89
Carrickfergus Central Primary School	Carrickfergus	19.93	Churchtown Primary School	Cookstown	16.78
Carrickfergus Model Primary School	Carrickfergus	25.38	Clare Primary School	Tandragee	22.80
Carrowreagh Primary School	Ballymoney	19.29	Clogher Regional Primary School	Clogher	8.02
Castledawson Primary School	Magherafelt	19.64	Coagh Primary School	Cookstown	14.36
Castleroe Primary School	Coleraine	15.90	Cookstown Primary School	Cookstown	18.61
Clough Primary School	Ballymena	19.45	Cortamlet Primary School	Newry	20.80
Cloughmills Primary School	Ballymena	13.53	Craigavon Primary School	Craigavon	21.40
Creavery Primary School	Antrim	17.26	Darkley Primary School	Armagh	16.20
Crumlin Primary School	Crumlin	18.29	Derryhale Primary School	Portadown	18.68
Culcrow Primary School	Coleraine	16.88	Dickson Primary School	Lurgan	17.80
Cullycapple Primary School	Coleraine	11.33	Donacloney Primary School	Craigavon	19.45
Culnady Primary School	Maghera	13.67	Donaghey Primary School	Dungannon	18.44
Damhead Primary School	Coleraine	20.30	Donaghmore Primary School	Dungannon	14.67
DH Christie Memorial Primary School	Coleraine	21.66	Dromore Central Primary School	Dromore	23.19
Doagh Primary School	Ballyclare	15.44	Dromore Road Primary School	Warrenpoint	18.41
Drumard Primary School	Maghera	14.51	Drumadonnell Primary School	Banbridge	24.98

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Dunclug Primary School	Ballymena	16.71	Drumgor Primary School	Craigavon	19.50
Duneane Primary School	Antrim	15.45	Drumhillery Primary School	Armagh	17.11
Dunseverick Primary School	Bushmills	17.96	Drumsallen Primary School	Armagh	22.16
Earlview Primary School	Newtownabbey	20.00	Dungannon Primary School	Dungannon	14.60
Eden Primary School	Carrickfergus	22.77	Edenderry Primary School	Craigavon	17.72
Eden Primary School	Ballymoney	21.31	Edenderry Primary School	Banbridge	20.91
Fairview Primary School	Ballyclare	22.57	Fair Hill Primary School	Dromore	20.66
Fourtowns Primary School	Ballymena	20.85	Fivemiletown Primary School	Fivemiletown	23.14
Garryduff Primary School	Ballymoney	17.35	Foley County Primary School	Armagh	17.75
Garvagh Primary School	Coleraine	18.29	Hamiltonsbawn Primary School	Armagh	22.57
Glynn Primary School	Larne	19.44	Hardy Memorial Primary School	Armagh	23.02
Gorran Primary School	Coleraine	18.70	Hart Memorial Primary School	Craigavon	21.14
Gracehill Primary School	Ballymena	22.53	Howard Primary School	Dungannon	21.70
Greenisland Primary School	Carrickfergus	23.79	Iveagh Primary School	Newry	21.93
Greystone Primary School	Antrim	20.10	Keady Primary School	Armagh	9.09
Groggan Primary School	Antrim	19.53	Kilkeel Primary School	Kilkeel	19.71
Harpurs Hill Primary School	Coleraine	16.03	Killylea Primary School	Armagh	15.29
Harryville Primary School	Ballymena	15.23	Killyman Primary School	Dungannon	16.95
Hazelbank Primary School	Ballymena	17.14	King's Park Primary School	Lurgan	22.58
Hezlett Primary School	Coleraine	20.93	Kingsmills Primary School	Armagh	17.33

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Hollybank Primary School	Newtownabbey	24.15	Lisfearthy Primary School	Dungannon	17.33
Irish Society's Primary School	Coleraine	21.88	Lisnadill Primary School	Armagh	16.82
Kells & Connor Primary School	Ballymena	20.99	Lurgan Model Primary School	Lurgan	18.70
Kilbride Primary School	Ballyclare	16.82	Maralin Village Primary School	Craigavon	22.68
Killowen Primary School	Coleraine	21.25	Markethill Primary School	Armagh	22.97
Kilmoyle Primary School	Ballymoney	18.83	Millington Primary School	Craigavon	23.50
Kilrea Primary School	Coleraine	17.82	Milltown Primary School	Banbridge	15.31
Kilross Primary School	Magherafelt	17.15	Moneymore Primary School	Magherafelt	21.24
King's Park Primary School	Newtownabbey	21.06	Mountnorris Primary School	Armagh	19.32
Kirkinriola Primary School	Ballymena	21.03	Moy Regional Primary School	Dungannon	18.00
Knockahollet Primary School	Ballymena	15.60	Moyallon Primary School	Craigavon	21.62
Knockloughrim Primary School	Magherafelt	16.75	Mullaghglass Primary School	Newry	17.91
Landhead Primary School	Ballymoney	13.90	Mullavilly Primary School	Tandragee	22.27
Larne and Inver Primary School	Larne	20.94	Newmills Primary School	Dungannon	21.00
Leaney Primary School	Ballymoney	22.71	Newtownhamilton Primary School	Newry	18.00
Linn Primary School	Larne	22.28	Orchard County Primary School	Craigavon	19.44
Lislagan Primary School	Ballymoney	19.80	Orritor Primary School	Cookstown	22.52
Loanends Primary School	Crumlin	23.25	Poyntzpass Primary School	Poyntzpass	22.11
Longstone Primary School	Ballymena	16.31	Queen Elizabeth II (Pomeroy) Primary School	Dungannon	11.31
Macosquin Primary School	Coleraine	21.13	Rich Mount Primary School	Portadown	17.53

School Name	Town/city	PTR	Name	Town/city	PTR
(a) (c) Controlled Primary Schools					
Maghera Primary School	Maghera	14.28	Richmond Primary School	Dungannon	17.67
Magherafelt Controlled Primary School	Magherafelt	20.07	Scarva Primary School	Craigavon	15.94
Mallusk Primary School	Newtownabbey	20.36	Stewartstown Primary School	Stewartstown	13.93
Millburn Primary School	Coleraine	21.72	Tandragee Primary School	Tandragee	22.43
Moorfields Primary School	Ballymena	24.22	The Cope Primary School	Armagh	16.54
Mossgrove Primary School	Newtownabbey	19.86	Tullygally Primary School	Lurgan	16.00
Mossley Primary School	Newtownabbey	23.38	Walker Memorial Primary School	Dungannon	19.50
Moyle Primary School	Larne	18.32	Waringstown Primary School	Craigavon	23.56
Mullaghdubh Primary School	Larne	13.05	Windsor Hill Primary School	Newry	18.13
Oakfield Primary School	Carrickfergus	21.02	Woods Primary School	Magherafelt	20.86
Olderfleet Primary School	Larne	20.42			
Parkgate Primary School	Ballyclare	17.89			
Parkhall Primary School	Antrim	24.10			
Portglenone Primary School	Ballymena	20.43			

School Name	Town/City	PTR	Name	Town/City	PTR
(a) (d) Controlled Secondary¹ Schools					
Belfast Education and Library Board			Parkhall High College	Antrim	14.90
Ashfield Boys' High School	Belfast	14.45	South Eastern Education and Library Board		
Ashfield Girls' High School	Belfast	15.25	Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	Bangor	15.70
Belfast Boys' Model School	Belfast	14.43	Donaghadee High School	Donaghadee	7.58

School Name	Town/City	PTR		Name	Town/City	PTR
(a) (d) Controlled Secondary¹ Schools						
Belfast Model School For Girls	Belfast	14.03		Dundonald High School	Belfast	11.76
Castle High School	Belfast	3.65		Dunmurry High School	Belfast	13.49
Orangefield High School	Belfast	13.66		Glastry College	Newtownards	15.17
Western Education and Library Board				Knockbreda High School	Belfast	13.34
Castledearg High School	Castledearg	13.92		Laurelhill Community College	Lisburn	14.76
Devenish College	Enniskillen	14.04		Lisnagarvey High School	Lisburn	12.15
Limavady High School	Limavady	13.71		Movilla High School	Newtownards	14.52
Lisnaskea High School	Enniskillen	11.99		Nendrum College	Newtownards	14.42
Lisneal College	Derry	14.32		Newtownbreda High School	Belfast	15.85
Omagh High School	Omagh	14.16		Saintfield High School	Saintfield	15.04
Strabane High School	Strabane	12.90		The High School Ballynahinch	Ballynahinch	12.70
North Eastern Education and Library Board				Southern Education and Library Board		
Ballee Community High School	Ballymena	14.05		Aughnacloy High School	Aughnacloy	12.11
Ballycastle High School	Ballycastle	14.16		Banbridge High School	Banbridge	14.29
Ballyclare Secondary School	Ballyclare	14.82		City Armagh High School	Armagh	11.84
Ballymoney High School	Ballymoney	13.79		Clounagh Junior High School	Portadown	14.08
Carrickfergus College	Carrickfergus	14.25		Cookstown High School	Cookstown	15.40
Coleraine College	Coleraine	11.56		Craigavon Senior High School	Portadown	13.55
Cullybackey High School	Ballymena	15.13		Dromore High School	Dromore	16.14

School Name	Town/City	PTR		Name	Town/City	PTR
(a) (d) Controlled Secondary¹ Schools						
Downshire School	Carrickfergus	13.29		Drumglass High School	Dungannon	13.61
Dunclug College	Ballymena	14.42		Fivemiletown College	Fivemiletown	13.32
Dunluce School	Bushmills	15.79		Kilkeel High School	Newry	14.03
Garvagh High School	Coleraine	12.13		Killicomaine Junior High School	Portadown	14.41
Glengormley High School	Newtownabbey	13.75		Lurgan Junior High	Lurgan	15.59
Larne High School	Larne	13.55		Markethill High School	Armagh	15.84
Maghera High School	Maghera	8.75		Newry High School	Newry	14.26
Magherafelt High School	Magherafelt	13.43		Newtownhamilton High School	Newry	12.46
Monkstown Community School	Newtownabbey	14.59		Rathfriland High School	Newry	14.65
Newtownabbey Community High School	Newtownabbey	13.87		Tandragee Junior High School	Tandragee	13.47

1 Excludes Grammar Schools

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
Belfast Education and Library Board				St Mary's Primary School (Bellaghy)	Magherafelt	19.06
Edmund Rice (CB) Primary School	Belfast	20.64		St Mary's Primary School (Cushendall)	Ballymena	18.24
Holy Child Primary School	Belfast	20.83		St Mary's Primary School (Draperstown)	Magherafelt	23.00
Holy Cross Boys' Primary School	Belfast	21.35		St Mary's Primary School (Glenravel)	Ballymena	18.75
Holy Cross Girls' Primary School	Belfast	15.79		St Mary's Primary School (Portglenone)	Ballymena	20.01

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
Holy Family Primary School	Belfast	19.49		St Mary's Primary School (Rathlin Island)	Ballycastle	4.00
Holy Rosary Primary School	Belfast	18.40		St Mary's-on-the-Hill Primary School	Newtownabbey	22.69
Holy Trinity Primary School	Belfast	18.89		St Nicholas' Primary School	Carrickfergus	22.20
Mercy Primary School	Belfast	21.24		St Olcan's Primary School	Ballymoney	13.91
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	Belfast	22.57		St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School	Antrim	17.87
Our Lady's Girls' Primary School	Belfast	18.50		St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School	Ballycastle	21.20
Sacred Heart Primary School	Belfast	20.50		St Patrick's & St Joseph's Primary School	Coleraine	20.41
St Aidan's Christian Brothers Primary School	Belfast	18.67		St Patrick's Primary School	Portrush	15.31
St Anne's Primary School	Belfast	24.64		St Patrick's Primary School	Maghera	22.57
St Bernadette's Primary School	Belfast	15.73		St Patrick's Primary School (Loughguile)	Ballymena	20.81
St Bride's Primary School	Belfast	23.28		St Patrick's Primary School (Rasharkin)	Ballymena	20.59
St Clare's Primary School	Belfast	22.49		St Patrick's Primary School (Waterfoot)	Ballymena	20.33
St John the Baptist Boys' Primary School	Belfast	21.15		St Paul's Primary School	Ballymena	8.44
St John the Baptist Girls' Primary School	Belfast	18.10		St Trea's Primary School	Magherafelt	24.25
St Joseph's Primary School (Holland Drive)	Belfast	19.42		Tir na nÓg Primary School	Ballyclare	17.50
St Joseph's Primary School (Slate Street)	Belfast	17.77		South Eastern Education and Library Board		
St Kevin's Primary School	Belfast	20.14		Ballymacrickett Primary School	Crumlin	22.52

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Malachy's Primary School	Belfast	19.48		Ballymacward Primary School	Lisburn	18.60
St Mary's Primary School	Belfast	15.88		Christ the King Primary School	Ballynahinch	21.80
St Mary's Star of the Sea Primary School	Belfast	20.47		Christ the Redeemer Primary School	Belfast	24.70
St Matthew's Primary School	Belfast	19.71		Convent of Mercy Primary School	Downpatrick	18.77
St Michael's Primary School	Belfast	22.09		Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School	Belfast	25.49
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School	Belfast	20.03		Sacred Heart Primary School	Newcastle	21.00
St Paul's Primary School	Belfast	17.09		St Aloysius Primary School	Lisburn	19.35
St Peter's Primary School	Belfast	19.64		St Anne's Primary School	Donaghadee	15.50
St Teresa's Primary School	Belfast	23.12		St Bernard's Primary School	Belfast	24.81
St Therese of Lisieux Primary School	Belfast	21.49		St Brigid's Primary School	Downpatrick	21.38
St Vincent de Paul Primary School	Belfast	20.80		St Caolan's Primary School	Ballynahinch	15.26
Star of the Sea Girls' Primary School	Belfast	18.31		St Colman's Primary School	Moira	2.00
Western Education and Library Board				St Colman's Primary School	Lisburn	22.07
All Saints Primary School	Omagh	10.50		St Colmcille's Primary School	Downpatrick	18.18
Altishane Primary School	Strabane	19.00		St Comgall's Primary School	Bangor	22.31
Barrack Street Boys' Primary School	Strabane	20.33		St Finian's Primary School	Newtownards	21.71
Broadbridge Primary School	Derry	24.80		St Francis' Primary School	Castlewellan	14.68
Bunscoil Cholmcille	Derry	20.13		St Ita's Primary School	Belfast	22.25

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
Chapel Road Primary School	Derry	21.00		St Joseph's Primary School	Lisburn	22.17
Christ the King Primary School	Omagh	15.60		St Joseph's Primary School	Crossgar	19.74
Cornagague Primary School	Enniskillen	19.67		St Joseph's Primary School	Newcastle	21.00
Corranny Primary School	Enniskillen	18.50		St Joseph's Primary School	Strangford	12.00
Craigbrack Primary School	Derry	19.80		St Joseph's Primary School	Killough	19.55
Drumduff Primary School	Omagh	15.67		St Joseph's Primary School (Ballycruttle Road)	Downpatrick	13.47
Drumlish Primary School	Omagh	17.29		St Joseph's Primary School (Carryduff)	Belfast	23.75
Drumnabey Primary School	Castledearg	15.00		St Joseph's Primary School (Tyrella Road)	Downpatrick	15.42
Envagh Primary School	Omagh	14.50		St Kieran's Primary School	Belfast	15.96
Evish Primary School	Strabane	18.33		St Luke's Primary School	Belfast	16.88
Faughanvale Primary School	Derry	20.00		St Macartan's Primary School	Downpatrick	21.54
Glendermott Primary School	Derry	21.50		St Malachy's Primary School	Bangor	20.87
Good Shepherd Primary School and Nursery School	Derry	24.09		St Malachy's Primary School	Castlewellan	18.81
Gortnagarn Primary School	Omagh	14.50		St Malachy's Primary School (Kilcoo)	Newry	18.89
Hollybush Primary School	Derry	23.17		St Malachy's Primary School (Strangford)	Downpatrick	17.75
Holy Child Primary School	Derry	19.64		St Mark's Primary School	Belfast	22.15
Holy Family Primary School	Derry	20.45		St Mary's Aughlisnafin	Castlewellan	20.72

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
Holy Trinity Primary School	Enniskillen	21.43		St Mary's Primary School	Saintfield	17.97
Killyhommon Primary School	Enniskillen	20.33		St Mary's Primary School	Ardglass	20.20
Knocknagor Primary School	Omagh	17.67		St Mary's Primary School	Newcastle	20.83
Listress Primary School	Derry	13.00		St Mary's Primary School (Comber)	Newtownards	15.67
Longtower Primary School	Derry	21.62		St Mary's Primary School (Killyleagh)	Downpatrick	17.57
Loreto Convent Primary School	Omagh	22.89		St Mary's Primary School (Kircubbin)	Newtownards	16.62
Loughash Primary School	Strabane	18.50		St Mary's Primary School (Portaferry)	Newtownards	19.82
Magheralough Primary School	Omagh	13.50		St Nicholas' Primary School	Ardglass	21.48
Mullabuoy Primary School	Derry	23.24		St Patrick's Boys' Primary School	Downpatrick	20.07
Nazareth House Primary School	Derry	20.36		St Patrick's Primary School	Hollywood	20.82
Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School	Omagh	20.20		St Patrick's Primary School	Ballynahinch	20.82
Recarson Primary School	Omagh	21.67		St Patrick's Primary School	Castlewellan	18.76
Roscavey Primary School	Omagh	17.50		St Patrick's Primary School (Legamaddy)	Downpatrick	22.26
Rosemount Primary School	Derry	22.67		St Patrick's Primary School (Portaferry)	Newtownards	20.80
Sacred Heart Primary School	Omagh	22.00		St Patrick's Primary School (Saul)	Downpatrick	25.17
St Aidan's Primary School Magilligan	Limavady	16.00		The Good Shepherd Primary School	Belfast	17.72
St Anne's Primary School	Derry	21.17		The Holy Family Primary School	Downpatrick	25.13
St Anne's Primary School	Strabane	19.23		Southern Education and Library Board		
St Anthony's Primary School	Limavady	15.50		Anamar Primary School	Newry	13.28

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Brigid's Primary School (Gortin)	Omagh	20.93		Aughamullan Primary School	Dungannon	17.00
St Brigid's Primary School (Mountfield)	Omagh	15.20		Ballyholland Primary School	Newry	21.73
St Brigid's Primary School (Shantallow)	Derry	17.72		Ballylifford Primary School	Cookstown	16.93
St Brigid's Primary School (Sixmilecross)	Omagh	15.75		Blessed Patrick O'Loughran Primary School	Dungannon	21.51
St Caireall's Primary School	Castledearg	21.25		Carrick Primary School	Warrenpoint	24.33
St Canice's Primary School (Dungiven)	Derry	21.48		Christian Brothers' Primary School	Armagh	15.74
St Canice's Primary School (Feeny)	Derry	22.12		Clea Primary School	Keady	16.53
St Colmcille's Primary School (Brook Street)	Omagh	22.50		Clintyclay Primary School	Dungannon	15.00
St Colmcille's Primary School (Claudy)	Derry	23.05		Clonalig Primary School	Newry	19.74
St Columban's Primary School	Enniskillen	20.47		Clontifleece Primary School	Warrenpoint	16.87
St Columba's Primary School (Clady)	Strabane	20.00		Cloughoge Primary School	Newry	24.39
St Columba's Primary School (Dromore)	Omagh	8.00		Crievagh Primary School	Cookstown	18.18
St Columba's Primary School (New Buildings)	Derry	16.67		Derrychrin Primary School	Cookstown	19.80
St Columbkille's Primary School	Omagh	19.71		Derrylatinee Primary School	Dungannon	21.78
St Conor's Primary School	Omagh	21.41		Dromintee Primary School	Newry	24.14
St Davog's Primary School	Enniskillen	20.33		Edendork Primary School	Dungannon	20.23

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Davog's Scraghey Primary School	Castlederg	9.50		Grange Primary School	Newry	21.20
St Dympna's Primary School	Omagh	24.17		Holy Cross Primary School	Newry	21.40
St Eithne's Primary School	Derry	22.25		Holy Trinity Primary School	Cookstown	22.51
St Eugene's Primary School	Strabane	18.67		Jonesborough Primary School	Newry	17.80
St Eugene's Primary School	Omagh	20.50		Killean Primary School	Newry	19.26
St Eugene's Primary School	Derry	21.33		Killowen Primary School	Newry	20.58
St Eugene's Primary School (Lisnaskea)	Enniskillen	14.00		Laghey Primary School	Dungannon	16.76
St John the Baptist Primary School	Enniskillen	18.50		Lissan Primary School	Cookstown	20.32
St John's Primary School	Derry	21.41		Moneydarragh Primary School	Newry	20.25
St John's Primary School	Derry	21.43		Mount St Catherine's Primary School	Armagh	20.94
St Joseph's Primary School	Strabane	11.43		Our Lady's and St Mochua's Primary School	Keady	22.44
St Joseph's Primary School (Drumquin)	Omagh	23.25		Our Lady's Primary School	Dungannon	17.78
St Joseph's Primary School (Ederney)	Enniskillen	19.14		Presentation Primary School	Craigavon	22.88
St Joseph's Primary School (Lisnaskea)	Enniskillen	18.75		Primate Dixon Primary School	Coalisland	17.23
St Lawrence's Primary School	Omagh	22.30		Roan St Patrick's Primary School	Dungannon	19.50
St Macartan's Primary School	Omagh	17.50		Sacred Heart Primary School	Dungannon	17.93
St Martin's Primary School	Enniskillen	18.40		St Anthony's Primary School	Craigavon	22.17

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Mary's Boys' Primary School	Strabane	23.04		St Brendan's Primary School	Craigavon	20.59
St Mary's Girls' Primary School	Strabane	21.20		St Brigid's (Drumilly) Primary School	Belleek	22.33
St Mary's Gortnaghey Primary School	Derry	17.00		St Brigid's Primary School	Coalisland	18.43
St Mary's Primary School	Enniskillen	20.40		St Brigid's Primary School	Augher	16.34
St Mary's Primary School	Omagh	22.59		St Brigid's Primary School (Crossmaglen)	Newry	16.78
St Mary's Primary School	Strabane	21.22		St Bronagh's Primary School	Rostrevor	21.22
St Mary's Primary School (Bellanaleck)	Enniskillen	19.33		St Clare's Convent Primary School	Newry	21.90
St Mary's Primary School (Brookeborough)	Enniskillen	20.00		St Colman's (Bann) Primary School	Craigavon	22.25
St Mary's Primary School (Claudy)	Derry	22.22		St Colman's Abbey Primary School	Newry	20.00
St Mary's Primary School (Derrylester)	Enniskillen	22.33		St Colman's Primary School	Dromore	19.77
St Mary's Primary School (Derrylin)	Enniskillen	21.67		St Colman's Primary School	Banbridge	24.88
St Mary's Primary School (Maguiresbridge)	Enniskillen	15.17		St Colman's Primary School (Kilkeel)	Newry	18.00
St Mary's Primary School (Tempo)	Enniskillen	24.50		St Colman's Primary School (Saval)	Newry	23.53
St Matthew's Primary School	Limavady	21.75		St Colmcille's Primary School	Armagh	7.50
St Matthew's Primary School	Dungannon	13.50		St Dallan's Primary School	Warrenpoint	23.01
St Naile's Primary School	Enniskillen	19.75		St Francis of Assisi Primary School	Keady	20.91
St Ninnidh's Primary School	Enniskillen	16.75		St Francis Primary School	Lurgan	22.35

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School	Derry	22.43		St Francis' Primary School	Banbridge	22.00
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School (Beragh)	Omagh	17.97		St James' Primary School	Armagh	12.10
St Patrick's Primary School (Pennyburn)	Derry	22.54		St Jarlath's Primary School	Dungannon	21.38
St Patrick's Primary School	Castledearg	18.92		St John the Baptist Primary School	Craigavon	19.44
St Patrick's Primary School (Carrickmore)	Omagh	12.00		St John's Eglisish Primary School	Craigavon	11.37
St Patrick's Primary School (Derrygonnelly)	Enniskillen	19.94		St Johns Primary School	Armagh	20.09
St Patrick's Primary School (Dunamanagh)	Strabane	14.00		St John's Primary School	Newry	10.88
St Patrick's Primary School (Eskra)	Omagh	17.34		St John's Primary School (Coalisland)	Dungannon	24.00
St Patrick's Primary School (Gortin)	Omagh	18.32		St John's Primary School (Gilford)	Craigavon	18.91
St Patrick's Primary School (Mullinaskea)	Enniskillen	22.94		St John's Primary School (Moy)	Dungannon	20.30
St Patrick's Primary School (Newtownstewart)	Omagh	20.71		St Josephs and St James Primary School	Newry	22.40
St Patrick's Primary School (Seskinore)	Omagh	7.00		St Joseph's Convent Primary School	Newry	19.70
St Paul's Primary School	Enniskillen	19.97		St Joseph's Primary School	Armagh	17.98
St Paul's Primary School (Slievemore)	Derry	19.56		St Joseph's Primary School	Dungannon	20.46
St Peter's & St Paul's Primary School	Derry	17.00		St Joseph's Primary School	Cookstown	22.75

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Peter's Primary School	Omagh	17.60		St Joseph's Primary School	Caledon	16.00
St Ronan's Primary School	Enniskillen	19.00		St Joseph's Primary School (Convent Hill)	Newry	17.65
St Scire's Primary School	Omagh	21.53		St Joseph's Primary School (Kilkeel)	Newry	19.51
St Teresa's Primary School	Omagh	18.28		St Joseph's Primary School (Killeavy)	Newry	17.90
St Theresa's Primary School	Strabane	20.83		St Laurence O'Toole's Primary School	Belleek	18.74
St Therese Primary School	Derry	20.63		St Macartan's Primary School	Clogher	19.97
St Tierney's Primary School	Enniskillen	20.00		St Malachy's Primary School	Magherafelt	23.14
St. Finlough's Primary School	Limavady	16.33		St Malachy's Primary School	Dungannon	17.00
Steelstown Voluntary Maintained Primary School	Derry	20.90		St Malachy's Primary School (Camlough)	Newry	21.77
Tattygar Primary School	Enniskillen	15.67		St Malachy's Primary School (Carnagat)	Newry	19.63
Termoncanice Primary School	Limavady	22.88		St Malachy's Primary School (Chapel Lane)	Armagh	21.67
Trench Road Primary School	Derry	21.93		St Malachy's Primary School (Whitecross)	Armagh	20.00
Tummery Primary School	Omagh	20.73		St Mary's Primary School	Stewartstown	19.83
North Eastern Education and Library Board				St Mary's Primary School	Cookstown	24.57
Altayeskey Primary School	Magherafelt	16.50		St Mary's Primary School	Ballygawley	21.14
Anahorish Primary School	Antrim	22.13		St Mary's Primary School	Fivemiletown	18.00
Ballyhackett Primary School	Coleraine	16.18		St Mary's Primary School	Banbridge	21.22

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
Barnish Primary School	Ballycastle	17.82		St Mary's Primary School	Aughnacloy	18.80
Braid Primary School	Ballymena	8.18		St Mary's Primary School (Annalong)	Newry	16.90
Carlane Primary School	Antrim	15.45		St Marys Primary School (Dechomet)	Castlewellan	18.48
Creggan Primary School	Antrim	18.83		St Mary's Primary School (Gawley's Gate)	Craigavon	18.71
Crossroads Primary School	Coleraine	19.14		St Mary's Primary School (Jerrettspass)	Newry	20.75
Glenann Primary School	Ballymena	15.00		St Mary's Primary School (Lisnagowan)	Dungannon	22.48
Glenravel Primary School	Ballymena	20.43		St Mary's Primary School (Lurgan)	Craigavon	18.50
Greenlough Primary School (St Mary's)	Ballymena	21.29		St Mary's Primary School (Maghera Road)	Dungannon	16.75
Holy Family Primary School	Magherafelt	22.33		St Mary's Primary School (Mullaghbawn)	Newry	23.46
Knocknagin Primary School	Magherafelt	14.50		St Mary's Primary School (Pomeroy)	Dungannon	18.10
Lourdes Primary School	Carrickfergus	22.50		St Mary's Primary School (Rathfriland)	Newry	19.05
Millquarter Primary School	Antrim	17.71		St Mary's Primary School (Tassagh)	Armagh	17.76
Moneynick Primary School	Antrim	17.67		St Mary's Primary School (Whites Road)	Dungannon	21.70
Mount St Michael's Primary School	Antrim	20.18		St Matthew's Primary School	Castlewellan	18.67
New Row Primary School	Magherafelt	20.50		St Michael's Primary School	Armagh	16.72
Seaview Primary School	Ballymena	17.00		St Michael's Primary School	Dromore	18.52
St Anne's Primary School	Ballymena	15.91		St Michael's Primary School (Newtownhamilton)	Newry	13.14

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Anthony's Primary School	Larne	20.22		St Oliver Plunkett Primary School	Loughgall	21.89
St Bernard's Primary School	Newtownabbey	23.76		St Oliver Plunkett Primary School (Forkhill)	Newry	19.00
St Brigid's Primary School	Ballymoney	18.80		St Oliver's Primary School	Newry	17.00
St Brigid's Primary School (Broughshane Road)	Ballymena	22.21		St Patrick's Primary School	Armagh	21.14
St Brigid's Primary School (Cloughmills)	Ballymena	15.74		St Patrick's Primary School	Augher	18.17
St Brigid's Primary School (Knockloughrim)	Magherafelt	20.89		St Patrick's Primary School (Aughagallon)	Craigavon	18.25
St Brigid's Primary School (Tirkane)	Maghera	19.04		St Patrick's Primary School (Coalisland)	Dungannon	19.64
St Ciaran's Primary School	Ballymena	21.67		St Patrick's Primary School (Crossmaglen)	Newry	20.33
St Colmcille's Primary School	Ballymena	21.99		St Patrick's Primary School (Cullyhanna)	Newry	21.21
St Columba's Primary School (Draperstown)	Magherafelt	18.43		St Patrick's Primary School (Hilltown)	Newry	22.58
St Columba's Primary School (Garvagh)	Coleraine	20.80		St Patrick's Primary School (Killyman Road)	Dungannon	23.56
St Columba's Primary School (Kilrea)	Coleraine	21.66		St Patrick's Primary School (Loup)	Magherafelt	18.87
St Columb's Primary School	Magherafelt	23.50		St Patrick's Primary School (Lurgan)	Craigavon	22.36
St Colum's Primary School	Portstewart	20.22		St Patrick's Primary School (Magheralin)	Craigavon	18.75
St Comgall's Primary School	Antrim	21.86		St Patrick's Primary School (Mayobridge)	Newry	20.31

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (c) Maintained Primary Schools						
St Eoghan's Primary School	Magherafelt	21.50		St Patrick's Primary School (Moneymore)	Magherafelt	18.40
St James' Primary School	Newtownabbey	20.37		St Patrick's Primary School (Mullanahoe Road)	Dungannon	24.71
St John Bosco Primary School (Ballynease)	Ballymena	24.00		St Patrick's Primary School (Pomeroy Road)	Dungannon	20.33
St John's Primary School	Coleraine	22.25		St Patrick's Primary School (Rathfriland)	Newry	16.18
St John's Primary School (Carnlough)	Ballymena	20.94		St Patrick's Primary School (Rooney's Meadow)	Newry	20.59
St John's Primary School (Swatragh)	Maghera	22.13		St Paul's Primary School	Newry	20.52
St Joseph's Primary School	Crumlin	22.62		St Peter's Primary School (Bessbrook)	Newry	23.43
St Joseph's Primary School	Antrim	19.06		St Peter's Primary School (Moortown)	Cookstown	18.40
St Joseph's Primary School (Dunloy)	Ballymena	22.57		St Peter's Primary School (Moy)	Dungannon	16.89
St Macnisius' Primary School	Antrim	14.50		St Ronan's Primary School	Newry	25.52
St Macnissi's Primary School	Newtownabbey	22.71		St Teresa's Primary School	Armagh	14.17
St Macnissi's Primary School	Larne	22.12		St Teresa's Primary School	Lurgan	20.00
St Malachy's Primary School	Coleraine	22.00		Tannaghmore Primary School	Craigavon	20.86
St Mary's Primary School	Maghera	20.93				

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (d) Maintained Secondary Schools						
Belfast Education and Library Board				St Benedict's College	Randalstown	15.59
Christian Brothers School	Belfast	13.78		St Colm's High School	Magherafelt	15.15

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (d) Maintained Secondary Schools						
Corpus Christi College	Belfast	12.61		St Comgall's High School	Larne	11.36
De La Salle College	Belfast	13.70		St Joseph's College	Coleraine	13.47
Little Flower Girls' School	Belfast	14.06		St Mary's College	Ballymena	13.32
Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School	Belfast	14.26		St Patrick's Co-educational Comprehensive College	Maghera	14.73
St Gemma's High School	Belfast	12.58		St Patrick's College	Ballymena	15.30
St Genevieve's High School	Belfast	14.76		St Paul's College	Coleraine	14.99
St Joseph's College	Belfast	12.03		St Pius X College	Magherafelt	14.80
St Louise's Comprehensive College	Belfast	13.70		South Eastern Education and Library Board		
St Patrick's College	Belfast	14.59		De La Salle Secondary School	Downpatrick	12.91
St Rose's High School	Belfast	13.69		St Colman's High School	Ballynahinch	13.40
Western Education and Library Board				St Colmcille's High School	Crossgar	15.80
Dean Brian Maguirc College	Omagh	14.35		St Colm's High School	Belfast	13.42
Holy Cross College	Strabane	15.54		St Columbanus' College	Bangor	14.41
Immaculate Conception College	Derry	14.11		St Columba's College	Newtownards	11.13
Sacred Heart College	Omagh	15.00		St Malachy's High School	Castlewellan	13.74
St Aidan's High School	Enniskillen	13.74		St Mary's High School	Downpatrick	14.29
St Brigid's College	Derry	13.53		St Patrick's High School	Lisburn	12.52
St Cecilia's College	Derry	15.08		Southern Education and Library Board		

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (d) Maintained Secondary Schools						
St Comhghall's College	Enniskillen	14.54		Drumcree College	Portadown	12.43
St Eugene's College	Enniskillen	12.89		Holy Trinity College	Cookstown	14.85
St Eugene's High School	Castledearg	11.23		Lismore Comprehensive School	Craigavon	15.39
St Fanchea's College	Enniskillen	14.59		St Brigid's High School	Armagh	13.24
St John's High School	Omagh	9.99		St Catherine's College	Armagh	14.19
St Joseph's Boys' School	Derry	14.25		St Ciaran's High School	Dungannon	14.48
St Joseph's College	Enniskillen	14.69		St Columban's College	Newry	13.12
St Mary's College	Derry	14.85		St Joseph's Boys' High School	Newry	16.69
St Mary's College (Irvinestown)	Enniskillen	12.06		St Joseph's College (Coalisland)	Dungannon	13.54
St Mary's High School	Enniskillen	9.60		St Joseph's College (Crossmaglen)	Newry	14.31
St Mary's Limavady	Limavady	13.82		St Mark's High School	Newry	13.75
St Patrick's & St Brigid's High School	Derry	14.95		St Mary's High School	Newry	15.61
St Patrick's College	Derry	12.77		St Mary's High School (Lurgan)	Craigavon	15.66
St Peter's High School	Derry	10.46		St Patrick's College	Dungannon	15.54
North Eastern Education and Library Board				St Patrick's High School	Banbridge	13.50
Cross and Passion College	Ballycastle	13.96		St Patrick's High School	Keady	14.77
Edmund Rice College	Newtownabbey	13.48		St Paul's High School	Newry	14.99
Our Lady of Lourdes High School	Ballymoney	13.19		St Paul's Junior High School	Craigavon	13.82

School Name	Town/city	PTR		Name	Town/city	PTR
(b) (d) Maintained Secondary Schools						
St Aloysius High School	Ballymena	6.24				

PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO AVERAGES

	Primary	Post-Primary ¹
Controlled	20.43	14.07
Maintained	20.51	14.11

1 Excludes Grammar Schools

Teacher-pupil Ratio

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of classes in each school which exceed her Department's recommended teacher-pupil ratio, broken down by sector.

(AQW 6470/10)

Minister of Education: I ngach bunscoil agus i ngach iarbhunscoil, tá na scoileanna féin freagrach, trí úsáid a gcuid buiséad tarmhligthe as cóimheas daltaí le múinteoirí agus as méideanna ranga a chinneadh. Cuimsíonn an fhreagracht seo líon na múinteoirí agus líon na foirne neamh-mhúinteoireachta, lena n-áirítear cúntóirí ranga, a chinneadh.

In all primary and post-primary schools the responsibility for determining the actual pupil/teacher ratio and class sizes rests with the schools themselves through use of their delegated budgets. This includes determining the number of teachers and non-teaching staff including classroom assistants.

Primary schools do have a statutory obligation under Article 16(2) of the Education Order (NI) 1998 and the Class Sizes in Primary Schools Regulations (NI) 2000 to ensure that class sizes at Foundation Stage (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 1 (Years 3 and 4) do not exceed 30 pupils. Education and Library Boards are responsible for providing any additional funding to eligible schools to enable them to meet this obligation. However, the 2000 Regulations allow boards to direct that exceptions may be allowed in the cases of: a direction by an admissions appeal tribunal; a direction by a board to admit a child to a specified school; a school attendance order; and a statement of special educational needs.

The latest information available comes from the 2009 annual school census and indicates that 75 primary schools have one class exceeding the limit at Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1, and 1 primary school has two classes which exceed the limit. These represent 38 controlled, 33 Maintained and 5 Grant Maintained Integrated schools.

St Patrick's College, Banbridge

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education for an update on the provision of a new build for St Patrick's College, Banbridge, following the new build report from the project consultants and the review of capital projects awaiting approval by her Department.

(AQW 6471/10)

Minister of Education: Tá an t-athbhreithniú caipitil ar siúl agus tá m'fheidhmeannaigh ag obair chun an próiseas a chríochnú, a ghaiste is féidir. Mar gheall ar thábhacht an táisc seo, áfach, tá sé ríthábhachtach go mbailítear fianaise láidir agus go dtugtar breithniú iomlán ar gach tionscadal, sula ndéanfar aon chinneadh. Níl mé in ann, mar sin, nuashonrú a thabhairt ar an soláthar le haghaidh foirgneamh nua do Choláiste Phádraig, Droichead na Banna.

The review of all capital projects in planning is ongoing and my officials are working to complete the process. Given the importance of this task it is essential that robust evidence is collated and that full consideration is given to each project before a decision is taken. I am not, therefore, in a position at present to provide an update on the provision of a new build for St Patrick's College, Banbridge.

2010/11 Budget

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Education if she can confirm that there will be no loss of (i) teaching staff; and (ii) classroom assistants in the Southern Education and Library Board area, in light of her Department's 2010/11 budget.

(AQW 6482/10)

Minister of Education: Mar aitheantas ar an ról lárnach a imríonn an lucht oibre scoile i mo leasuithe oideachais a sholáthar ar an talamh, bhí sé i gcónaí mar thosaíocht agam seirbhísí túslíne a chosaint.

In recognition of the central role played by the school workforce in delivering my educational reforms on the ground, my priority has always been to protect frontline services.

In the 2010/11 budget I have increased the budgets which go directly to schools by 1.9%. In real terms this has meant that school budgets have increased from £1,106m in 2009/10 to £1,127m in 2010/11: a rise of £21m.

At the school level, under the Local Management of Schools funding arrangements, every school then receives an overall delegated budget. Boards of Governors and Principals determine their own spending needs and priorities against this budget, which includes the setting of school workforce staffing complements.

2010/11 Budget

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Education to detail the cuts in services at the Southern Education and Library Board, in light of her Department's 2010/11 budget.

(AQW 6484/10)

Minister of Education: Cuireadh a leithdháiltí buiséid don bhliain 2010-11 in iúl do Bhoird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne agus is í an chéad chéim eile den phróiseas seo ná go gceineann gach Bord cad é mar a sholáthróidh siad seirbhísí oideachais agus tacaíocht do scoileanna ina gceantair faoi seach leis na sócmhainní a leithdháileadh orthu.

Education and Library Boards have been notified of their budget allocations for 2010-11 and the next step in the process is for each Board to determine how they will deliver education services and provide support to schools in each of their respective areas within the resources allocated to them..

In determining these plans, the Education and Library Boards will be expected to deliver on a number of key targets determined by my Department and to ensure that, as far as possible, the budget reductions do not impact on core services for children and youth.

These plans will be submitted to my Department in the coming weeks for approval. It is therefore not possible at this stage to detail any of the proposed cuts in services that the Southern Education and Library Board may propose.

Killard House Special School, Newtownards

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Education what consideration she has given to making the tarmacked play area of Killard House Special School, Newtownards, available for use by the local community and youth club.

(AQW 6496/10)

Minister of Education: Under Article 140 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989, schools are encouraged to make their premises available (when not required by or in connection with the school) for use by members of the community.

I am committed to promoting the wider use of school premises outside of normal school hours to meet the needs of pupils, families and the wider community. The working group established by my Department to explore ways in which community access to school facilities can be increased has recently submitted its final report. The report's recommendations, designed to help inform policy and operations with regards to enhancing community use of school premises, are currently being considered within the Department.

Ós rud é go bhfuil na háitrimh ar Killard House Special School, Baile Nua na hArda, folamh faoi láthair, tá sé de dhualgas ar Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirdheiscirt, i gcomhréir lena dhualgas reachtúla agus lena oibleagáidí airgeadais, cinneadh a dhéanamh ar an phlásóg imeartha a chur ar fáil don phobal áitiúil agus don chlub áitiúil don ógra.

As the premises at Killard House Special School, Newtownards, are currently vacant, the decision on whether to make the play area available for use by a local community and youth club is a matter for the South Eastern Education and Library Board, in line with their statutory duties and financial obligations.

Integrated Schools

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to her revised answer to AQW 5788/10, to list the integrated schools which have not achieved the required minority percentage enrolment for the last (i) ten years; (ii) seven years; (iii) six years; (iv) five years; (v) four years; (vi) three years; (vii) two years; and (viii) one year.

(AQW 6510/10)

Minister of Education: Leagtar amach sa tábla seo thíos na scoileanna comhtháite nár ghlac 30% dá gcuid daltaí ón phobal mionlaigh le linn tréimhse de 10 mbliana ón bhliain 2000/01 go 2009/10. Leagtar amach sa tábla fosta céadatan na ndaltaí a glacadh ón phobal mionlaigh.

The following table sets out the integrated schools which have not drawn 30% of their pupils from the minority community over the 10 year period from 2000/01 to 2009/10. The table also set out what percentage of pupils are drawn from the minority community

Schools which have transformed to integrated status should demonstrate the ability to achieve a minimum of 10% of their first year intake from the minority community and the potential to achieve 30% in the longer term.

Table showing actual % enrolment of pupils drawn from the minority community where the school is situated.

School	09/10	08/09	07/08	06/07	05/06	04/05	03/04	02/03	01/02	00/01
Priory College	10.4	10.7	4.73	6.18	7.63	6.69	5.26	5.38	5.0	5.0
Fort Hill College	7.76	7.4	7.71	8.99	8.61	8.51	9.45	8.77	8.0	7.0
Bangor Central IPS	13.14	12.7	10.14	8.38	8.05	8.65	9.02	8.23	6.0	5.0
Round Tower IPS	26.03	25.8	24.02	15.58	25.0	20.31	17.7			

School	09/10	08/09	07/08	06/07	05/06	04/05	03/04	02/03	01/02	00/01
Portaferry IPS	24.62	20.5	21.79	25.00	16.47	27.38	19.77			
Strangford College	24.95	24.1	24.85	24.18	26.35	27.37				
Kilbroney IPS	23.15	23.8	20.0	20.21	22.34	26.09				
Glencraig IPS	17.35	16.40	15.35	12.83	12.8	10.16				
All Children's IPS	20.28	21.1	24.62	24.49	28.42					
Forge IPS	25.97	26.0	20.80	19.42						
Maine IPS	28.7	28.0	20.45	12.86						
Oakgrove Integrated College	26.53	24.6	28.83							
Drumragh College	27.20	26.0	27.35							
Cliftonville IPS	20.97	18.1								
Oakgrove IPS	28.31	28.8								
Ballymoney IPS	3.53									
Carhill IPS	25.0									
Fort Hill IPS	4.26									
Portadown IPS	26.18									
Parkhall Integrated College	2.22									
North Coast Integrated College	26.53									
Groarty IPS	28.1									

Surplus Places in Pre-schools

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Education how many surplus places there are in pre-schools in the current academic year.

(AQW 6522/10)

Minister of Education: Is é líon na n-áiteanna barrachais san earnáil réamhscolaíochta sa bhliain acadúil reatha ná 156. Sholáthar na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an t-eolas seo agus baineann sé leis an earnáil reachtúil amháin.

The number of surplus places in the pre-school sector in the current academic year is 156. The information has been supplied by the Education and Library Boards and relates to the statutory sector only.

Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Education to outline the exact figures proposed in her funding cuts for (i) schools and youth services community relations programmes; (ii) the 26 community relations organisations; and (iii) for her assessment of the impact of this decrease on the implementation of the Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy.

(AQW 6524/10)

Minister of Education: Existing Community Relations funding schemes were terminated on 31 March 2010.

I have had to balance a range of education priorities against the need to achieve efficiencies but in recognition of the continued need for good relations I have sought to retain a funding stream and have made provision of £1.1m for 2010/11

To facilitate the winding up of existing schemes, short term allocations have been made to ELBs, Youth Council and the 26 community relations organisations. The bulk of the funding for this year will be used in preparation for implementation of the new Community Relations, Equality and Diversity policy which I plan to implement in the current financial year.

At this time I am unable to give precise details of the allocations, but it will not be possible to continue to fund all organisations at the 2009/10 level.

Our schools have an important role to play in relation to community relations. Citizenship is integrated across the revised curriculum, with Personal Development and Mutual Understanding at primary level and Learning for Life and Work at post primary level providing additional opportunities to address equality and diversity issues and promote good relations. Equality and inclusion should be the cornerstones of an education system which enables every learner to fulfil his or her potential.

Agus é a chur san áireamh, tá polasaithe tugtha ar aghaidh agam cheana féin, amhail Gach Scoil ina Scoil Mhaith: Ag Tacú le Daltaí ó Thíortha Eile agus tograí comhairliúcháin ar an Bealach chun Tosaigh do Riachtanais Oideachais Speisialta, agus cuireann siad go léir leis an chur chuige níos leithne atá riachtanach anois chun caidreamh a fheabhsú idir pobail. Cuireadh cistiú de bhreis ar £200m ar fáil chun tacú leis na cláir seo. Chuir mé £90 breise ar fáil do gach dalta bunscoile fosta- is é sin, méadú de 3.1% i gcomparáid leis an fhigiúr don bhliain a chuaigh thart.

With this in mind I have already brought forward policies, such as Every School a Good School: Supporting Newcomer Pupils and consultation proposals on the Way Forward for Special Educational Needs, all of which contribute to the broader approach which is now required to improving relations between communities. Funding in excess of £200m has been made available to support these programmes. I have also made available an additional £90 per primary pupil – an increase of 3.1% compared to last year.

The programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration is in the process of being developed, but at this stage it is my assessment that the range of policies which I am bringing forward will make a significant contribution to this work. We are in a new era of sharing and community relations work in schools must evolve in line with other developments and encompass a wider approach to contribute to addressing good relations.

Braidside Integrated School, Ballymena

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Education what plans she has to replace the mobile classroom units at Braidside Integrated School, Ballymena with permanent school buildings.

(AQW 6540/10)

Minister of Education: I bhfómhar na bliana 2009, d'fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal oibre ollchaipitil. Cuideoidh an t-athbhreithniú caipitil le cur chuige níos straitéisí a fhorbairt ar chinntí infheistithe caipitil agus ar bhainistíocht eastát na scoileanna. Sa timpeallacht gheilleagrach reatha, cinnteoidh an t-athbhreithniú go n-úsáidfear gach acmhainn atá ar fáil chun na torthaí is fearr do pháistí agus an luach is fearr don cháiníocóir a bhaint amach. Mar gheall air seo, tá sé tábhachtach go ndearbhaíonn muid go bhfuil gach tionscadal caipitil ina n-infheistíonn muid inmharthana san fhadtéarma.

In the autumn of 2009, I announced a review of all proposed major capital work projects. The capital review will inform a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and the management of the schools estate. In the current economic climate the review will ensure that available resources are used to secure the best outcomes for children and maximum value for the taxpayer. In light of this it is important that we validate that the capital projects in which we invest are viable in the long term.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place and that it adheres to our statutory duties in relation to equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. At the heart of this is Every School a Good School, Revised Curriculum, Sustainable Schools, Irish Medium Review and the Entitlement Framework. As area based planning develops, these policies will drive the reshaping of our estate and the consequential investment plans.

As the review is currently ongoing, I cannot at this time provide a timeframe for work to commence on any new build projects, including the potential project for Braidside Integrated Primary School.

Capital Builds

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Education to list the schools which have had capital builds approved by her Department but where the building work has not yet started, including the date of approval.

(AQW 6545/10)

Minister of Education: Tá Plean Soláthair Infheistíochta (PSI) na Roinne bunaithe ar réimse fógraí intinne chun bogadh ar aghaidh le tionscadail foirgnimh nua.

The Department's Investment Delivery Plan (IDP) is based on a series of announcements of intention to move forward with a number of new build projects.

Approval to proceed to construction is only given once the appraisal and planning stages have been successfully completed and where the project can be afforded within the resource available.

I attach a list of the projects on the IDP that are still in planning and the date of their announcement.

School Name	Project Details	Date Of Announcement
Artigarvan P.S. Strabane	New school on existing site	March 2006
Arvalee / Cranny Special School Omagh	New school on existing site	March 2006
Ballykelly P.S. Limavady	New school on existing site	March 2006
Ballymoney HS	New school on existing site	April 2004
Bangor G.S.	New school on new site	March 2006
Belmont Special School Derry	New school on existing site	April 2004

School Name	Project Details	Date Of Announcement
Carrick P.S. Warrenpoint	New school on existing extended site	April 2004
Coláiste Feirste, Belfast	Extension & Refurbishment	March 2006
Coranny & Cornagague P.S. Roslea	New school on new site	April 2004
Dean Maguiric College Carrickmore	New school on new site	March 2006
Devenish College Enniskillen	New school on new site	April 2004
Dromintee P.S. Killeavey	New school on existing extended site	April 2004
Dromore Central P.S.	New school on new site	April 2004
Ebrington P.S. Derry	New school on existing site	March 2006
Edenderry N.S./Glenwood P.S. Belfast	New school on new site	March 2006
Edendork P.S. Dungannon	New school on new site	March 2006
Eglinton P.S. Derry	New school on existing site	March 2006
Enniskillen Model P.S.	New school on existing site	March 2006
Foyle & Londonderry College	New school on new site	March 2006
Glastry College Ballyhalbert	New school on existing extended site	March 2006
Greenwood Assessment Centre Belfast	New school on existing site	April 2004
Holy Family P.S. Magherafelt	New school on existing extended site	February 2003
Holy Trinity College Cookstown	New school on existing site	April 2004
Hollywood P.S.	New school on new site	March 2006
Knockbreda H.S. Belfast	New school on existing site	March 2006
Knockevin Special School Downpatrick	New school on existing site	March 2006
Lagan College Belfast (PPP)	Extension & Refurbishment	March 2002
Limegrove / Glasvey Special School Limavady	New school on existing site	April 2004
Little Flower Girls S.S. Belfast	New school on existing site	March 2006
Loreto Grammar Omagh	New school on existing site	April 2004
Lurgan College	New school on existing site	March 2006
Magherafelt P.S.	New school on new site	April 2004
Methodist College Belfast	Extension & Refurbishment	March 2006

School Name	Project Details	Date Of Announcement
Mitchell House Special School Belfast	New school on existing site	April 2004
New Buildings P.S. – Derry	New school on existing site	March 2006
Omagh I.P.S.	New school on new site	February 2003
Parkhall College Antrim	New school on existing site	March 2006
Portadown College	New school on existing site	March 2006
Priory College Holywood	New school on new site	March 2006
Rainey Endowed School Magherafelt	New school on existing site	April 2004
Scoil Na Fuisseoige Belfast	New school on existing site	March 2006
Springhill P.S. Belfast	New school on existing site	February 2003
St Bronagh's P.S. Rostrevor	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Clare's Abbey P.S. Newry	New school on new site	February 2000
St Colman's P.S. Lambeg	New school on existing site	April 2004
St Columba's P.S. Straw	New school on new site	March 2006
St Columbanus College Bangor	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Columbkille's P.S. Carrickmore	New school on existing site	April 2004
St Conor's P.S. Omagh	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Joseph's Convent P.S. Newry	New school on existing site	February 2003
St Joseph's P.S. Madden	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Louis G.S. Kilkeel	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Mary's P.S. Banbridge.	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Mary's P.S. Newcastle	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Oliver Plunkett P.S. Forkhill	New school on new site	April 2004
St Patrick's Academy Dungannon	New school on existing site	February 2003
St Patrick's College Banbridge	New school on existing site	March 2006
St Patrick's G.S. Armagh	Extension & Refurbishment	March 2006
St Paul's P.S. Irvinestown	New school on existing site	April 2004
St Teresa's P.S. Lurgan	New school on existing extended site	February 2003
Strand / Sydenham P.S. Belfast	New school on existing site	April 2004
Strandtown P.S. Belfast	New school on existing site	March 2006
Strathearn G.S. Belfast	New school on existing site	February 2003
Tannaghmore P.S. Lurgan	New school on existing site	March 2006

School Name	Project Details	Date Of Announcement
Taughmonagh PS Belfast	New school on existing site	June 2007
The High School Ballynahinch	New school on existing site	March 2006
Tor Bank Special Belfast (PPP)	New school on existing site	March 2002
Victoria College Belfast	Extension & Refurbishment	March 2006
Whitehouse PS Newtownabbey	New school on existing site	March 2006

In the autumn of 2009, I announced a review of all proposed major capital work projects. The capital review will inform a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and the management of the schools estate. In the current economic climate the review will ensure that available resources are used to secure the best outcomes for children and maximum value for the taxpayer. In light of this it is important that we validate that the capital projects in which we invest are viable in the long term.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place and that it adheres to our statutory duties in relation to equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. At the heart of this is Every School a Good School, Revised Curriculum, Sustainable Schools, Irish Medium Review and the Entitlement Framework. As area based planning develops, these policies will drive the reshaping of our estate and the consequential investment plans.

As the review is currently ongoing, I cannot at this time provide a timeframe for approving the commencement of construction of any of the announced projects still in planning.

Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Education, following the implementation of the Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education's proposals for the North Down and East Belfast constituency, whether students from Bangor will no longer be entitled to free school transport to Belfast.
(AQW 6546/10)

Minister of Education: Rinneadh tograí an Choimisiúin d'Oideachas Caitliceach gan spleáchas leis an Roinn Oideachais, agus tá siad á meas laistigh den earnáil faoi láthair. Go dtí go gcríochnófar an próiseas seo agus go dtí go gcfóirfaidh an Roinn na tograí deiridh, ní féidir a rá cen tionchar a bheadh acu, más ann, ar an teidlíocht le haghaidh cúnamh iompar scoile.

The proposals of the Commission for Catholic Education have been made independently of the Department of Education, and are currently being consulted upon within the sector. Until this process is completed and the final proposals considered by the Department, it is not possible to say what effect, if any, there will be on entitlement for school transport assistance.

Every School a Good School - The School Improvement Policy

Mr J O'Dowd asked the Minister of Education (i) for an update on the implementation of 'Every School a Good School - The School Improvement Policy' in its first year of operation; (ii) to list the schools that have entered the formal intervention process since the launch of the policy; and (iii) to detail how these schools are being supported.
(AQW 6577/10)

Minister of Education: Leagtar amach go soiléir i mo pholasaí um fheabhsúchán scoile an gá le beart a ghlacadh chun caighdeán a ardú agus chun dul i ngeic leis an bhearna dhoghlachtha sa ghnóthachtáil a mhair le rófhada. Cuimsítear ann, fosta, tiomantas soiléir do thacú le scoileanna chun torthaí a fheabhsú do dhaltaí agus aithníonn sé lárnacht na múinteoirí, a dtacaíonn ceannairí éifeachtacha scoile leo, maidir le cuidiú a thabhairt do dhaltaí chun a lánchumas a bhaint amach.

My school improvement policy sets out clearly the need for action to raise standards and to tackle the unacceptable gap in achievement that has persisted for far too long. It also contains a clear commitment to supporting schools to improve outcomes for pupils and recognises the centrality of classroom teachers, supported by effective school leaders, in helping pupils to reach their full potential.

Good progress has been made in ensuring that the education support bodies maintain a clear focus on school performance and respond quickly and appropriately to help schools deliver sustainable self-improvement but it is important to make clear that our progress in ensuring that our schools get the support they need will be much greater once we establish the Education and Skills Authority in line with the Executive's commitment.

The school improvement policy includes a requirement to provide focused support for schools which, as a result of inspection, are found to be offering less than satisfactory provision for their pupils. This support is provided through the Formal Intervention Process. A list of schools that have entered the Process is provided in the table below

School

- Ballee Community High School, Ballymena
- Ballygolan Primary School, Belfast
- Beechfield Primary School, Belfast
- Bunscoil an Traonaigh, Lisnaskea
- Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, Castlewellan
- Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain, Belfast
- Bushmills Primary School
- Cliftonville Integrated Primary School
- Crumlin Integrated College
- Dundonald High School
- Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Belfast
- Gaelscoil na Daróige, Derry
- Gaelscoil na gCrann, Omagh
- Gaelscoil na Móna, Belfast
- Knockbreda High School
- Lisneal College, Derry
- St Bernard's Primary School, Glengormley
- St Bronagh's Primary School, Rostrevor

All schools receiving support through the Formal Intervention Process have committed to working to deliver agreed action plans, quality-assured by ETI, that are designed to address the areas for improvement identified through inspection. All are receiving tailored support from the relevant Education & Library Board, supported where appropriate by the relevant sectoral body. The focus throughout this process is on ensuring that pupils receive the highest possible quality of teaching and learning so that they can achieve to their full potential.

Irish-medium and Integrated Schools

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 6090/10, whether the list of schools provided includes all primary and post-primary Irish-medium and integrated schools.

(AQW 6582/10)

Minister of Education: The list provided previously included all Irish medium and all grant-maintained integrated primary and post-primary schools that were open in 2009/10 and submitted a teacher numbers return in 2008/09. Controlled integrated schools were not included in the previous answer. The pupil-teacher ratios for these schools are given in the tables below.

Controlled Integrated Primary Schools	Location	Pupil: Teacher Ratio
Cliftonville Integrated Primary School	Belfast	19.2
Forge Integrated Primary School	Belfast	22.3
Groarty Primary School	Derry	10.3
Ballycastle Integrated Primary School	Ballycastle	16.6
Carhill Integrated Primary School	Coleraine	20.0
Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School	Ballymena	13.0
Glengormley Integrated Primary School	Newtownabbey	17.6
Rathenraw Integrated Primary School	Antrim	12.8
Round Tower Integrated Primary School	Antrim	20.1
All Childrens Integrated Primary School	Newcastle	20.4
Annsborough Primary School	Castlewellan	14.7
Bangor Central Primary School	Bangor	21.0
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	Holywood	23.8
Kircubbin Primary School	Newtownards	20.2
Portaferry Integrated Primary School	Newtownards	14.6
Kilbroney Integrated Primary School	Newry	19.4
Controlled integrated primary schools average		19.1

Controlled integrated post-primary schools	Location	Pupil: Teacher Ratio
Crumlin Integrated College	Crumlin	12.5
Fort Hill College	Lisburn	13.5
Priory College	Holywood	13.2
Brownlow Integrated College	Craigavon	13.5
Controlled integrated post-primary schools average		13.3

Integrated Schools

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to outline the process of funding for integrated schools and what additional resources are available over and above the funded budget.

(AQW 6585/10)

Minister of Education: De réir na Scéime Comh-mhaoinithe, maoinítear gach scoil dheontaschúnta faoi shocrúithe Bhainistíocht Áitiúil na Scoileanna, a chinntíonn go maoinítear scoileanna ar bhonn cothrom comhsheasmhach, beag beann ar a suíomh tíreolaíoch, ar a saghas bainistíochta nó ar an earnáil ina bhfuil sí páirteach.

In accordance with the Common Funding Scheme, all grant-aided schools are funded under the Local Management of Schools arrangements, ensuring schools are funded on a consistent and equitable basis, regardless of their geographical location, management type or sector.

In determining the budget for individual schools, controlled integrated schools are treated the same as other controlled and maintained schools with similar characteristics.

Grant Maintained Integrated schools receive specific funding within the Common Funding Formula to assist them in meeting their additional responsibilities in respect of the payment of VAT costs, landlord maintenance expenditure and the administration costs associated with the running of their schools. Each of the five Education and Library Boards meet these additional spending commitments centrally for those controlled and maintained schools located within their area.

DE also provides funding to help schools with the transformation process. The budget for 2010/11 is £255,000. . This assists schools in the initial stages of the transformation process and with the employment of a teacher from the minority community in the school, to assist with religious education.

School Building Projects

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to list all Irish-medium school building projects which started in the last three years, including the total budget for each project.

(AQW 6587/10)

Minister of Education: Ní dhearnadh aon tionscadail oibreacha ollchaipitil i nGaelscoileanna sna trí bliana a chuaigh thart. Faomhadh roinnt tionscadal oibreacha mionchaipitil sna trí bliana a chuaigh thart agus tá siad liostaithe thíos.

There have been no major capital works projects undertaken in Irish-medium schools in the past three years. A number of minor capital works projects have been approved in the last three years and are listed below.

School Name	Project Description	Project Budget
Bunscoil an Chaistil	Temporary accommodation	£184,080.00
Bunscoil an Lúir	Fencing	£18,212.50
Bunscoil an Lúir	Temporary accommodation	£54,258.75
Bunscoil an tSléibhe Dhuibh	Temporary accommodation	£87,874.81
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	DDA works	£22,000.00
Coláiste Feirste	Upgrade of floor structure	£38,405.71
Coláiste Feirste	Heating upgrade	£58,500.00
Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir	Extension of intruder alarm	£2,300.00
Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir	Temporary accommodation	£308,144.80
Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir	Development of playground	£49,450.00
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	Temporary accommodation	£38,187.50
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	Temporary accommodation	£110,993.40
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	Telephone system	£799.00
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	Extension of intruder alarm	£616.88
Gaelscoil Uí Dhochartaigh	Access control	£6,587.52

School Name	Project Description	Project Budget
Gaelscoil Uí Néill	Temporary accommodation	£105,255.35
Scoil an Droichid	Provision of school meals accommodation	£100,000.00

Stanley Goudie

School Building Projects

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to list all school building projects which started in the last three years, including the total budget for each project.

(AQW 6589/10)

Minister of Education: The table below provides details of all major school building projects which have started since April 2007.

School	Project Details	Capital Value (£M)
Abbey G.S. Newry	New school	16.2
Ashfield Girls H.S., Belfast	New school	23.4
Ballinderry P.S.	New school	2.6
Ballymacrickett P.S. Crumlin		2.9
Banbridge Academy	Extension & Refurbishment	17.9
Belfast Model School for Boys	New school	32.7
Belfast Model School for Girls	New school	30.9
Brookefield Special School Moira	New school	5.2
Drumragh Integrated College, Omagh	New school	11.1
Drumrane P.S. Dungiven	New school	1.0
Glendhu Nursery School Belfast	New school	0.6
Grosvenor G.S.	New school	27.8
Lisbellaw P.S.	New school	2.3
Lisnagelvin P.S. Derry	New school	5.5
Lisneal College, Derry	New school	14.2
Magherafelt H.S.	New school	10.5
Moorfields P.S. Ballymena	New school	2.1
Mount Lourdes G.S. Enniskillen	Extension & Refurbishment	4.0
Orangefield P.S. Belfast	New school	7.0
Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock	New school	23.0
Pond Park P.S. Lisburn	New school	4.9
Ravenscroft Nursery School, Belfast	New school	0.9
St Catherine's College, Armagh	Extension	0.5

School	Project Details	Capital Value (£M)
St Cecilia's College, Derry	New school	19.8
St Dominic's H.S. Belfast	Extension & Refurbishment	18.5
St Joseph's PS. Carryduff	New school	5.8
St Mary's College, Derry	New school	19.8
St Mary's PS. Portglenone	New school	3.9
St Patrick's & St Brigid's PS. Ballycastle	New school	3.9
St Patrick's G.S. Downpatrick	New school	16.8
St Patrick's PS. Saul	New school	1.5
St Peter's PS. Cloughreagh	New school	3.2
Templepatrick PS.	New school	3.9
Towerview PS. Bangor	New school	3.6
Victoria PS. Ballyhalbert	New school	1.5
Waringstown PS.	Extension & Refurbishment	1.4

Ní féidir liosta dá shamhail de na miontionscadail foirgnimh scoile a sholáthar mar tá barraíocht tionscadal le lua agus bheadh costas díréireach i gceist leis an eolas a iarradh a bhailiú. Is féidir, áfach, sonraí a sholáthar ar an chaiteachas iomlán caipitil de £224,389,000 ar mhiontionscadail chaipitil sna trí bliana a chuaigh thart.

With regard to minor school building projects it is not possible to provide a similar list as there is too great a number and to do so would be a very time consuming exercise for officials and the costs incurred would be disproportionate to the information requested. It has, however, been possible to provide details of the total capital spend on minor capital projects for the last three financial years, which is £224,389,000

Nursery Class at Annaclone Primary School

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Education for an update on the establishment of a new nursery class at Annaclone Primary School.

(AQW 6606/10)

Minister of Education: Tá feidmeannaigh na Roinne ag bailiú gach eolais a bhaineann leis an togra le haghaidh mo chomhairliúcháin. Tá súil agam go mbeidh mé in ann cinneadh a dhéanamh ar an togra seo roimh i bhfad.

Departmental Officials are currently assembling all information relevant to the proposal for my consideration. I hope to be in a position to make a decision on this proposal in the near future.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School

Ms J McCann asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 6283/10, how much funding Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School in the Colin area received for (i) special needs provision; and (ii) children with dyslexia, in each of the last two financial years.

(AQW 6612/10)

Minister of Education: I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the South-Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) that funding provided for the numbers of children identified as requiring special needs provision, at all stages of the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special

Educational Needs, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School in each of the last two financial years is as follows:-

	2008/09 (£)	2009/10 (£)
Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School	104,218	97,550

The Chief Executive has advised that the above figures do not include additional support provided through the Board's Outreach Service which operates from Beechlawn School throughout the SEELB or any funding which may have been provided through the Integrated Development Fund.

It is not possible to specify the amount of funding in respect of children with dyslexia as this service is provided by the Board's Outreach Service.

Community Relations Budget

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Education what formal or informal consultation was undertaken by her Department before the decision was taken to cut the community relations budget.

(AQW 6613/10)

Minister of Education:

- (i) Existing Community Relations funding schemes were terminated on 31 March 2010. In letters dated 25 March 2009 and 3 August 2009 to the ELBs, Youth Council and 26 core funded groups, the Department stated the intention to introduce a new policy and to notify organisations that the current allocation of funding would cease. As part of this process informal consultation was undertaken by officials with the organisations concerned.
- (ii) Dá bharr sin, ba chóir nach gcuirfí isteach ar aon tionscadail a fuair cistiú faoi scéimeanna roimhe seo. Fuair gach eagraíocht atá i dtreis rabhadh dóthanach chun tionscadail reatha a chur i gcrích nó sruthanna malartacha cistithe a fháil.
- (ii) Consequently, there should be no projects that received funding under the previous schemes that should be affected. All affected organisations had sufficient notice to bring existing projects to a conclusion or to seek alternative funding streams.

Community Relations Budget

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Education to list the projects in each constituency which will be affected by the 70% cut to the community relations budget within her Department.

(AQW 6614/10)

Minister of Education:

- (ii) Existing Community Relations funding schemes were terminated on 31 March 2010. In letters dated 25 March 2009 and 3 August 2009 to the ELBs, Youth Council and 26 core funded groups, the Department stated the intention to introduce a new policy and to notify organisations that the current allocation of funding would cease. As part of this process informal consultation was undertaken by officials with the organisations concerned.
- (ii) Dá bharr sin, ba chóir nach gcuirfí isteach ar aon tionscadail a fuair cistiú faoi scéimeanna roimhe seo. Fuair gach eagraíocht atá i dtreis rabhadh dóthanach chun tionscadail reatha a chur i gcrích nó sruthanna malartacha cistithe a fháil.
- (ii) Consequently, there should be no projects that received funding under the previous schemes that should be affected. All affected organisations had sufficient notice to bring existing projects to a conclusion or to seek alternative funding streams.

Free School Meals

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister of Education (i) how many children are currently in receipt of free school meals; and (ii) how many additional children could receive free school meals after she has allocated additional funding, in each constituency.

(AQW 6623/10)

Minister of Education: The number of pupils in each constituency who were entitled to free school meals as recorded by the October 2009 School Census was as follows:

Constituency	Number of Pupils Entitled to Free School Meals			
	Primary ¹	Post-primary	Special	Total
Belfast East	1,187	846	70	2,103
Belfast North	2,781	2,256	79	5,116
Belfast South	1,126	894	361	2,381
Belfast West	3,394	2,938	140	6,472
East Antrim	958	797	135	1,890
East Derry	1,572	1,180	104	2,856
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1,397	1,547	140	3,084
Foyle	3,635	3,194	143	6,972
Lagan Valley	1,056	670	172	1,898
Mid Ulster	1,638	1,427	17	3,082
Newry and Armagh	2,219	1,973	67	4,259
North Antrim	1,475	1,258	82	2,815
North Down	682	476	27	1,185
South Antrim	1,115	902	29	2,046
South Down	1,660	1,530	19	3,209
Strangford	970	602	111	1,683
Upper Bann	1,935	1,534	49	3,518
West Tyrone	2,051	1,739	139	3,929
Total	30,851	25,763	1,884	58,498

Note:

1. Primary includes years 1-7, nursery and reception classes.

As part of the budget allocations for education services for 2010/11 I was delighted to be able to make an additional £3 million available to extend the free school meals criteria. Families with children in full-time nursery places and/or primary schools in receipt of working tax credit and with a taxable income below £16,190 (in 2010/11), will now be able to ensure that their children receive a nutritious meal in the middle of the day. This will be introduced on a phased basis over two years with nursery, Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils eligible from September 2010.

When the change is implemented in full it is estimated that an additional 20,000 children in nursery and primary school will be eligible for free school meals. It is not possible to break this figure down by constituency as the estimates were not done to that level of detail.

Má tá teaghlaigh i dteideal béilí saora scoile, tá siad i dteideal tairbhí eile fosta, lena n-áirítear deontais éidí scoile, agus mholfainn do gach teaghlach ísealioncaim a lántéidlíocht a éiliú.

Eligibility for free school meals also entitles families to other benefits, including school uniform grants and I would encourage all lower income families to claim their full entitlement.

Retired Teachers

Mr M Durkan asked the Minister of Education what consultation has been carried out in relation to pension rates payable to retired teachers in 2010/11.

(AQW 6626/10)

Minister of Education: Public service pensions are increased under the provisions of the Pensions (increase) Act 1971 and Section 59 of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

The Treasury has detailed that the Minister of State (Pensions and the Ageing Society) has confirmed, benefits such as additional pensions would not be up-rated from April 2010 as the Retail Price Index was negative (-1.4%); therefore public service pensions would not be up-rated from April 2010.

Is í an Roinn Airgeadais agus Pearsanra, ina cáil mar ionadaí an NICS ar an Choiste Oifigiúil um Pinsin Ghairme (COPG), atá i gceannas ar a leithéid de shaincheistanna agus tugann sí comhairle gurb í an Státchiste a shocraíonn an ráta agus nach bhfuil an ráta seo neamh-inchaibidle. Mar sin de, níl aon chomhairliúchán ar an phróiseas um méadú bliantúil pinsin.

The Department of Finance and Personnel, in their capacity as the NICS representative on the Official Committee on Occupational Pensions (OCOP), is the lead on any such issues and they advise the rate is set by the Treasury and this is non negotiable, therefore there is no consultation on the annual pension increase process.

Nursery School Places

Mrs N Long asked the Minister of Education whether she has any plans to increase the number of nursery school places available for the academic year 2010/11, given the oversubscription of places in the East Belfast constituency.

(AQW 6628/10)

Minister of Education: Tá an próiseas iontrála le haghaidh soláthar réamhscoile don scoilbhliain 2010/11 fós ar siúl. Chuir na Boird Oideachais an próiseas tosaigh iontrála i gcrích ar 30 Aibreán 2010, nuair a fuair tuismitheoirí litir a chuir in iúl dóibh cén suíomh inar glacadh lena bpáiste réamhscoile. Cuireadh in iúl do gach tuismitheoir nár glacadh lena pháiste ina chéad rogha scoile ar 30 Aibreán 2010, cá háit a bhfuil soláthar malartach fós ar fáil.

The admissions process to pre-school provision in the 2010/11 school year is still ongoing. The initial process of admissions was completed by the Education and Library Boards on 30 April 2010, when parents received a letter notifying them of the setting for which their pre-school child has been accepted. Parents of all children, unplaced in settings of their choice at 30 April 2010, were advised where alternative provision is still available.

Education and Library Boards are now going through the re-allocation of places process for those children who were not placed at 30 April 2010. It is expected that this process will be completed by the end June 2010. Education and Library Boards will seek to extend the number of places in existing settings, where possible, or to admit to the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme new pre-school providers in the voluntary/private sector to address any shortfall.

In the 2009/10 school year the Department secured additional funding to meet demand for extra places. In order to maintain this increased level for the forthcoming school year an additional £300,000 of funding has been made available to Education and Library Boards.

The Department will continue to liaise with the Education and Library Boards to ensure that, as far as possible, demand for pre-school places is met.

Braidside Integrated Primary School, Ballymena

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new build for Braidside Integrated Primary School, Ballymena.

(AQW 6630/10)

Minister of Education: Mar is eol duit, d'fhógair mé athbhreithniú ar gach tionscadal molta oibre ollchaipitil i bhfómhar na bliana 2009. Cuideoidh an t-athbhreithniú caipitil le cur chuige níos straitéisí a fhorbairt ar chinntí infheistithe caipitil agus ar bhainistíocht eastát na scoileanna. Sa timpeallacht gheilleagrach reatha, cinnteoidh an t-athbhreithniú go n-úsáidfear gach acmhainn atá ar fáil chun na torthaí is fearr do pháistí agus an luach is fearr don cháiníocóir a bhaint amach. Mar gheall air seo, tá sé tábhachtach go ndearbhaíonn muid go bhfuil gach tionscadal caipitil ina n-infheistíonn muid inmharthana san fhadtéarma.

As you are aware, in the autumn of 2009, I announced a review of all proposed major capital work projects. The capital review will inform a more strategic approach to capital investment decisions and the management of the schools estate. In the current economic climate the review will ensure that available resources are used to secure the best outcomes for children and maximum value for the taxpayer. In light of this it is important that we validate that the capital projects in which we invest are viable in the long term.

It is critically important that investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place and that it adheres to our statutory duties in relation to equality and targeting on the basis of objective need. At the heart of this is Every School a Good School, Revised Curriculum, Sustainable Schools, Irish Medium Review and the Entitlement Framework. As area based planning develops, these policies will drive the reshaping of our estate and the consequential investment plans.

As the review is currently ongoing, I cannot at this time provide a timeframe for work to commence on any new build projects, including the potential project for Braidside Integrated Primary School.

State Funded Nursery Places

Mr M Durkan asked the Minister of Education (i) to list the numbers and locations of state funded nursery places available in the Shantallow area for 2010/11; and (ii) to detail the number of applications for these places that were (a) received; and (b) rejected.

(AQW 6634/10)

Minister of Education: Chuir Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Iarthar in iúl go mionsonraítear sa tábla thíos (i) líonta agus suíomhanna na n-áiteanna stáchtistithe réamhscoile atá ar fáil do limistéar Sheantalaimh don bhliain 2010/11, agus (ii) líon na n-iarratas ar na háiteanna seo (a) a fuarthas; agus (b) ar diúltaíodh dóibh.

The Western Education and Library Board have advised that (i) the numbers and locations of state funded nursery places available in the Shantallow area for 2010/11 and (ii) the number of applications for these places that were (a) received; and (b) rejected are as detailed in the table below.

(i)		(ii)	
Location	Number of Places Available	(a) Number of Applications Received	(b) Number of Applications Rejected
Shantallow East	52	84	32
Shantallow West	50	61	11

Classroom Assistants

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail her Department's policy in relation to the employment of classroom assistants.

(AQW 6642/10)

Minister of Education: Tá lucht oibre ag scoileanna i dtuaisceart na hÉireann atá ard-spreagtha, solúbtha agus tiomanta, rud a bhí ar cheann de na príomhchúiseanna le caighdeán oideachais a ardú.

Schools in the north of Ireland possess a highly motivated, flexible and committed workforce which has been one of the prime factors in raising educational standards.

To date my Department's policy framework has focused on the teaching workforce. I do however recognise the invaluable contribution provided by classroom assistants and my Department has provided significant funding for classroom assistants in Years 1 and 2 in primary schools.

Going forward, the School Workforce Review will examine the respective roles, responsibilities and the contribution of the differing skills and expertise of the entire school workforce. Recommendations flowing from this review will inform future policy, particularly regarding the non-teaching staff, of which classroom assistants form a vital component.

Whatever their role, my aim is to ensure that members of the school workforce have the skills and knowledge to do the best job they possibly can to ensure every child and young person has the opportunity to succeed.

Value Added Score at GCSE A-Level

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of Education to outline how the value-added score at (i) GCSE; and (ii) A-Level compares between (a) grammar schools; (b) non-grammar secondary schools; and (c) integrated schools.

(AQW 6649/10)

Minister of Education: San am i láthair, ní áiríonn an Roinn beart breisluacha comhtheacsúil do scoileanna. Mar chuid de Gach Scoil ina Scoil Mhaith- beartas um fheabhsúchán scoile- tá an Roinn tiomanta do bheart breisluacha comhtheacsúil a fhorbairt, lena bheith in úsáid le bearta eile i bhfeidhmiúchán na scoileanna a mheas lena bheith comhthráthach le tabhairt isteach shocruithe na measúnachta athbhreithnithe.

The Department does not currently calculate a contextual value added measure for schools. The Department is committed as part of Every School a Good School – a policy for school improvement - to develop a contextual value-added measure, to be used alongside other measures in assessing the performance of schools, to coincide with the introduction of the revised assessment arrangements.

Department for Employment and Learning

Careers Resource Centres

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether he plans to review the Careers Resource Centres as proposed in the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance 'Preparing for Success: A Strategy and Implementation Plan' in 2009.

(AQW 6439/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning (Sir Reg Empey): Currently there are two Careers Resource Centres operating in Northern Ireland, one in Belfast and the other in Londonderry. An independent review was completed in June 2009 and the report concluded that the Careers Resource Centre model is contributing positively to the delivery of careers services. The Department is currently considering the future potential for this approach.

Careers Resource Centres

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for his assessment of the impact of the Careers Resource Centres on adults over 25 years old.

(AQW 6440/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: My Department's Careers Service is fully committed to monitoring and evaluating the impact of services.

In January 2008, my Department established two new Careers Resource Centres in Belfast and Londonderry. An independent review in June 2009 examined the impact of the Careers Resource Centres and one of the key findings was:

"Evidence both quantitative and qualitative supports the argument that the Resource Centres have succeeded, so far, in providing an improved service to increasing numbers of clients."

The review also reported that:

"Early findings from Careers Resource Centres show some promising results in terms of:

- increased levels of adult caller traffic;
- high levels of satisfaction from users of the service;
- new additional services being offered and delivered to young people and adults such as improved access to web-based services, new resource guides and some group work activities."

Figures show that there has been an increase in caller traffic since the establishment of the Resource Centres. Caller traffic has increased by 79% from 2008 to 2009 in Belfast and Londonderry. Adult caller traffic has increased by 54% in the same period. The Department defines an 'adult' as someone who is 18 years and over and unfortunately information is not available on adults over 25 specifically.

As a result of the service provided by the Resource Centres, a client satisfaction survey in 2009 reported that:

- 82.4% of respondents were more confident about their future.
- 75% of respondents were more motivated.
- 71.2% of respondents were more aware of what they have to offer to an employer.
- 62.9% of respondents knew more about how to get into training.
- 69.4% of respondents knew how to go about finding opportunities to learn.
- 66.7% of respondents knew how to go about finding a job.
- 71.2% of respondents knew how to plan for the future.

The Careers Service is currently working with colleagues in the UK Careers Policy Forum and the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network to agree longer term impact measures of careers guidance.

Adult Guidance Provision and Delivery

Mr P Butler asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) how much has been spent on external consultants reviewing adult guidance provision and delivery in (a) 2007/08; (b) 2008/09; and (c) 2009/10; (ii) to detail the tender specifications for consultants' reviews; (iii) to outline the findings of the reviews; and (iv) whether all reports have been published.

(AQW 6457/10)

Minister for Employment and Learning: (i) Between 2007 and 2010, my Department has spent a total of £23,500 on external consultants reviewing adult guidance provision and delivery as follows:

- (a) 2007/2008 - Nil.
- (b) 2008/2009 - £13,580

(c) 2009/2010 - £9,920

(ii) The tender specification set out the following priorities to underpin the future delivery of adult careers guidance services:

1. To ensure the service offered is coherent with other publicly funded services and initiatives.
2. To ensure that the Adult Careers Guidance Service delivery is provided within a quality-assured framework that forms part of a continuous quality improvement strategy.
3. To ensure maximum impact from service delivery is achieved.
4. To ensure delivery on priority targets in line with DEL's specified aims and objectives.

(iii) The report identified the preferred option as 'DEL to retain an all age careers guidance service in-house and to outsource a suite of 'niche' adult careers guidance services to EGSA on a formal Service Level Agreement contract'.

(iv) The report 'Review of the Delivery of Adult Careers Guidance Services' (December 2009) is published on the Department's website www.delni.gov.uk. In addition, in 2007 the Centre for Guidance Studies was commissioned to carry out a piece of research exploring Adult Guidance Provision in Northern Ireland. This report is also available on my Department's website.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Quinn Insurance

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she or her Department has had any discussions with Quinn Insurance in relation to saving jobs.

(AQW 6564/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster): As Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment I have been closely involved with the developing situation at Quinn Insurance Limited since it was placed into Administration on the 30th March 2010.

Since then, I have held a number of meetings and had many discussions with my Ministerial counterparts in the Republic of Ireland, the senior management of Quinn Insurance, including the appointed administrators, as well as employee representatives in order to show my support and commitment to retain all of the employment in Northern Ireland.

Despite all of these efforts, the company administrators announced on 30th April 2010 that they were entering into a consultation process on a proposed redundancy programme affecting approximately 900 people from across the Quinn Insurance business in the UK and Ireland. Of the total redundancies announced, I understand that 179 relate directly to the Enniskillen Centre. A further 27 jobs are impacted in the Derrylin operation.

My concern and thoughts continue to be with the employees and their families affected by this situation and I will continue to work very closely with Invest NI to do everything possible to limit the impact of the proposed redundancies.

Wind Turbines

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if he has had any contact with Northern Ireland Electricity in relation to waiving the charge for the connection of wind turbines on private property, thus encouraging the use of sustainable energy.

(AQW 6611/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Officials in my Department have been in contact with Northern Ireland Electricity in relation to the cost and timeliness of connection of wind turbines to the electricity network.

Connection charges must be cost reflective and it would be unacceptable for other electricity consumers in Northern Ireland to incur the costs of connecting wind turbines on private property. There are separate incentives to encourage renewable generation by means of the Northern Ireland Renewables Obligation.

There is a published Connection Charging Statement for connection to the electricity distribution system which is agreed with the Utility Regulator. A review of connection charges is planned by the Utility Regulator in the autumn of 2010.

Fuel Poverty

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with the Minister for Social Development regarding concerns that the 2010 fuel poverty targets have not been met.

(AQO 1194/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: I have not had any recent discussions with the Minister for Social Development on this issue. My Department is however on the Inter-departmental Group on Fuel Poverty that she chairs and which is charged with ensuring effective co-ordination of policies and actions to address fuel poverty.

In addition, my officials meet regularly with key fuel poverty stakeholders including the Consumer Council, National Energy Action and the Utility Regulator's office.

Investment: East Belfast

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what measures she has taken to attract business investment to East Belfast.

(AQO 1196/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Between 2002-2003 and 2009 - 2010, Invest NI has issued almost 1,000 offers of assistance to businesses in East Belfast. These offers amounted to £140 million of support and generated total investment in the constituency of £951million.

The support covers the range of Invest NI assistance, with 207 offers made to externally-owned companies, including Citi and the development of the new Bombardier C-Series. Over 700 offers were made to the constituency's indigenous business base and over 700 new business starts were supported in the constituency between 2002-2003 and 2009 - 2010.

Invest NI's full range of support continues to be available to businesses in East Belfast to assist them in increasing export levels and stimulating a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. And through initiatives such as the Accelerated Support Fund and the Short Term Aid Scheme, we have continued to work proactively with local companies and entrepreneurs to help minimise the impact of the economic downturn.

Quinn Insurance

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on any discussions she has had with the Executive about asking the British and Irish Governments to underwrite any shortfall resulting from the Financial Regulator's concerns regarding Quinn Insurance.

(AQO 1197/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: On Friday 30th April 2010, the Board of Quinn Group released a statement that in view of the funding required to meet the solvency requirements laid down by the Irish Financial Regulator that the future of Quinn Insurance is probably best protected under new ownership. As a result, Invest NI officials had an urgent meeting with senior representatives from the Quinn Group on Wednesday 5th April 2010, to ensure that every effort is made to maintain the vital investment and employment in the Fermanagh and surrounding areas. Invest NI gave a commitment to set up an urgent meeting with the Irish Regulator which has been requested for next week.

I can also confirm that the First Minister and Deputy First Minister have written to both the British and Irish governments asking that efforts are made by all agencies to mitigate the damaging financial and social impact of the planned redundancies at Quinn Insurance on both sides of the border.

Executive Subcommittees on the Economy

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what progress is being made by the Executive Sub-Committee on the Economy and for an outline of any actions or proposals it has made to date.

(AQO 1198/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: I wrote to the Executive on 25 January 2010 with the proposal to establish an Executive Sub-Committee on the Economy. This was subsequently agreed on 15 April 2010 and I will be chairing the first meeting of the Sub-Committee on 20 May 2010.

Our first key task at that meeting will be to agree the steps that are required to develop an economic strategy to grow a dynamic and innovative economy.

Economic Growth

Rev Dr R Coulter asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what action she has taken to advance long-term economic growth.

(AQO 1199/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Growing a more dynamic, innovative economy remains a key priority for my Department and the wider Executive.

That is why DETI and Invest NI have prioritised improving private sector productivity by targeting support to attract foreign direct investment, encourage investment by local companies, promote research & development and exporting, and develop Northern Ireland's telecommunications infrastructure.

I also commissioned the Independent Review of Economic Policy to help better align policies, programmes and resources to support economic growth. The Independent Report, which I received in September 2009, contains 58 recommendations, the majority of which I have accepted. Arrangements have been put in place to oversee the implementation of these recommendations, which is progressing in line with the timescales detailed in my statement to the Assembly on the 25th January 2010.

Tourism: Volcanic Eruption

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline any continuing difficulties being experienced by the tourism industry due to the recent volcanic eruption.

(AQO 1200/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The tourism sector is directly affected by the ability of tourists to get to Northern Ireland and recent cancellations equate to a direct loss for the accommodation sector, and an indirect loss of associated spend in the local area.

It is estimated that between £1.3million and £1.8million pounds of direct tourism expenditure may have been lost to the Northern Ireland economy during the initial days of the flight restrictions.

Tourism Ireland took prudent steps to postpone campaigns, particularly those with air carriers, for the duration of the closure of airspace and publicised the fact that ferry companies continued to operate normally. All campaigns have since been re-instated.

Northern Ireland airspace was temporarily closed again on the morning of Tuesday 4th May 2010. If air travel restrictions continue to be sporadic for any length of time difficulties for the tourism industry are to be expected and my Department, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Tourism Ireland will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Corporation Tax

Mr J McCallister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of whether a reduction in corporation tax would be beneficial in attracting foreign investment and what action her Department intends to take following the Economic Reform Group's report.

(AQO 1201/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: There is evidence that a reduced corporation tax would be beneficial in helping to attract foreign direct investment to Northern Ireland. However, we also need to carefully consider the financial implications associated with such a reduction.

This is a strategically important issue and will be part of the deliberations of the recently established Executive Sub-Committee on the economy.

Quinn Insurance

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with the administrator in relation to job losses at Quinn Insurance and to outline her Department's strategy for dealing with the impact of the planned 800 redundancies.

(AQO 1202/10)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: As Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment I have been closely involved with the developing situation in Quinn Insurance Limited since it was placed into Administration on the 30th March 2010. Since then, I and my officials have been in regular contact with the company administrators, senior management and employees. My officials in Invest NI have been in contact with the Administrator on a daily basis and have sought to provide support and help on what continues to be a very fluid situation. I wish to confirm that all possible steps are being taken by my Department and Invest NI officials to assist the company and the joint administrators find a resolution to the difficult issues facing the company.

Executive colleagues will already be aware of the direct representation which the NI Executive has made to the Irish Regulator and the Financial Services Authority in relation to the opening up of the UK business.

On Friday, 30th April 2010 the company administrators announced a planned redundancy programme which they have estimated will result in 900 job losses from across the Quinn Insurance business, in both the UK and Ireland. Of the total redundancies announced, job losses in County Fermanagh are likely to be over 200 – with 179 staff in the Enniskillen Contact Centre currently at risk and an additional 27 in the Quinn Insurance claims operation in Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh. Invest NI has sought further clarification from the Administrators on whether redundancies in the Cavan operation will result in additional job losses in Northern Ireland due to the cross border nature of the travel to work area for Quinn Insurance Limited. These job losses are extremely regrettable and the impact will be felt not only in the immediate local area but in the wider Border area.

Response to the situation has been rapid. Invest NI immediately requested a meeting with the HR Manager in Quinn Insurance who is tasked with implementing the redundancy package. I am pleased to confirm that this meeting took place on Tuesday 4th May 2010 and colleagues in DEL are currently taking forward the action points agreed at this meeting, which will include the scheduling of a redundancy clinic provisionally planned for the first week of June 2010.

I myself have subsequently met with employee representatives from Quinn Insurance on Wednesday 5th May 2010 in Enniskillen. I listened to their concerns in relation to the potential for further redundancies as a result of the new business model Quinn are operating under in the UK insurance market. As a result I have requested an urgent meeting with the Irish Regulator to share with him the concerns of the employees and to understand the strategy which is being implemented to put the company on a sound commercial footing.

In addition to this, I along with the Employment and Learning Minister, Sir Reg Empey have been able to announce the appointment of Leslie Ross to co-ordinate the Government's response to the situation at

Quinn Insurance. I see this as a positive response and it is hoped that his expertise will be a valuable attribute in leading the inter-agency approach to help those facing redundancy.

Quinn Insurance, and indeed the Quinn Group, remains a major player in the NI Economy in terms of both employment and the fiscal contribution and the job losses announced last Friday are deeply regrettable and obviously will have a huge impact on the local area.

I wish to emphasize that along with Invest NI officials, and colleagues in the Department of Employment and Learning, we will do all possible to limit the impact of the redundancies.

Department of the Environment

Volume of Landfill

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment what is the total volume of landfill generated in each local Council area in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 6353/10)

Minister of the Environment (Mr E Poots): Until December 2003, District Councils in Northern Ireland were the regulating authority for landfill facilities and in many instances were also the controlling operators of the landfill sites. NIEA therefore did not have the statutory power or responsibility to request landfill data from Councils prior to this date.

The Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) was introduced in April 2005 and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is the designated Monitoring Authority and maintains a landfill allowances register. District Councils are required to report on municipal waste each quarter including tonnage figures of municipal waste collected, municipal waste sent to landfill and tonnage of municipal waste sent to waste facilities.

Data returns are made using the WasteDataFlow (WDF) UK-wide online database which has been in place since 2005. Councils electronically submit their statistical waste information to NIEA.

Data submissions from the Councils for the initial implementation year 2005/06 are incomplete. Additionally, Councils have not yet returned data for the fourth quarter of 2009/10. Consequently, the Agency only holds municipal waste data for the last 3.75 years.

The attached spreadsheet provides a detailed breakdown of the tonnage of municipal waste landfilled for the 3 Waste Groups, arc21, NWRWMG and SWaMP 2008 and for each District Council area for 2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 (April –Dec only). The total tonnage of municipal waste landfilled in Northern Ireland was 786,951 tonnes, 749,449 tonnes, 694,904 tonnes and 512,604 tonnes respectively.

The Agency is not required and does not hold waste data for the total volume of landfill generated in each local council. This would include an extensive range of other waste streams as listed in the European Waste Catalogue (EWC).

High Hedges Legislation

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the timescale for the proposed high hedges legislation; and to outline progress to date.

(AQW 6485/10)

Minister of the Environment: A consultation on a draft High Hedges Bill took place between December 2009 and March 2010. Following analysis of the consultation responses the Bill was finalised and introduced in the Assembly on 26 April 2010.

The Bill passed Second Stage on 10 May 2010 and has now proceeded to Committee Stage.

The aim is to have legislation enacted by March 2011 or earlier if possible.

Planning Service Staff

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment how he plans to redeploy the technical staff who are included in the 269 Planning Service staff earmarked for redeployment.

(AQW 6513/10)

Minister of the Environment: Technical staff identified as surplus will be offered the opportunity to be regraded and redeployed to another suitable discipline. It is expected that these posts will be mainly within the administrative grades. Initial redeployment will be within DOE after which staff will be made available to fill vacancies in other NICS Departments.

Planning Service Staff

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what discussions he has had with the Minister of Finance and Personnel in relation to the redeployment of 269 Planning Service staff; and (ii) what is the maximum number of redundancies that could arise as a result of redeployment.

(AQW 6514/10)

Minister of the Environment: (i) Senior officials in my Department are engaged with the Department of Finance and Personnel in developing both a Regrading Scheme to enable Professional & Technical Planners to transfer voluntarily to the General Service discipline; and a Redeployment Scheme for all staff who become surplus which will create the opportunity for redeployment to vacancies in DOE and across the NICS.

(ii) The primary aim of management will be to ensure the absorption of surplus staff by means of redeployment either to other suitable posts in DOE or in another Department. It is expected that the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) should be able to manage the workforce reductions without the need for redundancies, although particular difficulties may arise in certain specialist grades or locations. The NICS has a range of pre-redundancy measures available which will be used, as required, to help minimise or avoid the need for redundancies. Trade Union Side is being consulted as appropriate.

Planning Service Staff

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment whether redeployed Planning Service staff will have to reapply for their jobs if the number of planning applications rises significantly.

(AQW 6516/10)

Minister of the Environment: In developing the arrangements for the redeployment of professional planning staff to other duties in the NICS the department will seek to incorporate provisions that would enable those staff to be considered for future vacancies in planning.

Planning Applications

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning applications he has requested not to be processed due to the current economic climate.

(AQW 6517/10)

Minister of the Environment: None. All planning applications are currently being progressed by Planning Service in line with its statutory obligations and Business Plan objectives.

About 2,500 planning applications are currently being held as deferred and are not being progressed awaiting the Executive's agreement on draft PPS21.

In addition there are about 1,500 major applications in the planning system longer than 12 months and approximately one third of these are not being effectively progressed because outstanding information is awaited from the applicants/agents, who, I understand, are finding it difficult to provide this critically important information because of the additional financial implications during the current economic climate.

Planning Service Staff

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the criteria that will be used for the re-deployment of 270 Planning Service staff to other positions in the Civil Service.

(AQW 6523/10)

Minister of the Environment: The department is approaching the redeployment of Planning Service staff in line with the standard terms and conditions for dealing with such situations in the NICS.

Redeployment will primarily be based on the need to retain those staff necessary to ensure key services to customers can be maintained and impact from the reduction in staff is minimised. The personal preferences of staff who volunteer for redeployment will be taken into account where possible. Random selection will be used only where no other option exists.

Planning Service Staff

Mr L Cree asked the Minister of the Environment (i) what action he intends to take in relation to the staffing levels of the Planning Service; and (ii) for his assessment of how this action will affect the career paths of planners and the transfer of planning functions to local authorities next year.

(AQW 6548/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Department's Planning Service is experiencing a budgetary shortfall of just over £8m this year and cost reduction measures, which include a significant reduction in staffing numbers, are being considered. However, the Northern Ireland Civil Service should be able to manage the workforce reductions in the Planning Service through the redeployment of surplus staff either to other suitable posts in the DOE or in another NICS Department.

In relation to the career paths of specialist planners, where it is necessary to regrade and redeploy specialist planning staff to a general service post outside their professional discipline they can retain their planning status provided they can demonstrate 50 hours of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) over a 24 month period.

In this situation the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) would regard reading professional planning magazines or even working in a voluntary role with Planning Aid or attending a training course on a planning related issue as acceptable CPD.

In relation to the transfer of planning functions to local authorities, only staff in Planning Service at the time of transfer to local authorities will be in the affected group to transfer to the new employer. However, the Department will examine the scope for specialist planners to be considered for future vacancies in planning whether in central or local government.

Recommendation from a Boundary Commission

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of the Environment if he is aware of any precedent whereby a Minister in any jurisdiction in the UK has sought to modify a recommendation from a Boundary Commission.

(AQW 6550/10)

Minister of the Environment: There have been a number of occasions when modifications have been made to the recommendations of Boundary Commissions. Some of these are set out below.

In the District of Ashfield (Electoral Changes) Order 2000 (SI 2000/3295), the Secretary of State made a modification to the Local Government Boundary Commission's recommendations in relation to a ward boundary.

In the Borough of Tunbridge Wells (Electoral Changes) Order 2001 (SI 2001/3559), the Secretary of State made modifications to the Local Government Boundary Commission's recommendations in relation to both parish and borough ward boundaries and to the number of parish wards.

In the Borough of Dartford (Electoral Changes) Order 2001 (SI 2001/3560), the Secretary of State made a modification to the Local Government Boundary Commission's recommendations in relation to a ward boundary.

In the District of Chiltern (Electoral Changes) Order 2002 (SI 2002/1784), the Electoral Commission made modifications to the Local Government Boundary Commission's recommendations in relation to the names of district wards and district ward boundaries.

Planning Service Posts at County Hall, Omagh

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of the Environment whether he can commit to retaining all existing Planning Service posts at County Hall, Omagh; and to detail what action his Department has taken to protect this service.

(AQW 6569/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Department's Planning Service is currently experiencing a budgetary shortfall of just over £8m, mainly due to a significant reduction in planning fees income associated with a reduction in the number of planning applications being received. In light of this much reduced volume of planning applications and reduced income, the Planning Service is seeking to identify cost reduction measures which will help it to align staffing levels and costs more closely with work demands and revenue.

I anticipate that the redeployment of 271 staff from the Planning Service will be necessary to delivery the required scale of cost reductions. I cannot therefore give a guarantee that as a result of the work being undertaken by the Department to reduce the Planning Service operating costs that all existing posts at County Hall, Omagh will be retained.

I am confident however, that the Northern Ireland Civil Service should be able to manage the workforce reductions in the Planning Service through the redeployment of surplus staff either to other suitable posts in the DOE or in another NICS Department.

The Planning Service will reorganise to live within its budget and reprioritise resources to ensure the impact from the reduction in staff is minimised and key services to customers can be maintained and this includes the Omagh Division Planning Office.

I will also ensure that the Department makes the appropriate representations to DFP for additional in year funding at the June Monitoring round. You may also wish to note that the Department has initiated a fundamental review of the nature and structure of the fees charged for planning services with the aim of ensuring that the fees charges for specific chargeable services are broadly consistent with the costs of providing those services.

Knock Golf Club, Belfast

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment for his Department's assessment of the impact on the environment in the development on the landscape wedge of the planning application by Knock Golf Club, Belfast.

(AQW 6574/10)

Minister of the Environment: The impact on the environment in this area will be limited, as the proposal by Knock Golf Club is for housing on 11.3 hectares of a 36.5 hectare golf course with 22 hectares remaining as open space following the planned return of lands for hospital use. The golf club is part of the wider Dundonald Landscape Wedge which is visually linked to other open space in the area, namely the Stormont Estate lands immediately to the north of the Upper Newtownards Road plus the agricultural lands to the north of Stoney Road. The application was accompanied by an Environmental Statement which was the subject of consultation in accordance with legislation. Northern Ireland Environment Agency had no objection, subject to conditions. The assessment made by the Landscape Architects' Branch of the Planning Service was that the original application would have an adverse impact on the landscape features of the area. This view did not change after the submission of the amendments to the application despite the fact that the application was changed

significantly in order to reduce the impact on the Bluebell Wood in particular and reduce the footprint of the built area. The Landscape Architect's view was a consideration from a specific and particular concern relating primarily to the impact of the proposed housing on the trees and the landscape, but did not take account of the individual location or condition of the trees, nor of the fact that they are not protected and could be lopped, topped or felled at any time. Full account was taken of this response to the consultation and other environmental information in the normal way when the application was being assessed. However, the judgement arrived at was that the housing layout could be developed in such a way as to protect many of the remaining trees because of the fact that they are laid out in lines along the current fairways. The Department remains of the view that the scale, nature and location of the development as proposed on the golf club lands is acceptable and has no adverse impact on the environment.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan Team

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment why a planning application for a fuel filling station in the Dundonald landscape wedge was refused following the advice of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan team, while a similar application by the Hanwood Trust was approved without being referred to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan team for consideration.

(AQW 6575/10)

Minister of the Environment: The application referred to identified as reference Y/2008/0404/F was not refused by Planning Service but is the subject of a non-determination appeal to the Planning Appeals Commission which will make the decision in respect of the application.

In contrast, application Y/2009/0440/F was an amendment to a previous permission (Y/2006/0481/F) and development was commenced so the principle of development was firmly established and issues of prematurity and prejudice did not arise so the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan team was not consulted.

Belfast Strategic Planning Section

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of the Environment how major planning applications, currently processed by the Belfast Strategic Planning Section, will be dealt with under the Review of Public Administration.

(AQW 6586/10)

Minister of the Environment: Post RPA, as part of this new development management approach for processing planning applications, a three-tier hierarchy of development will be created consisting of regionally significant, major and local development, to ensure that application procedures are proportionate and responsive to these three different types of development category, with appropriate resources and decision-making mechanisms, tailored according to the scale and complexity of the proposed development.

Under this new development management hierarchy regionally significant applications will be determined by the Department with the decision taken by the Minister. These will be small in number, estimated at approximately 50-80 applications annually. Decisions on planning applications for categories of major and local development, which will form the majority of applications, will be taken by the new district councils.

Regionally significant developments will form the top tier of development proposals and will be made up of those applications which have a critical contribution to make to the economic and social success of Northern Ireland as a whole, or a substantial part of the region.

They will raise strategic considerations, with impacts or benefits that extend well beyond the area of an individual district council to the extent that they become of regional significance. It is proposed to revise the current Article 31 powers to take account of the RPA, and provide a basis for the legislative framework for considering these regionally significant applications.

In some exceptional circumstances a major application may give rise to issues of regional significance sufficient to warrant it being called – in from a district council for determination by the Department and decision by the Minister. The number of major applications where this action might be appropriate will be small and limited to where there is a significant and unresolved objection from a statutory consultee; a significant departure from the area plan; or where a district council has a significant financial or ownership interest.

Planning Responsibilities for Local Councils

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of the Environment what consideration he has given to introducing planning responsibilities for local councils in advance of the Review of Public Administration.
(AQW 6588/10)

Minister of the Environment: It is important that I take the time necessary to ensure implementation of the Executive's decisions on the future of local government and that this is done in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Consequently, I am in discussion with the representatives of Executive parties to find a common way forward on the reform programme, part of which is to consider how and when Land Use Planning will transfer to local government.

Public Accounts Committee's Report on the Planning Service

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of the Environment to outline his response to the Public Accounts Committee's report of February 2010 on the Planning Service; and if this response will be published.
(AQW 6610/10)

Minister of the Environment: I am committed to reforming and improving the planning system and welcome the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which will help with this process. The PAC report contains 15 recommendations, 13 of which required responses from the Department/Planning Service. The remaining 2 recommendations applied more generally to the NICS and the responses for these were prepared by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP).

My Department has responded positively to the recommendations through the Memorandum of Reply (MOR) which was laid in the Assembly by the Minister of Finance and Personnel on 16 April 2010. The Memorandum of Reply can be accessed via;

<http://www.aasdni.gov.uk/pubs/MORs/8th%20&%209th%20Report%2009%20-10.pdf>

Work is now underway towards implementing all of the recommendations and my officials will monitor progress on a quarterly basis through the Planning Service and Departmental Audit Committees. The Department's internal auditors will also provide an independent assessment on the progress of recommendations through their work programme.

I have recognised for some time issues identified in the PAC report and many of which will be addressed through the preparation of necessary legislation for my planning reform agenda, on which I have obtained agreement from the Executive.

Lough Neagh Advisory Committee and the Lower Bann Advisory Committee

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking to ensure the future of the Lough Neagh Advisory Committee and the Lower Bann Advisory Committee in light of the two councils' decisions to withdraw funding.
(AQW 6629/10)

Minister of the Environment: The decision by a number of Councils to withdraw funding has meant that the two Advisory Committees are no longer sustainable without this full support. I made it clear to the Councils that my Department would be unable to make up any shortfall. I regret that their decisions have left my Department with little alternative other than to wind up the two Advisory Committees on 30 June 2010, when the three month extension period comes to an end.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of the Environment (i) when the terms of reference for the public inquiry into the planning application to extend the runway at George Best Belfast City Airport will be published; (ii) whether there will be an opportunity to comment on the terms of reference before they are published; and (iii) when the public inquiry will be held.

(AQW 6633/10)

Minister of the Environment: There are no terms of reference for a public local inquiry. In line with Article 31 (2) of the 1991 Order the Department may cause a public local inquiry to be held for the purpose of considering representations made in respect of an application.

A date for the public inquiry has not yet been set.

Road Safety Strategy

Mrs M Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment to outline his plans for co-ordinating implementation of the new Road Safety strategy.

(AQO 1204/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Road Safety Review Group, comprising senior representatives from DOE, DRD, DHSSPS and PSNI is responsible for coordinating delivery of the current Road Safety Strategy. It has provided an integrated approach to the planning, co-ordination and delivery of government's road safety activities.

This partnership arrangement, with each participant representing a particular area of expertise, has worked well and has made a significant contribution to casualty reduction since the launch of the current strategy in 2002.

While the precise nature of the structures which will implement the new strategy has yet to be decided, I would intend building on the success of the partnership approach.

However, there is an opportunity to involve a wider range of stakeholders. The ongoing consultation on a new strategy looks at extending the existing structures to work with others who can provide support in improving road safety.

The paper looks at the development of a new independent expert group and at how we might better conduct local road safety pilot initiatives working with voluntary, community and other stakeholders.

The paper seeks views on working more closely with local authorities, to explore ways of reducing casualties at a local level and addressing local needs and priorities.

As you can see there are quite a few proposals about how best to implement the new strategy. I await with interest the outcome of the consultation and the public's views on delivering improvements in road safety over the next ten years.

Air Quality

Lord Browne asked the Minister of the Environment what is the expected completion date for the consultation on the draft Local Air Quality Management policy and when he expects to have the policy in place.

(AQO 1213/10)

Minister of the Environment: The consultation on the draft Local Air Quality Management policy guidance finished on 26 March 2010. The Department is currently considering responses from consultees and will amend the policy where appropriate. The Department aims to publish the finalised guidance in June 2010.

Local Government Boundaries

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of the Environment what advice he sought before making modifications to the recommendations of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner.
(AQO 1215/10)

Minister of the Environment: My officials provided me with advice on the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner's Report. I also sought and received legal advice in relation to a number of issues, from the Departmental Solicitor's Office.

Areas of Special Scientific Interest

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of the Environment how many areas of special scientific interest were designated in 2009.
(AQO 1216/10)

Minister of the Environment: Twenty-five Areas of Special Scientific Interest were declared in the 2009/10 financial year.

Planning Service Staff

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the potential negative impact on the economy of the proposed redeployment of up to 270 Planning Service staff.
(AQO 1217/10)

Minister of the Environment: The Department is experiencing a financial shortfall of c£16m for 2010-11. The total Planning Service shortfall is estimated at £8.3m the bulk of which (£6.4m) relates to a reduction in planning receipts.

The global economic downturn and its impact on the property and housing markets has clearly been a major factor contributing to the sharp fall in planning application numbers and also related fee receipts received by Planning Service. In light of the much reduced volume of planning applications and related fee receipts Planning Service has been considering ways to reduce its operating costs to align staffing levels and costs more closely to work demands and revenue. Significant staff reductions and redeployment of staff is necessary to align staffing levels and costs more closely to work demands and revenue. The Planning Service will reorganise to live within its budget and reprioritise resources to ensure key services to customers can be maintained and impact on the economy from the reduction in staff is minimised.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Review of the Civil Service E02 Grade

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if he is aware of any reasons for a delay in the review of the Civil Service E02 grade as agreed as part of the Equal Pay settlement of February 2010; or if the review will be instigated immediately.
(AQW 6495/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr S Wilson): Preparatory work on the comprehensive pay and grading review agreed as part of the NICS equal pay settlement has already commenced. The review has not been delayed and I am determined that it will progress without any undue delay.

Electricity Costs

Mr D McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an estimate of the savings that would be made by all Departments reducing their electricity costs by 25%.
(AQW 6508/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Based on the most recently published Public Sector Energy Campaign (PSEC) figures for 2007/08, it is estimated that reducing the electricity costs of the 11 Departments' core estates by 25% would amount to an annual saving of approximately £1,424,000

Barnett Formula

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how the Barnett Formula operates in translating the effect of changes in spending in England to Northern Ireland.

(AQW 6527/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Under the Barnett Formula, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland receive a population-based proportion of changes in planned spending on comparable UK Government services in England. The Formula is applied separately to capital and current expenditure. Northern Ireland has full comparability in areas such as health and education but no comparability on defence spending.

The Executive has full discretion in terms of allocating the Block Grant from the UK Government.

Purchasing of Freehold Property

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what plans she has to enable homeowners to purchase the freehold to their property, as is the case in England and Wales.

(AQW 6542/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Northern Ireland already has two statutory schemes which allow for the enlargement of leasehold estates. One is set out in the Leasehold (Enlargement and Extension) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 and the other is set out in the Ground Rents Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

The Northern Ireland Law Commission is currently considering the issue of land law reform and will be examining both Acts as part of that project. It remains to be seen whether any legislative amendments will be recommended. However, the Commission's examination will take account of the Northern Ireland context and any recommendations will, therefore, be suitably framed for this jurisdiction.

Arabs Resident in Northern Ireland

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many Arabs are currently resident in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 6547/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: A total of 285 people (0.02% of all people usually resident in Northern Ireland) indicated through the 2001 Census that their ethnic group was Arab.

Planning Service

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel why his Department did not make up the shortfall in funding previously provided from planning fees which has led to 269 jobs in the Planning Service being put in jeopardy.

(AQW 6555/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: It is not within the remit of the Department of Finance and Personnel to transfer funding to assist other Departments to manage their Departmental pressures. Such decisions are a matter for the Executive.

The Executive has previously allocated an additional £2m to Planning Service in light of the reduction in Planning Fee income. In recognition of the financial pressure faced by Planning Service, my Department also agreed that Planning Service should increase planning application fees by 15%.

The Department of the Environment will have the opportunity to submit a request for additional resources in 2010-11 as part of the forthcoming June Monitoring Round which will be considered

by the Executive in the context of the overall amount of resources available and the other spending pressures facing departments.

EU Funding

Mr B Armstrong asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the structures in place within their Department to manage EU funding.

(AQO 1185/10)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: DFP has Member State responsibility for the four EU Structural Funds Programmes currently operating in Northern Ireland—Competitiveness, Employment, PEACE III and INTERREG IVA.

Each of the four programmes has a Managing Authority as detailed in the table below. The Managing Authorities are responsible for directly implementing and managing the Operational Programmes.

Programme	Managing Authority
European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)
European Social Fund Employment Programme	Department for Employment and Learning (DEL)
PEACE III Programme	Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
INTERREG IVA Cross Border Co-operation Programme	Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

DFP chairs an inter-departmental EU Steering Group with membership drawn from the Managing Authorities and relevant Accountable Departments.

DFP chairs the Programme Monitoring Committee for the Competitiveness and Employment Programmes, and attends the Monitoring Committees for the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes in its Member State capacity.

DFP is the Accountable Department for the Public Sector Collaboration Theme under INTERREG IVA and for the Technical Assistance budgets under INTERREG IVA and PEACE III.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist for the Royal Hospital

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust will be appointing a replacement consultant paediatric gastroenterologist to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children for the current consultant, who is leaving on 23 April 2010; and (ii) what steps his Department has taken to appoint a replacement, including steps to advertise the post and a timetable for appointment.

(AQW 6449/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey): Responsibility for workforce succession planning rests with the Belfast Trust; it is not a Departmental matter.

It is anticipated that a replacement will be in place by September.

To ensure appropriate services are available in the interim period, a locum consultant in general paediatrics, supported by two general paediatric consultants, is currently being engaged to take responsibility for the existing clinics attended by paediatric gastroenterology patients. Commissioners will continue to examine this service on a regional basis and consider how the service may be further strengthened for the future.

Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist for the Royal Hospital

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail when the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust first learned that there would be a vacancy for consultant paediatric gastroenterologist at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children from 23 April 2010.

(AQW 6450/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Responsibility for workforce succession planning rests with the Belfast Trust; it is not a Departmental matter.

It is anticipated that a replacement will be in place by September.

To ensure appropriate services are available in the interim period, a locum consultant in general paediatrics, supported by two general paediatric consultants, is currently being engaged to take responsibility for the existing clinics attended by paediatric gastroenterology patients. Commissioners will continue to examine this service on a regional basis and consider how the service may be further strengthened for the future.

Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterologist for the Royal Hospital

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail what interim measures have been put in place, by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, to provide care for patients requiring the services of a consultant paediatric gastroenterologist at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children from 23 April 2010, particularly in relation to (a) clinics; and (b) emergency care; and (ii) what assessment has been made of risks and benefits of the alternative options.

(AQW 6451/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Responsibility for workforce succession planning rests with the Belfast Trust; it is not a Departmental matter.

It is anticipated that a replacement will be in place by September.

To ensure appropriate services are available in the interim period, a locum consultant in general paediatrics, supported by two general paediatric consultants, is currently being engaged to take responsibility for the existing clinics attended by paediatric gastroenterology patients. Commissioners will continue to examine this service on a regional basis and consider how the service may be further strengthened for the future.

Health Service Dentist Posts

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the creation of additional Health Service dentist posts.

(AQW 6479/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: As you are aware I announced in May 2009 that the Department had awarded a tender to Oasis Dental Care Ltd for additional dental services which will result in 38 additional dentists being available in various areas of Northern Ireland. I can confirm that excellent progress has been made. The first practices opened in November 2009 and the latest practices to open are Holywood on 27 April and Bangor on 5 May. It is planned that the remaining 4 practices will become operational during the month of June although this is subject to planning approval.

Breaches of the Anti-smoking Legislation

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been prosecuted by local councils for breaches of the anti-smoking legislation.

(AQW 6480/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There were 95 individual prosecutions under the smoke-free legislation from 30 April 2007 until 31 March 2010. These prosecutions included the offences of smoking in a smoke-free place or vehicle, failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place or vehicle and failing to display appropriate “no smoking” signage.

In addition, there were 60 prosecutions of retailers for breaking the law with regards to underage sales of tobacco products between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2010.

IVF Treatment

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have applied for Health Service IVF treatment in each of the last three years.

(AQW 6491/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

Year	07/08	08/09	09/10
Number added to waiting list (IVF, ICSI, FET, SIUI)	888	716	789

IVF Treatment

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people who received IVF treatment from the Health Service were successful in (i) conceiving a child; and (ii) delivering a child, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 6493/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Regional Fertility Centre does not record this information separately for publicly and privately funded patients therefore the following table details the results of treatment for both.

	Pregnancies	Live births
2009/10 (pregnancies only)	114	N/A
2008/09	218	197
2007/08	201	198

Bimaxillary Osteotomy Procedure

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) where in Northern Ireland the bimaxillary osteotomy procedure (maxillo-facial surgery) is offered; and (ii) whether any patients have been referred to Great Britain for this procedure in the last two years.

(AQW 6511/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The bimaxillary osteotomy procedure (maxillofacial surgery) is provided at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, and Altnagelvin Hospital, Londonderry.

No patients have been referred from Northern Ireland to Great Britain for this procedure in the last two years.

Bonuses Paid to Doctors

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 5852/10, (i) how many doctors received a bonus award following the 2008/09 awards round; (ii) what is the average salary of doctors who received a bonus award; and (iii) what is the average salary of the 657 consultants who received a bonus award.

(AQW 6518/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Doctors do not receive bonus payments.

The salary range of the consultants who received a Clinical Excellence Award was £74,028 - £98,962.

Desertcreat College in Cookstown

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when his Department will release the £30 million funding for the fire and rescue services section in the new Desertcreat College in Cookstown.

(AQW 6519/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The position remains the same as that indicated in my joint responses to AQW 6122/10 and AQW 6126/10, answered on 28 April 2010.

Gorse Fires

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many gorse fires have been recorded; and (ii) how much land has been damaged by these fires, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 6529/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of gorse fires in each of the last three years is shown in the table.

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Number of gorse fires	2253	3862	3285

Information relating to the areas of land damaged by gorse related incidents is not available.

Charities

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the charities funded by his Department.

(AQW 6539/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on organisations in receipt of government funding can be accessed through the Government Funding Database website at <http://govfundingdbni.nics.gov.uk/gfdpublic/>

Chief Executive Bonuses

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much the Chief Executive's of each Health and Social Care Trust received in bonuses in (i) the 2009/10 financial year; and (ii) the 2010/11 financial year to date.

(AQW 6541/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In light of the current economic climate my Department has instructed Health and Social Care employers that no bonuses should be paid to their Chief Executives in the 2009/10 financial year. The 2010/11 pay award for Health and Social Care Chief Executives has not yet been agreed.

Single Bill on Mental Health

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the development of a single bill on mental health.

(AQW 6551/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: On 10 September 2009 I announced that my Department would take the lead in preparing a single Bill encompassing mental capacity and mental

health provisions and that this would be introduced into the next Assembly in 2011. In the interim policy development work in this complex area has been proceeding and has involved major engagement with stakeholders. The next step will be consultation on an Equality Impact Assessment prior to seeking Executive endorsement of the policy.

Bamford Action Plan

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he has taken to deliver the Bamford Action Plan; and in what aspects progress has fallen behind schedule.

(AQW 6553/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Bamford Action Plan 2009-2011, which is available on the DHSSPS website, summarises actions already taken to improve mental health and learning disability services and sets out a wide range of actions committed to over the period 2009-2011 across Government. Each Department is responsible for delivery of its own actions. A Task Force has been established to drive forward the actions which fall to the health and social care sector.

The inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Mental Health and Learning Disability group last met in November 2009, when substantial progress towards delivery of the Action Plan across Government was noted. Work is under way to convene the next meeting of the Ministerial Group to assess progress at this stage.

Staff Posts at County Hall, Ballymena

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, following his letter to staff dated 4 February 2009, in which he stated that 'over 80% of staff will remain in their current location and over one third of the tier 3 posts will not be in headquarters' (i) whether he can confirm that this is still the case; and (ii) how many and what proportion of staff and posts at County Hall, Ballymena will remain local.

(AQW 6556/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The new HSC organisations have all commenced early work to examine in particular, the realignment and location of legacy HSS Board functions. This work is still under consideration and it would therefore be inappropriate to comment on the numbers of posts at any location until such times as this process is complete. I remain committed however to ensuring, that a strong local presence continues to be a feature of our health and social care system.

Staff Posts at County Hall, Ballymena

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what has been the net change in the number of higher banded posts, above Band 4, created at County Hall, Ballymena under the Review of Public Administration changes.

(AQW 6557/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The new HSC organisations have all commenced early work to examine in particular, the realignment and location of legacy HSS Board functions. This work is still under consideration and it would therefore be inappropriate to comment on the numbers of posts at any location until such times as this process is complete. I remain committed however to ensuring, that a strong local presence continues to be a feature of our health and social care system.

Staff Posts at County Hall, Ballymena

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many health staff posts have been removed from County Hall, Ballymena since 01 April 2009, broken down by post and band.

(AQW 6559/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The new HSC organisations have all commenced early work to examine in particular, the realignment and location of legacy HSS Board functions. This work is still under consideration and it would therefore be inappropriate to comment on the numbers of posts at any location until such times as this process is complete. I remain committed however to ensuring, that a strong local presence continues to be a feature of our health and social care system.

IVF Treatment

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of errors made during IVF treatment in each of the last 10 years; and to outline the nature of each error. **(AQW 6566/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The term “error” is not recognised within the information systems at the Regional Fertility Centre (RFC).

I can confirm however that the Department has not been subject to any legal proceedings in relation to these services.

IVF Treatment

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of legal proceedings taken against his Department as a result of errors made during IVF treatment in each of the last 10 years; and the outcome of each case. **(AQW 6567/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The term “error” is not recognised within the information systems at the Regional Fertility Centre (RFC).

I can confirm however that the Department has not been subject to any legal proceedings in relation to these services.

Knock Golf Club, Belfast

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if the land leased to Knock Golf Club, Belfast belongs to the South Eastern Health and Social Care trust or the Health Estates Agency. **(AQW 6572/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There is approximately 12 acres of land leased to Knock Golf Club. Around 10 acres is owned by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and just under 2 acres is owned by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Decisions relating to the land leased to Knock Golf Club will depend on the associated issue. Some decisions will be made by the tenant, Knock Golf Club and others by the landlord being either the South Eastern HSC Trust or the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Knock Golf Club, Belfast

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether decisions relating to the land leased to Knock Golf Club, Belfast is primarily a matter for the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust or the Health Estates Agency. **(AQW 6573/10)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There is approximately 12 acres of land leased to Knock Golf Club. Around 10 acres is owned by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and just under 2 acres is owned by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Decisions relating to the land leased to Knock Golf Club will depend on the associated issue. Some decisions will be made by the tenant, Knock Golf Club and others by the landlord being either the South Eastern HSC Trust or the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Funding Cuts

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to confirm if groups who support families and people affected by suicide or mental health problems will not be subject to any funding cuts by his Department in the next three years.

(AQW 6619/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In the context of the constraints that have been placed upon my budget in 2010/11, including the cuts to my budget as voted by the Assembly, I can not guarantee that services relating to suicide prevention or mental health will not be impacted. Whilst I will do all I can to minimise the impact, providing assurances to one area of the health service would unfairly burden other equally needy areas with the majority of cuts.

Applied Behaviour Analysis in Treating Autism

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the effectiveness of Applied Behaviour Analysis in treating Autism spectrum disorders; and if he has any plans to provide funding for this treatment, which is available in the Republic of Ireland, given that treatment can cost families up to £25,000 per year.

(AQW 6663/10)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Services for children with special education needs are the responsibility of the Department of Education and it is my understanding that the provision of Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) in the Republic of Ireland is made through the education system.

In relation to health and social care, whilst a range of interventions and treatments exist to help those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders, the Independent review of Autism Services did not feel it was appropriate to recommend any single manner of intervention. It is for professionals to assess the health and social care needs of individuals and to put in place an appropriate care plan.

Department of Justice

Detention Conditions in Prisons

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Justice what action he intends to take to improve the detention conditions in prisons.

(AQW 6245/10)

Minister of Justice (Mr D Ford): As I advised the Justice Committee on 22 April, parts of the current prison estate are unfit for purpose. I will be bringing forward proposals to improve physical conditions to enable enhanced engagement between prison service staff and prisoners to reduce re-offending, and to reduce costs.

In addition, in line with the Hillsborough Agreement of 5 February, I have announced a rolling review, beginning with a review of the regime in Maghaberry. I will advise Members of further details shortly.

Restorative Justice

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Justice to outline the role of restorative justice schemes within the Criminal Justice system; and what action he intends to take to support them.

(AQW 6246/10)

Minister of Justice : Restorative Justice plays an important role within the criminal justice system by bringing victims and offenders together to acknowledge the impact of the harm caused by an offence and agree a plan of how it may be redressed. For example, Youth Conference Service restorative plans account for around 48 % of all Youth Court disposals, and the Probation Board and its community partners have so far facilitated over 100 adult restorative interventions.

In addition there are 15 community-based restorative justice schemes accredited under a Government Protocol. They facilitate restorative interventions for offences deemed suitable for referral by the Public Prosecution Service as an alternative to prosecution. Schemes have been allocated £100,000 from criminal justice agencies, match funded by a charitable foundation, in each of the last three years to support their restorative practices. I intend to review arrangements shortly to examine how best schemes' restorative skills can contribute to the continuing success of restorative practices in the criminal justice system.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Justice to outline his plans to tackle anti-social behaviour.
(AQW 6261/10)

Minister of Justice : My Department has plans in place to tackle anti-social behaviour and to deliver a 15% reduction in incidents by 2011.

Working closely with partner organisations at a regional and local level, the plans are based on three themes. Prevention includes community safety wardens, neighbourhood watch, the clean neighbourhood programme and CCTV; Intervention includes diversionary programmes such as 'Splash'; Enforcement provides for a graduated approach from warning letters to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts through to Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).

We are currently on target to achieve the 15% reduction and tackling anti-social behaviour is one of my priority areas.

Tackling anti-social behaviour will remain a priority in any of my Department's future plans on Community Safety. My Department will continue to promote and support the development of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and plans are well advanced to deliver a NI-wide Diversionary Programme (Splash) over the Summer of 2010.

Bomb Planted at Palace Barracks

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to detail the total costs incurred by his Department as a result of the bomb planted at Palace Barracks on Monday 12 April.
(AQW 6262/10)

Minister of Justice : As I am sure you will appreciate, it is much too early to provide details of total costs incurred by my Department. I can, however, advise that loss adjusters have been appointed by the Compensation Agency to deal with any claims relating to the attack on 12 April.

Witnesses

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Justice what procedures are in place to ensure that witnesses, including crown witnesses, are not subjected to aggression in courts by defence lawyers.
(AQW 6300/10)

Minister of Justice : During the course of a trial judges have the responsibility for ensuring that all those involved in the proceedings, including witnesses, are treated fairly and this is an area that is covered specifically in judicial training.

In certain circumstances a court may also order that a witness be permitted to give their evidence remotely through a live television link or by way of video conferencing.

Legislation

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Justice what new legislation he intends to introduce before May 2011.

(AQW 6324/10)

Minister of Justice : Subject to Executive approval, I will introduce a Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in the Autumn of this year. I look forward to discussing proposals for its content with the Justice Committee in the near future.

Retailers Selling Alcohol to Under-age Customers

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions were achieved against retailers for selling alcohol to under-age customers, in each of the last five years; and what was the sum total of any fines imposed in each year.

(AQW 6346/10)

Minister of Justice : The table below documents the number of convictions, the number given a fine and the total sum of the fine amounts for selling intoxicating liquor to a minor. Court conviction datasets do not contain background information in relation to offences committed and it is therefore not possible to determine the number of those convicted who were retailers.

Data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest year for which figures are currently available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS, THE NUMBER GIVEN A FINE AND THE TOTAL SUM OF FINE AMOUNTS (£) FOR SELLING INTOXICATING LIQUOR TO A MINOR 2002-2006

Year	Number convicted	Number given a fine	Total sum of fine amounts (£)
2002	2	2	500
2003	3	3	1325
2004	2	2	650
2005	3	3	700
2006	3	3	1400

PSNI are currently piloting in a number of Police Districts, new and additional powers to undertake “test purchases” in any alcohol retailers’ premises. Once evaluated these additional powers will be available to all Districts across Northern Ireland and will have a significant impact on building an understanding amongst retailers of the seriousness of under-age sales and hence on addressing the level of sales to those underage.

Community Policing

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Justice to outline any plans his Department has to increase community policing.

(AQW 6394/10)

Minister of Justice : The delivery of community policing is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

Solicitors Fees

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice what plans he has to ensure that solicitors fees are monitored, controlled and fair.

(AQW 6401/10)

Minister of Justice : There are mechanisms already in place in the County Court and the High Court to regulate levels of remuneration for solicitors (and barristers) in civil cases. I am currently reviewing the remuneration payable under criminal legal aid and I will bring forward proposals to the Assembly in due course.

Causeway Computer System

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many criminal cases have had to be dismissed due to problems encountered with the new Causeway computer system since its inception, broken down by court division.

(AQW 6415/10)

Minister of Justice : No criminal cases have had to be dismissed due to problems encountered with the new Causeway computer system. Manual contingency arrangements are in place to allow cases to proceed if an electronic record is not available.

Youth Justice Agency

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice how many cases the Youth Justice Agency has dealt with in each of the last five years.

(AQW 6416/10)

Minister of Justice : The information requested is as follows, broken down by caseload of each of the three operational directorates of the Youth Justice Agency.

Year	Youth Conference Service ⁽¹⁾	Community Services ⁽²⁾	Juvenile Justice Centre ⁽³⁾	Total cases ⁽⁴⁾
2005/06	299	726	307	1,332
2006/07	1,298	905	333	2,536
2007/08	1,932	1,000	346	2,897
2008/09	1,620	1,006	271	2,897
2009/10	1,849	1,010	350	3,209

- (1) Includes referrals to the Youth Conference Service from the Public Prosecution Service and Court, as well as 239 referrals in 2009/10 to the Priority Youth Offending Project, a joint initiative with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Youth Justice Agency, to pilot the delivery of enhanced intervention and accountability for high risk young offenders.
- (2) Number of cases referred to Community Services for supervision in the community i.e. those subject to a community responsibility order, attendance centre order, reparation order, supervision of youth conference plans; and those referred from other sources such as Police Service of Northern Ireland, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, social services and other sources such as other criminal justice agencies and social services.
- (3) Includes initial admissions to the Juvenile Justice Centre on PACE, those on remand and sentence.
- (4) Whilst a total case figure is provided for each financial year, it should be noted that directorates of the Agency often co-work to provide different services to the same young people. For example, in 2009/10, 72% of Community Services' new referrals were from the Youth Conference Service; however each directorate performs a different aspect of service delivery of a youth conference order. In addition, more

than one referral within one directorate may also relate to the same young person, for example a young person may be referred on different occasions for different offences.

Juvenile Prison Population

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice to detail the (i) male; (ii) female; and (iii) juvenile prison population for each of the last five years.

(AQW 6418/10)

Minister of Justice : The male, female and juvenile prison population for each of the last 5 years is as shown in the table below.

Calendar Year	(i) Adult Males (Average Yearly Population)	(ii) Females (Average Yearly Population)	(iii) Juveniles (Average Yearly Population)
2005	1235	30	32*
2006	1358	38	23*
2007	1403	43	15
2008	1443	47	17
2009	1402	49	16

* These figures include 1 female juvenile

Prison Spaces

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice to detail the maximum numbers of prison spaces currently available for (i) male; (ii) female; and (iii) juvenile offenders.

(AQW 6419/10)

Minister of Justice : The maximum numbers of prison spaces currently available are:

- (i) 1,440 for adult males (872 at Maghaberry and 568 at Magilligan prisons);
- (ii) 74 for females (at Ash House, Hydebank Wood Prison);
- (iii) 36 for male juveniles and 215 for young males (at Hydebank Wood, Young Offenders Centre).

Female juveniles and some male juveniles are detained at the Juvenile Justice Centre.

A juvenile is defined as any person under the age of 18. A young offender is defined as any person aged 18 - 21.

Sex Offenders Register

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many people are currently on the Sex Offenders Register; (ii) how many of these people are juveniles; and (iii) how many are on the register for life, broken down by constituency.

(AQW 6420/10)

Minister of Justice : The recording of information provided by offenders subject to the notification requirements set out in Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (the sex offender register) is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond to you directly.

Breaches of Licensing Laws

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how many licensees have been charged by the police for alleged breaches of licensing laws; and how many have had their cases marked as 'no proceedings', in each of the last five years.

(AQW 6422/10)

Minister of Justice : Liquor licensing is a matter for the Department for Social Development, and the Department of Justice does not hold this information. The charging of licensees is a matter for the Chief Constable who is operationally independent of Ministers and accountable to the Policing Board; decisions as to prosecution are a matter for the Public Prosecution Service.

Community Service

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to detail the average waiting time for offenders to be placed on community service once convicted by the courts.

(AQW 6425/10)

Minister of Justice : The Probation Board for Northern Ireland supervises offenders sentenced to complete community service in the form of either a Community Service Order or a Combination Order.

During the financial year 2009/2010, the average time between sentence and commencement of these orders was 7 working days.

Community Service

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how many offenders are currently waiting to be placed on community service.

(AQW 6426/10)

Minister of Justice : The Probation Board for Northern Ireland supervises offenders sentenced to complete community service in the form of either a Community Service Order or a Combination Order.

As at 26 April 2010, PBNI was supervising 804 Community Service Orders and 271 Combination Orders. Of these, 22 (2%) are currently waiting to be placed on community service.

Offences of 'Wasting Police Time'

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) how many offences of 'wasting police time' were recorded in each of the last 5 years; (ii) the number of prosecutions brought against these individuals; (iii) the number of prosecutions which resulted in a conviction; (iv) the sum total of any fines which were imposed; and (v) for a summary of any other sanctions which were imposed.

(AQW 6427/10)

Minister of Justice : Table 1 gives the number recorded for the offence 'wasteful employment of police time' for the calendar years 2005 to 2009. Table 2 gives the number prosecuted and number convicted. All offenders convicted for the offence were given a community-based disposal.

Data in Table 2 cover the calendar years 2002 to 2006 (the latest year for which figures are currently available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included.

It is not possible to reconcile PSNI data on the number of offences recorded directly with prosecution and conviction data, as the former are offence-based whereas prosecution and conviction data are offender-based. In addition, PSNI denote the offence as it has been initially recorded and this may differ from the offence for which a suspect (or suspects) is subsequently proceeded against.

TABLE 1: RECORDED OFFENCES OF WASTEFUL EMPLOYMENT OF POLICE TIME BY YEAR REPORTED 2005-2009¹

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number recorded	4	5	4	7	13

Source: PSNI

1. Figures for 2009 are provisional and may be subject to change.

TABLE 2: NUMBER PROSECUTED AND CONVICTED FOR WASTEFUL EMPLOYMENT OF POLICE TIME 2002-2006

Year	Number prosecuted	Number convicted	Disposal given to those convicted
2002	0	0	-
2003	1	1	Supervision in the community
2004	0	0	-
2005	2	2	Supervision in the community
2006	1	1	Supervision in the community

Source: Department of Justice

Irish language

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans to promote Irish language rights within the courts system.

(AQW 6446/10)

Minister of Justice : As I stated in the Assembly on 26 April 2010 language is a cross-cutting issue, on which policy needs to be agreed by the Executive. I will consider my Department's language policy, including in respect of the Irish language in courts, as part of my contribution to the Executive strategy.

In the meantime, the Courts and Tribunals Service has adopted a Code of Courtesy on the use of Irish in official business, in line with its obligations under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Irish Language

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department has any plans to promote the Irish language within the PSNI.

(AQW 6447/10)

Minister of Justice : Any plan to promote the Irish language within the Police Service of Northern Ireland is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

Dissident Republican Threat

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Justice if he has had any discussions with ex-Royal Ulster Constabulary specialists regarding safety precautions in handling the dissident republican threat. **(AQW 6460/10)**

Minister of Justice : I have had no such discussions regarding safety precautions in respect of the dissident republican threat to the community or to police officers. However, I receive regular security briefings from the Chief Constable on the police response to the dissident republican threat.

Dissident Republican Activity

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that there is an adequate security force presence on the ground to deal with the increasing dissident republican activity. **(AQW 6461/10)**

Minister of Justice : The allocation of policing resources is a matter for the Chief Constable who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

Newtownhamilton Police Station

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice if he intends to revert Newtownhamilton police station to full-time status, given the recent terrorist attacks in the area; and if so, whether additional security measures will be put in place to protect police officers and staff. **(AQW 6472/10)**

Minister of Justice : The operation of police stations is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

PSNI Stations

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many PSNI stations are currently operating on a part-time basis; and how many of these are in border areas. **(AQW 6473/10)**

Minister of Justice : The operation of police stations is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

Review of McClurg v the Chief Constable

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the review of McClurg v the Chief Constable on 22 April 2010, for his assessment of the direction given by the Chief Constable that any claim should be resolved by the Assembly and not the serving Chief Constable. **(AQW 6494/10)**

Minister of Justice : There is no doubt that a significant number of police officers through the years have been subjected to situations which have caused terrible injuries and distress, and that our community owes them a huge debt of gratitude. I believe those who have suffered deserve our support and I am pleased that measures are in place (eg through the Northern Ireland Police Fund, and PSNI Occupational Health services) to help meet the needs of these serving and former officers.

With regard to the matters brought before the courts, at considerable cost to the PSNI and Police Federation members, Chief Constables were found not to have been negligent.

I understand that the Chief Constable has suggested that plaintiffs might consider seeking an ex gratia compensation payment from the Executive and Assembly rather than continuing to pursue their claims through the courts. This would be a matter for individual plaintiffs.

Violent Assault Against Pregnant Women

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice how many convictions for violent assault against pregnant women have been secured in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 6499/10)

Minister of Justice : I regret that the information sought on convictions for violent assault against pregnant women is not available. Court conviction data do not contain background or victim information in relation to offences committed, and it is therefore not possible to separate out the number of such convictions from other types of assault.

Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Justice how many payments were made under the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme to women whose unborn child sustained a criminal injury in each of the last 10 years.

(AQW 6500/10)

Minister of Justice : From 1 May 2002, the Compensation Agency's records show that there has been one criminal injury claim for injury to an unborn child. The 'injury' involved was the miscarriage of a 3 month old foetus following an assault on the mother. Prior to May 2002, the Agency did not record a specific injury descriptor for this type of injury.

Police and Criminal Evidence Regime

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Justice whether, on the basis of parity with England and Wales, he will retain the Police and Criminal Evidence regime.

(AQW 6502/10)

Minister of Justice : The Police & Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (PACE), currently provides the framework of police powers in Northern Ireland which largely mirrors the equivalent PACE provision in England and Wales.

Policy responsibility for PACE legislation and associated Codes of Practice in Northern Ireland now rests with the Department of Justice. I shall keep PACE under regular review to ensure that it provides police with the powers they need to detect and investigate crime while protecting the rights of the individual. It will be for the Assembly, key stakeholders and members of the public to shape the future statutory framework.

Courts Service Translators

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how much has been spent by the Courts Service on translators in each court division in each of the last three years.

(AQW 6504/10)

Minister of Justice : Prior to 2008/9 court interpreter services in the criminal courts were delivered through the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPSNI). Funding for 2008/9 and 2009/10 was the shared responsibility of the Public Prosecution Service, the then Northern Ireland Court Service and the NIO.

In Table 1 below, the figures for 2007/8 and 2008/9 have been provided by the Public Prosecution Service and it is not possible to disaggregate them by court division. The figures for 2009/10 are provided by the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service (NICTS) and the PPSNI.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 set out the costs associated with interpreting services in non-criminal proceedings which are funded through the NICTS. Information is not available by court division prior to 2008.

Information on other costs associated with translation and interpretation is only available from 2008 and includes:-

- Language Line (a telephone translation service) with expenditure of £87 and £103 in 2008/9 and 2009/10 respectively; and
- Document Translation with expenditure of £11,011 and £18,667 in 2008/9 and 2009/10 respectively.

TABLE 1: INTERPRETER COSTS IN CRIMINAL COURTS

Financial Year	Spend £	County Court Division						
		Belfast	Antrim	Ards	Armagh & South Down	Craigavon	Fermanagh & Tyrone	Londonderry
2007/8	283,282	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2008/9	433,575	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009/10	480,000¹	105,029	81,616	32,071	81,193	42,537	113,844	23,707
	61,769²							
Total	541,769							

Notes:

1. Includes accruals (i.e. where service has been provided but invoice not yet received)
2. This figure includes costs for 1st Appearances and other PPSNI related interpreter costs (figures supplied by PPSNI)

INTERPRETER COSTS IN NON-CRIMINAL CASES

**TABLE 2
2007/8**

Business Area	Spend £
Extradition	4,794
Coroners	975
Civil	-
Family	847
Total	6,616

TABLE 3
2008/9

Business Area	Spend £	County Court Division						
		Belfast	Antrim	Ards	Armagh & South Down	Craigavon	Fermanagh & Tyrone	Londonderry
RNID Civil	7,390	1,537			1,746	2,136	800	1,171
Other Agency**	169						169	
Extradition	4,086	4,086						
Coroners	1,895	157				1,237	501	
Civil	321	321						
Family	2,073	216				184	502	1,171
Total	15,943							

** For departmental prosecutions brought by other agencies such as DOE, DVLNI and TV Licensing.

TABLE 4
2009/10

Business Area	Spend £	County Court Division						
		Belfast	Antrim	Ards	Armagh & South Down	Craigavon	Fermanagh & Tyrone	Londonderry
RNID Civil	7,395	4,763		2,282		350		
Other Agency	1,564	148	312		161	214	558	171
Extradition	7,305	7,305						
Coroners	890		335		174		183	198
Civil	321				321			
Family	4,216	2,231	343	151		161	425	905
Total	21,691							

Drugs Culture Inside Prisons

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how he plans to tackle the drugs culture inside prisons.
(AQW 6505/10)

Minister of Justice : The Prison Service is continuously improving its measures.

The Service takes the issue of drugs in prison very seriously. While the most common way for drugs to enter prisons is through visits, prisoners returning from periods of temporary release are also found to have brought drugs back to the prison. The most common drugs detected are cannabis resin and illicit

tablets, while Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine are not as serious an issue as in neighbouring jurisdictions.

Following a report published in July 2008, the Prison Service has a comprehensive strategy in place both to minimise the supply of drugs coming into prisons and to provide addiction support services to prisoners.

The addiction services comprise a clinical team led by a consultant in addiction psychiatry with the support of two addiction nurses, and a psychological intervention service provided by ADEPT (Opportunity Youth). This service, operational since autumn 2009, extends across all three prisons and works jointly to provide a range of clinical and psychosocial interventions for those who wish to address their substance misuse problem.

Measures in place to minimise the supply of drugs include:

- all visitors, staff and others entering prisons are searched;
- passive drugs dogs are used to screen visitors to prisoners;
- prisoners entering or leaving the visits room are subject to rub down or full searching;
- regular searching takes place within prisons including prisoners' cells;
- controls with regard to prisoners receiving or sending money in or out of the prison;
- use of technology including CCTV and communications equipment;
- a close working relationship with the PSNI to identify traffickers and deal with those caught in possession of drugs.

From 1 June, under recent changes to the Prison Rules, new mandatory drug testing programme using samples of urine or saliva will be introduced across the establishments. This will provide faster results, and the outcome will be carefully assessed. In addition physical works will be undertaken to reduce the scope for trafficking drugs further.

Low-copy DNA Testing

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many criminal investigations are currently stalled due to budgetary constraints on low-copy DNA testing, broken down by policing division.

(AQW 6506/10)

Minister of Justice : The use of low-copy number DNA testing in any criminal investigation is an operational decision to be taken by PSNI and therefore is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

PSNI Entry Examinations

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Justice to list the locations where PSNI applicants can undertake the entry examinations.

(AQW 6509/10)

Minister of Justice : Practical arrangements for recruitment are a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

Contraband Items

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to list all the contraband items seized from prisoners in the last 12 months.

(AQW 6526/10)

Minister of Justice : The table below lists contraband items seized from prisoners during the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

	Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank Wood	Totals
Drugs	74	40	38	152
Mobile phones	24	30	26	80
Unidentified substance - suspected drugs/medication	17	35	16	68
Phone equipment - batteries/sim cards	8	29	1	38
Potential makeshift weapons	9	8	4	21
Alcohol	5	4	2	11
Miscellaneous items - unauthorised documents	3	4	2	9
Totals	140	150	89	379

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 6210/10, to detail the offences committed for each of the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs); and how many of these ASBOs have been breached.

(AQW 6534/10)

Minister of Justice : The information being sought is a matter for the relevant authorities and is not held centrally. The Anti Social Behaviour (NI) Order 2004 defines anti social behaviour as acting:

‘in a manner that caused, or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one of more persons not of the same household as himself’; and as such the term ‘offences’ is inappropriate.

To provide such information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Of the 39 ASBOs listed in AQW 6210/10, 6 have been breached.

Prison Service Equality Statement and Report

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Justice if he will publish the Prison Service equality statement and report.

(AQW 6544/10)

Minister of Justice : The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) is fully committed to its statutory obligations under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. In line with other NICS Departments it does not have an equality statement as such. As an Agency within the Department of Justice it reports, as part of the wider Departmental Equality Scheme, on its equality duties through published Annual Progress Reports as commissioned by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. The report for 2009/2010 is being collated and a copy will be placed in the library in due course.

Street Pastors Organisation

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister of Justice if he is aware that the Street Pastors organisation is considering operating in Northern Ireland; and if he would provide funding for this project.

(AQW 6563/10)

Minister of Justice : My Department has not been made aware that Street Pastors is considering operating in Northern Ireland nor has my Department been approached by this organisation for funding.

Any request for funding could be considered once it was clear what the project would aim to achieve against a clearly evidenced need not already being addressed through existing initiatives. Any proposal would also need to be considered against existing financial commitments.

Coroners Service for Northern Ireland Website

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Justice if he will arrange for details of completed inquests, including the name of the deceased, the verdict and any related recommendations, to be placed on the Coroners Service for Northern Ireland website.

(AQW 6591/10)

Minister of Justice : There are no plans at present to publish the findings of Inquests because of the personal and sensitive nature of the information involved and the possibility of causing more distress to the next of kin.

However where a coroner believes that action should be taken to prevent the recurrence of fatalities similar to the one for which an inquest was held, he may make a report to the person or authority that has power to take action. While there is currently no provision for the publication of this information in Northern Ireland this is something that I intend to review.

Dissident Terrorist Activity

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Justice what contact he has had with officials from other parts of the UK regarding the need to address the increased level of dissident terrorist activity.

(AQW 6599/10)

Minister of Justice : To date I have had two meetings on dissident terrorist activity with NIO Ministers and officials.

Assaults on Police Officers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many police officers were assaulted whilst on duty in each constituency, in each of the last three years; and how many of these assaults were regarded as serious.

(AQW 6617/10)

Minister of Justice : Recording instances of assault on police officers is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond directly.

Youth Conferencing with the Youth Justice Agency

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister of Justice how many children and young people in north Belfast are currently engaged in Youth Conferencing with the Youth Justice Agency.

(AQW 6620/10)

Minister of Justice : In the constituency of Belfast North, including the boundary changes from 6th April 2010, the Youth Justice Agency is currently supervising 85 young people. These young people have met with their victims at a youth conference and having agreed a reparative action plan are subject to Youth Conference Orders/plans.

Tasers

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice how many times PSNI officers have deployed tasers since they were introduced.

(AQW 6624/10)

Minister of Justice : The deployment of tasers by PSNI officers is a matter for the Chief Constable who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board, and I have forwarded this Question to the Chief Constable, who will respond to you directly.

Minutes of High Court Meetings

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Justice whether auditable minutes are taken during High Court meetings involving solicitors and the Master; and if these minutes are countersigned by all the parties involved. (AQW 6625/10)

Minister of Justice : Meetings between Masters and members of the legal profession about individual cases are the responsibility of the Lord Chief Justice.

The Lord Chief Justice's Office has agreed to write to the Member in respect of this matter.

Tort Law and the Human Rights Act

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of whether Tort law and the Human Rights Act, are being fully enforced by the High Court with regard to medical negligence. (AQW 6627/10)

Minister of Justice : The application of the law in any case before the court is entirely a matter for the judge. If a party considers that the law has not been properly applied in a particular case in the High Court, there is a right of appeal to the Court of Appeal and in certain circumstances to the Supreme Court.

NI Court Service Employees

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of employees in the NI Court Service who are currently suspended from work; (ii) the length of time each employee has been suspended on full pay and (iii) the total cost to the Court Service in salaries, national insurance and pension contributions of these cases over the last 5 years. (AQW 6636/10)

Minister of Justice : Three employees in the Business Operations Division in the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service are currently on precautionary suspension from work. Two Administrative Officers have been suspended on full pay, one for 24 months and 3 weeks and one for 9 weeks, and an Executive Officer for 18 months and 2 weeks. The total cost of these cases in salaries, national insurance and pension contributions to date is approximately £81,534.

A further 9 employees have been suspended within the last 5 years for various periods. These cases have now been concluded and incurred salary related costs of approximately £750k.

Department for Regional Development

A5 Western Transport Corridor

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development how many hectares are to be vested for the construction of the A5 Western Transport Corridor. (AQW 6386/10)

Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy): My Department's Roads Service has advised that the total area of land to be vested for the A5 Western Transport Corridor is currently estimated to be 1,000 hectares. The final figure will not be known until late summer this year.

This estimate includes areas of land which will be required temporarily during construction to facilitate works, such as flood compensation measures, deposition of surplus material, drainage outfalls, temporary road diversions and environmental mitigation.

Following completion of the scheme, the temporary land will be disposed of to the landowners.

These temporary areas may be omitted from the vesting order, if appropriate agreements can be made with the relevant landowners.

Ministry of Defence Housing Sites

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail any meetings held between NI Water and residents of former Ministry of Defence housing sites to assess the residents' ability to pay for upgrading the mains water and sewerage systems; and (ii) what steps he is taking to ensure that NI Water holds such meetings to reach a solution.

(AQW 6476/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it has not met with residents of former Ministry of Defence housing sites to discuss their ability to pay for upgrading water and sewerage systems. It has however met with developers and developer's agents in relation to the proposed adoption of infrastructure within former Ministry of Defence sites in Ballymena, Ballykelly and Portadown. NIW will only adopt sewerage systems which meet the current specification and construction standards contained in its Sewers for Adoption Procedures. Guidance Notes about the Sewer Adoption process are available on the NIW website at www.niwater.com. Watermains may also be offered for adoption by agreement subject to their installation meeting current NIW specification and they must comply with current regulations and standards of performance for the provision of water supplies to premises in the area.

NIW would be available to meet with any residents of former Ministry of Defence housing to explain the current procedures and requirements for adoption of water or sewerage infrastructure within their sites.

Vandalism of Bus Shelters

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the cost of vandalism of bus shelters in the North Down constituency, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 6477/10)

Minister for Regional Development: In January 2001 Roads Service and the majority of district councils entered into a 15-year contract with Adshel (the bus shelter provider) for the provision of approximately 1500 bus shelters throughout the council areas involved. The provision and maintenance of these shelters are funded by Adshel through advertising revenue and at no cost to the Department. The contract covers the vast majority of bus shelters here – including all those in the North Down area - and the Department has no knowledge of the costs incurred by Adshel in carrying out their contractual commitments.

Translink does not currently maintain any bus shelters in the North Down area.

Annaghmore Road and Bellshill Road Junction at Castledawson

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development how much was spent on the public inquiry on the Annaghmore Road and Bellshill Road junction at Castledawson in 2007.

(AQW 6488/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the November 2007 Public Inquiry, held to examine the Toome to Castledawson Dualling Scheme, cost £64,341.72 although it is not possible to establish what proportion of the overall costs related to the Annaghmore Road and Bellshill Road junction.

Traffic Warning Lights for Greyabbey Primary School

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Regional Development to confirm the completion date for the traffic warning lights for Greyabbey Primary School.

(AQW 6492/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that one of the flashing traffic warning signs erected at Greyabbey Primary School in October 2009 is to be relocated to improve its visibility to drivers.

However, there has been a delay in progressing this work due to the completion of emergency patching work in the Ards area. While I am unable to provide a definitive date as to when this work will be completed, it is anticipated that it will be completed by the end of May 2010.

Mains Water Pipe on the Tamlogh Road between Randalstown and Portglenone

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Regional Development on how many occasions, in each of the last five years, has NI Water repaired the mains water pipe on the Tamlogh Road between Randalstown and Portglenone; and at what cost.

(AQW 6512/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it does not hold records of individual water main repairs prior to 1 April 2007 and is unable to provide the information sought for 2005/06 and 2006/07. The table below shows the number of repairs to the section of water main on the Tamlogh Road between Randalstown and Portglenone for the 3 years to 31 March 2010, together with an estimated cost for the work.

Year	Number of Repairs	Estimated Cost
2007/08	1	£400
2008/09	4	£1,600
2009/10	10	£4,000

NIW is currently progressing plans to replace this section of water main.

Wastewater Treatment Works

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Regional Development if he can confirm that the ongoing problems at Greyabbey wastewater treatment works will be resolved within a six month period, given that similar problems were resolved within six months at the Drumaness wastewater treatment works.

(AQW 6590/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that there are no ongoing problems at Greyabbey Wastewater Treatment Works and a recent review of its performance has shown the Works to be operating effectively. While both Greyabbey and Drumaness Works use a similar treatment process, it would not be appropriate to compare the performance of these works as a number of factors, including the operation of the respective sewerage networks and the volumes of wastewater treated, differ substantially.

Following a number of flooding complaints in the Greyabbey area over recent months, NIW identified some issues with the sewerage network and undertook remedial action. Unfortunately, this work has not fully resolved the flooding problem therefore a more detailed study of the sewer network is required. NIW has assured me that you will be kept informed of developments as the investigation progresses.

Closure of Northern Ireland Airspace

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development if he has been involved in any discussions regarding the closure of Northern Ireland airspace in recent weeks.

(AQW 6603/10)

Minister for Regional Development: I have not been involved in discussions regarding the closure of airspace. The control of airspace over the North is a reserved matter. Decisions regarding closure are taken by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in consultation with National Air Traffic Services (NATS), the Met Office and the Department for Transport.

However I have been receiving regular updates from the Department for Transport in London, the CAA and NATS regarding flight restrictions. I have also been in direct contact with Noel Dempsey, my counterpart in the South and my Department is receiving updates on the position within Irish airspace.

General information on the current situation and the response to it has been collated by OFMDFM from all affected organisations and governments. This has been shared and discussed with relevant departments and agencies through the Civil Contingencies Group mechanism.

Saintfield Road

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps his Department has taken to ensure that all works on the Saintfield Road are co-ordinated to minimise disruption to local residents and road users.

(AQW 6631/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that a significant amount of planning is involved in the preparation of its annual works programme to ensure that all programmed utility works are carried out, as necessary, simultaneously with any scheme. However, in some circumstances, such as traffic management requirements, or public safety reasons, some utility works may be carried out in advance of a scheme.

Over the last five years, Roads Service has carried out a significant amount of essential structural maintenance on the Saintfield Road. The most recent resurfacing work was carried out in August 2009, between Ivanhoe Avenue and the Carryduff roundabout, and included the provision of a new footway/cycleway.

Over 700 information letters outlining the nature and extent of these works were delivered to residents and businesses, in advance of the work commencing. These letters provided contact details for Roads Service and the Contractor's supervisory staff, in the event of any problems occurring during the works. Information signs were also erected on the approaches to the works, and additional letters were delivered to provide up dates to residents and businesses during the works.

Before this work commenced, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) advised that a water main needed to be replaced, and Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) advised that it wished to replace a number of electric poles in the same section of the Saintfield Road. Following discussions, it was agreed that NIW would carry out the majority of its work before commencement of the resurfacing scheme, and that NIE would carry its work afterwards. This scheme was planned in such a way so as to minimise its impact upon residents, local businesses and commuters. The majority of the footway work was undertaken during week-days and at off-peak times to avoid the peak-hour commuter traffic. The carriageway resurfacing was carried out at weekends, as this involved road closures.

Work is also ongoing to form an entrance for the new Park and Ride site between Cairnshill Road and Primrose Hill. This has involved lane closures during off-peak periods, and is programmed to be complete by the summer of 2010.

Previous resurfacing schemes have been properly managed and co-ordinated by Roads Service in order to minimise the impact upon the residents, commercial communities and commuters without compromising road safety. Although there are no further plans to carry out major resurfacing works on

the Saintfield Road within the current financial year, routine maintenance will continue to be carried out, such as gully emptying

Ballynahinch By-Pass

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Regional Development when funding for the Ballynahinch By-Pass will be made available and when work will commence.

(AQW 6681/10)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the A24 Ballynahinch By-pass proposal is included in its Preparation Pool. This allows high priority schemes to be developed and taken through the Statutory Procedures in advance of funding being confirmed. However, subsequent progression into the Construction Programme is dependent on the satisfactory completion of the Statutory Procedures and the availability of funding at that time.

While I can confirm that work to develop the scheme, in preparation for progressing it through the Statutory Procedures is continuing, I am at present unable to advise when construction work on site is likely to commence, as the level of funding likely to be available for strategic road improvements, in future years, has not been decided.

Department for Social Development

Housing Waiting List

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister for Social Development how many people are currently (i) on the housing waiting list; and (ii) deemed to be in housing stress in (a) Downpatrick; (b) Newcastle; (c) Castlewellan; (d) Hilltown; (e) Rathfriland; (f) Kilkeel; (g) Warrenpoint; (h) Rostrevor; and (i) Mayobridge.

(AQW 6177/10)

Minister for Social Development (Ms M Ritchie): The table below provides the social housing waiting list figures, including the numbers of applicants in housing stress for the areas in question:-

Area	Applicants	Housing Stress
Downpatrick	285	132
Newcastle	267	152
Castlewellan	109	65
Hilltown	35	17
Rathfriland	55	17
Kilkeel	81	33
Warrenpoint	185	115
Rostrevor	62	37
Mayobridge	15	8

Village Renewal Area of south Belfast

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many houses in the redevelopment section of the Village Renewal Area of south Belfast had grant aided work carried out in the last two years; and (ii) how much public money was spent on each house.

(AQW 6216/10)

Minister for Social Development: No new applications for grant aid to homes in the redevelopment section of the Village have been approved since 30 April 2008, when an Urban Renewal Area was declared.

However 24 homes have had grant aided work totalling £95,836.51 completed within the last two years as these approvals pre-dated the declaration of the Urban Renewal Area and as such the Housing Executive was already committed to this work. These properties are all due for demolition.

Social Housing Dwellings

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how many social housing dwellings were completed in (i) 2008/09; and (ii) 2009/10 in each constituency.

(AQW 6232/10)

Minister for Social Development: The table below details social housing dwellings completed in 2008/09 and 2009/10 in each constituency:-

Constituency	2008/09	2009/10
East Antrim	6	18
North Antrim	7	8
South Antrim	32	1
Upper Bann	58	119
East Belfast	139	175
North Belfast	187	250
South Belfast	66	146
West Belfast	83	94
North Down	77	46
South Down	40	29
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	93	124
Foyle	174	71
Lagan Valley	169	143
East Londonderry	14	43
Mid Ulster	4	63
Newry and Armagh	85	94
Strangford	85	64
West Tyrone	46	16

Points System for the Allocation of Housing

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister for Social Development if she has any plans to review the points system for the allocation of housing, and giving more consideration to community infrastructure.

(AQW 6295/10)

Minister for Social Development: Allocation of social housing is based on the Common Selection Scheme which assesses and ranks applicants on the basis of individual need, taking into account factors such as intimidation, insecurity of tenure, housing conditions and health and social well-being.

While the Common Selection Scheme remains an effective and equitable system of assessing need, it is important that it takes account of recent changes to wider Northern Ireland society. My officials are currently considering plans for modernisation of the Scheme to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and I hope to be in a position to bring proposals forward later this year.

Housing Executive Discretionary Grants

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister for Social Development for her assessment of when Housing Executive Discretionary Grants may be re-instated.

(AQW 6298/10)

Minister for Social Development: The budget allocation for 2010/11 has been allocated to meet both outstanding commitments, together with in year mandatory grant requirements (Disabled Facilities Grants and Repairs). As in 2009/10 there will be no in-year approvals for grants other than for the mandatory grants and exceptional discretionary grants.

The mandatory grants - Disabled Facilities Grants, which provide adaptations to enable disabled people to remain in their home; and Repairs Grants, approved on foot of Statutory Notices, will continue to operate normally.

I will continue to bid in future monitoring rounds to protect the housing agenda.

Neighbourhood Wardens

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many neighbourhood wardens currently operate in North Down; (ii) the areas for which they are responsible; and (iii) if she has any plans to introduce more wardens in the area.

(AQW 6338/10)

Minister for Social Development: There are currently two Neighbourhood Wardens in North Down and they operate across the following areas:-

- Kilcooley/ Ferngrove
- Rathgill/Willowbrook
- Clandeboye/ Woodgreen
- Holywood
- Conlig/ Breezemount
- Bloomfield
- Whitehill/ Clanmorris/ Lisnabreen
- Groomsport
- Jubilee
- Crawfordsburn/ Helens Bay

There are currently no plans to introduce any further Neighbourhood Wardens in North Down.

Housing Benefit Payments

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development for a breakdown of the total amount of Housing Benefit payments (i) by constituency; and (ii) by District Council area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 6339/10)

Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the format requested. The table below provides the information by Housing Executive District Office area, for the period 2005/06 to 2009/10.

District Office *	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Belfast	£98,645,894.88	£104,444,591.99	£110,188,795.87	£120,958,044.70	£130,578,496.66
Bangor District (North Down)	£11,134,484.44	£11,632,577.16	£12,194,048.76	£12,834,893.22	£14,525,435.53
Newtownards District	£12,113,485.54	£12,893,575.90	£13,480,741.19	£14,788,292.30	£16,647,665.62
Castlereagh District	£8,909,790.34	£9,191,004.94	£9,603,670.98	£10,430,742.95	£11,323,321.91
Lisburn District 1 (Lisburn)	£11,187,071.93	£11,693,629.88	£12,611,738.38	£14,157,560.34	£16,274,319.20
Lisburn District 3 (Lisburn)	£8,155,931.63	£8,636,039.56	£9,371,634.98	£10,015,844.02	£10,561,293.55
Downpatrick District (Down)	£12,566,079.90	£13,705,650.08	£14,564,773.53	£15,898,470.72	£17,967,481.15
Banbridge District	£6,680,344.19	£7,220,138.30	£7,464,979.46	£8,323,262.81	£9,301,734.72
Newry District (Newry & Mourne)	£20,750,963.89	£21,132,179.39	£21,829,025.65	£23,274,799.35	£26,057,732.64
Armagh District	£9,188,677.25	£9,475,994.22	£9,719,127.20	£10,644,254.43	£11,951,634.38
Lurgan District (Craigavon)	£12,459,250.96	£13,176,722.29	£13,734,016.25	£15,334,844.12	£17,125,733.08
Portadown District (Craigavon)	£7,695,717.83	£8,095,317.61	£8,386,720.50	£9,284,322.27	£10,116,478.67
Dungannon District	£8,552,807.39	£8,942,346.33	£9,484,393.90	£10,440,414.72	£11,976,537.99
Fermanagh District	£9,833,285.48	£10,043,638.10	£10,458,593.27	£11,290,892.96	£13,504,971.01
Ballymena District	£10,740,367.68	£11,184,895.97	£11,518,924.22	£12,177,141.14	£14,188,312.27
Antrim District	£7,579,421.76	£7,713,173.26	£8,041,751.26	£8,685,683.05	£10,511,348.37
Newtownabbey District 1 (N'abbey)	£6,650,227.14	£6,837,803.53	£7,012,994.71	£7,344,033.22	£8,648,127.96
Newtownabbey District 2 (N'abbey)	£7,245,662.24	£7,667,930.93	£7,953,484.36	£8,302,555.42	£9,756,120.23
Carrickfergus District	£6,622,276.30	£6,958,179.34	£7,393,808.11	£7,921,856.74	£9,167,773.66
Larne District	£6,108,894.26	£6,251,295.98	£6,431,892.48	£6,966,676.12	£8,463,736.28
Ballycastle District (Moyle)	£3,872,424.91	£4,045,310.82	£4,255,154.08	£4,474,216.99	£5,312,441.76

District Office *	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Ballymoney District	£5,467,589.98	£5,812,275.42	£6,032,714.50	£6,419,148.12	£7,670,070.38
Coleraine District	£12,043,920.02	£12,694,553.67	£13,467,204.22	£14,930,441.18	£16,778,688.05
Waterloo Place (Derry)	£15,323,047.45	£15,832,645.69	£16,450,973.63	£17,974,402.39	£19,559,639.03
Waterside District (Derry)	£14,396,865.18	£15,293,830.71	£15,850,148.00	£16,772,796.42	£18,309,156.94
Collon Terrace District (Derry)	£13,758,540.17	£14,523,999.72	£15,264,108.56	£16,135,681.62	£17,271,285.80
Limavady District	£6,570,535.49	£6,937,421.40	£7,219,916.57	£8,212,978.52	£9,859,264.71
Magherafelt District	£5,455,539.36	£5,478,442.20	£5,831,310.44	£6,498,851.55	£7,859,839.09
Strabane District	£10,788,774.63	£11,594,338.68	£12,289,212.34	£13,452,850.85	£15,321,750.61
Omagh District	£10,547,797.81	£11,025,622.62	£11,388,582.70	£12,403,640.94	£13,814,263.77
Cookstown District	£5,164,881.01	£5,350,712.95	£5,685,093.23	£6,523,745.44	£7,669,721.07

*NIHE District Offices correspond to the relevant local government areas (except where indicated).

Block Grant for Fuel Poverty

Ms J McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding each Department received from the block grant for fuel poverty in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 6373/10)

Minister for Social Development: The following table shows the block grant funding for fuel poverty from 2007/08 to 2009/10.

Year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Total £m	43.9	34.4	35.5

Co-Ownership Budget

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Social Development what the Co-Ownership budget is for the 2010/11 financial year.

(AQW 6395/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Northern Ireland Co-ownership Housing Association (NICHHA) started this year with a grant of £15 million. They will use the £15 million grant along with external finance to achieve the Programme for Government target of assisting 500 applicants this year.

Shared Surface Schemes

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Social Development what steps she is taking to address the concerns of blind and partially sighted people in relation to shared surface schemes.

(AQW 6403/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department does not have any plans at present to develop shared surface schemes in Northern Ireland within our Urban Regeneration remit. All DSD's schemes are Equality Assessed and involve thorough consultation with an array of interested groups and organisations representing, among others, blind and partially sighted people. Any expressed views and concerns are taken into account as far as possible in arriving at a final scheme design.

My colleague, Conor Murphy MLA, Minister for Regional Development, has advised me that in January 2009 the Department for Transport commissioned a wide ranging, two year research project on shared surfaces, on which DRD are represented at Project Board level. The purpose of this research, amongst others, is to investigate how shared surfaces can be made to work for people with disabilities, particularly those who are blind or partially sighted.

One of the key outputs from this programme of research is expected to be a comprehensive guidance document on the design and provision of shared surfaces. I will consider the outcomes and recommendations along with Minister Murphy when they become available.

Housing Association Guide

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development if she is aware that sub-contractors are losing business because of slow and part payment by Housing Associations for completed work; and if she is satisfied that the Housing Association Guide is being implemented.

(AQW 6408/10)

Minister for Social Development: Part 4 of the Department's Housing Association Guide, requires Housing Associations to operate a prompt payment policy (current Departmental guidance requires payment to be made within 30 days) to all contractors and subsequently requires all contractors to make prompt payments to their sub-contractors. Compliance with this guidance is checked as part of the Department's Inspection Process. However, there is no legal liability on Housing Associations to enforce the prompt payment provisions in any sub-contract.

Executive's Prompt Payment Policy

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development for her assessment of whether Housing Associations are complying with the Executive's prompt payment policy.

(AQW 6409/10)

Minister for Social Development: Housing Associations, through the Regulation and Inspection process, are assessed during inspections as to whether they are complying with Prompt Payment. These inspections reveal that Associations are complying with the Prompt Payment target of 30 days.

Paying Suppliers

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development whether her Department is committed to, and compliant in, paying suppliers within 10-days of the receipt of valid invoices.

(AQW 6410/10)

Minister for Social Development: My Department is fully committed to the 10 day prompt payment of supplier invoices and I have sought and been given assurance that the Department and its sponsored bodies are taking all appropriate actions.

The actual prompt payment performance for my Department over the period January 2010 to March 2010 is shown below. The Department exceeded the average prompt payment performance for all NICS Departments during this period.

Month	Department for Social Development
January	53%
February	60%
March	71%

My officials continue to work with Account NI colleagues to identify issues and recommend improvements to the current payment process.

Housing Association Guide

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development how the Housing Association Guide compares to the NEC3 contract adopted by the Central Procurement Directorate.

(AQW 6411/10)

Minister for Social Development: The current review to the Procurement section of the Housing Association Guide will require Housing Association's to use the NEC3 form of contract for all construction related procurement. The new guidance will be available from June 2010.

Housing Associations

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development if Housing Associations are applying the measures agreed by the Construction Industry Forum aimed at improving the speed of payments to sub-contractors.

(AQW 6412/10)

Minister for Social Development: The measures referred to are currently being incorporated into the procurement part of the Housing Association Guide, which will be available at the end of June 2010.

Housing Executive Design Group Satellite

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development why the Housing Executive Design Group satellite based in Omagh is to be closed and centralised in Belfast, given that the staff were only allocated to their posts in June 2009.

(AQW 6435/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Omagh Design Group was set up on 1st June 2009 with the overall restructuring of Design and Property services being completed in July 2009. It was agreed that a further review would be carried out in approximately six months to ensure structures were correct in line with budgets and resources etc. Given the downturn in the Housing Executive's capital budget the workload and fee earning capacity of the Design Group satellite based in Omagh has been greatly reduced. To make the Design Group sustainable for the future, it is necessary to reduce the number of technical and administration staff within the Group and to offer them alternative appropriate employment in other parts of the Housing Executive. Because of the revised staff numbers in the Design Group it is no longer sustainable to have the group split across two sites with the associated overheads.

Housing Executive Design Group Satellite

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development what savings will be made by moving the Housing Executive Design Group satellite services from Omagh to Belfast.

(AQW 6436/10)

Minister for Social Development: The closure of the current services provided from Omagh will account for savings totalling £348,732.

Housing Executive Design Group Satellite

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development what alternative arrangements will be made for the staff of the Housing Executive Design Group satellite to allow them to work near Omagh.

(AQW 6437/10)

Minister for Social Development: Where there is a surplus of staff to be redeployed, the Housing Executive's Redeployment of Staff procedures will be applied in consultation with the Trade Union. The Housing Executive's policy is to take all reasonable measures to absorb surplus staff by redeployment in the interests of staff and the Housing Executive. While individual preferences will be accommodated as far as possible, this will be dependent on the availability of posts at any particular time and the co-operation of staff in managing the redeployment process.

Housing Executive Design Services to Belfast

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development how the centralisation of the Housing Executive Design Services to Belfast will affect service delivery in the west of Northern Ireland.

(AQW 6438/10)

Minister for Social Development: The closure of the Design Group sub-office in Omagh and the delivery of the core service from Belfast will not affect the delivery of the service in the west of Northern Ireland. The service delivery will be in line with the Housing Executive's guidelines and no-one will be disadvantaged by the changes.

Small Pockets of Deprivation Funding

Mr J Shannon asked the Minister for Social Development if she intends to increase the Small Pockets of Deprivation funding for the Glen Estate, the West Winds Estate and the Bowtown Estate in Newtownards; and by how much.

(AQW 6442/10)

Minister for Social Development: I announced a one-year extension to the Small Pockets of Deprivation (SPOD) programme for the 2010/11 financial year in December 2009. A funding package of £415,000 (based on the financial outturn of the 2009/10 programme) was set aside to continue the funding of running costs for community centres and salaries for staff employed through the SPOD programme. I have no intention of increasing this level of funding. Applications have been received from these three estates and their claims have been met in full. These estates have received the following awards from the SPOD programme for the financial year 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011:

- Bowtown – Running costs for the Community centre, a total award of £5,790;
- Glen estate – Salary costs of £8,762 and office costs of £5,672, a total award of £14,432
- West Winds – Running costs of Youth Club of £1,770 and running costs for Community office of £4,400, a total award of £6,170.

Housing Associations

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development if Housing Associations require their main contractors to subscribe to a Fair Payment Charter for all new construction works, similar to that applied by the construction industry since 1 March 2010.

(AQW 6463/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Government Construction Clients Group (GCCG) and the Construction Industry Group for Northern Ireland (CIGNI) have agreed proposals for the introduction of a Fair Payment Charter to be applied to construction procurement activity which is undertaken after 1 March 2010, and which is governed by Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy. This requirement will be included in the new revision to the Housing Association Guide which will be available from June 2010.

Housing Associations

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development what arrangements Housing Associations have in place to monitor contractors' performance, including the work and payment of sub-contractors.

(AQW 6464/10)

Minister for Social Development: Housing Associations monitor contractors' performance through the use of Construction line, inspections of contracts by Clerk of Works and by holding monthly site meetings with all key stakeholders including sub-contractors and suppliers. It is not incumbent upon any Association to directly monitor the work or payment of sub-contractors as the Association is not a party to these domestic sub-contracts.

Poor Payment Performance by a Sub-contractor

Mr L Cree asked the Minister for Social Development whether her Department, when made aware of poor payment performance by a sub-contractor, can enforce the appropriate terms of the contract to resolve the issue, as is the case with other Departments.

(AQW 6465/10)

Minister for Social Development: As the Department is not a party to the contract between the sub-contractor and any subsequent supplier of goods or services the Department cannot enforce any of the terms of the contract.

However, Housing Associations compliance with prompt payment guidance is checked as part of the Departments Inspection process.

Licensed Premises

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development what is the standard fine and any additional penalty imposed on owners or staff of licensed premises convicted of selling alcohol outside licensing

hours; and how many convictions are permitted before a licensee is permanently banned from operating.

(AQW 6468/10)

Minister for Social Development: Under the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, a licensee or member of staff convicted of selling alcohol outside the permitted hours faces a fine not exceeding level 5 (£5000) on the standard scale. Where a licensee is convicted of selling alcohol outside the permitted hours on 2 occasions within 5 years, a court must (unless satisfied that there are extenuating circumstances) suspend the licence for not less than 1 week or more than 3 months. There is no provision for a licensee to be permanently banned from operating for a set number of convictions but a court has the power to refuse to renew a licence for reasons which include the manner in which the business has been conducted and the fitness of the person to hold a licence.

Community Workers in North Down

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development which housing estates in North Down have a community worker who is wholly or part funded by her Department.

(AQW 6474/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Housing Executive currently fund part time community workers in both the Bloomfield and Breezemount estates. The Neighbourhood Renewal Development funds one community development worker, employed by the Kilcooley Community Forum, in the Kilcooley estate in North Down. The Regional Development Office, through the Small Pockets of Deprivation programme, also funds a community worker post and a Social Economy Officer post in Rathgill estate in Bangor. The Regional Development Office also funds a co-ordinator post for community programmes based in the YMCA which is located in the Harbour area in Bangor town centre and is not estate-specific.

Housing Executive Design Office in Omagh

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister for Social Development why the Housing Executive design office in Omagh is to close; and what consideration has been given to the impact of the closure on staff working in the office and people in West Tyrone.

(AQW 6489/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Omagh Design Group was set up on 1 June 2009 with the overall restructuring of Design and Property services being completed in July 2009. It was agreed that a further review would be carried out in approximately six months to ensure structures were correct in line with budgets and resources etc. Given the downturn in the Housing Executive's capital budget the workload and fee earning capacity of the Design Group satellite based in Omagh has been greatly reduced. To make the Design Group sustainable for the future, it is necessary to reduce the number of technical and administration staff within the Group and to offer them alternative appropriate employment in other parts of the Housing Executive. Because of the revised staff numbers in the Design Group it is no longer sustainable to have the group split across two sites with the associated overheads. In relation to the impact on staff, where there is a surplus of staff to be redeployed the Housing Executive's Redeployment of Staff procedures will be applied in consultation with the Trade Union. The Housing Executive's policy is to take all reasonable measures to absorb surplus staff by redeployment in the interests of staff and the Housing Executive. In relation to the impact on people in West Tyrone, the closure of the Design Group sub-office in Omagh and the delivery of the core service from Belfast will not affect the delivery of the service in the west of Northern Ireland. The delivery will be in line with the Housing Executive's guidelines and no-one will be disadvantaged by the changes.

Social Fund Funeral Payment

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to AQW 6234/10, if she will consider extending the time limit for the Social Fund Funeral payment.

(AQW 6501/10)

Minister for Social Development: The time limit for claims for Funeral Payments is already very generous. Claims are accepted from the date of death up to 3 months following the date of the funeral thus allowing a degree of flexibility for those occasions on which a funeral can be delayed.

There are no plans to extend the current time-limit.

Fold Housing Association Social Housing Scheme at Skeoge Road, Derry

Ms M Anderson asked the Minister for Social Development if her Department has provided funding for the Fold Housing Association social housing scheme at Skeoge Road, Derry; and what conditions are built into the contract to ensure fair pay and conditions for subcontractors working on the scheme.
(AQW 6536/10)

Minister for Social Development: I am pleased that my Department has been able to make nearly £12 million available to support the delivery of 124 new family homes at Skeoge Road, Derry. Work began in March this year and is expected to last 15 months. Our new Procurement Strategy for the Social Housing Development Programme ensures that the procurement of all social housing either in Skeoge or elsewhere embraces construction procurement best practice. This includes recent proposals of the Construction Industry Forum (CIFNI) Procurement Task Group Report Addendum specifically in relation to fair pay and conditions.

Financial Position of Pensioners

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister for Social Development what steps she is taking to seek better pension arrangements to improve the financial position of pensioners.
(AQW 6543/10)

Minister for Social Development: The Pensions Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 introduced a programme of reforms aimed at making the State Pension fairer, more accessible and improving its coverage and generosity; particularly for women and carers. For those reaching State Pension age on or after 6 April 2010, the number of qualifying years required for a full basic State Pension was reduced to thirty for both men and women. A new weekly National Insurance credit will help carers build entitlement to the basic State Pension, State Second Pension and certain Bereavement Benefits. Furthermore, the legislation is in place to enable the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to restore the link between the up-rating of State Pension and earnings.

The Pensions (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 made provision for employers to enrol all eligible employees into a qualifying workplace pension scheme from 2012. This will provide employees with access to a workplace pension scheme funded by employee, employer and government contributions. Individuals will be given the opportunity to build a private pension to supplement retirement income received from the State, many of them gaining access for the first time.

Pension Credit remains a key part of the overall strategy for tackling pensioner poverty. I will continue to liaise with my counterpart in the Department for Work and Pensions to seek the best possible deal for pensioners.

Magherafelt Social Security Office Staff

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development what consultation took place with Magherafelt Social Security Office staff as part of the Customer First programme; and to outline the time-line of this process.
(AQW 6568/10)

Minister for Social Development: Since the inception in 2006 of the Strategic Business Review (SBR), the Social Security Agency has consulted extensively with staff and trade union representatives.

This included formal public consultation (November 2008), Equality Impact Assessment of implementation arrangements (April – June 2009), concluding with consultation on local arrangements for staff relocation in Magherafelt Social Security Office in March 2010.

Customer First Programme

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the cost benefit analysis of the Customer First programme, with particular reference to the proposals for Magherafelt Social Security Office. **(AQW 6570/10)**

Minister for Social Development: A cost benefit analysis has been completed in respect of the Customer First programme. It has been conducted on a Programme basis and therefore it is not appropriate to isolate an individual Business Processing Centre within the overall analysis.

Customer First Programme

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development how many staff have been moved (i) from; and (ii) to Magherafelt Social Security Office under the Customer First Programme; and how many more are expected to be moved.

(AQW 6571/10)

Minister for Social Development: Under Customer First a total of 41 North District staff were relocated to Magherafelt. A total of 12 staff from other support functions moved out of Magherafelt. There are no plans to move any further staff to Magherafelt Benefit Processing Centre.

PSNI Investigation into the Nelson Street Site

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister for Social Development when she anticipates the PSNI investigation into the Nelson Street site will be completed.

(AQW 6622/10)

Minister for Social Development: I am not in a position to comment on how long the PSNI investigation may take.

Maintenance of Housing Association and Housing Executive Properties

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister for Social Development what measures she will take to address the inequality between the maintenance of Housing Association properties and Housing Executive properties.

(AQW 6672/10)

Minister for Social Development: I do not accept that measures are necessary to address what are basically different funding mechanisms for the management and maintenance of Housing Executive and Housing Association properties.

The preliminary results from the 2009 House Condition Survey indicate that unfitness in social housing is decreasing significantly and in effect there is no difference in the fitness levels of homes provided by either Housing Executive or Housing Association movement.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Parliament Buildings: Accessibility

Mr D McKay asked the Assembly Commission what discussions it has had with disability organisations to ensure that facilities and services available within Parliament Buildings and its precincts are accessible to everyone.

(AQO 1225/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): A major programme of physical works was carried out to Parliament Buildings in 2006 to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

This work included extensive alterations to lifts, staircases and handrails and followed recommendations in an Accessibility Audit carried out by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) and consultation with representatives of disability organisations including Disability Action, Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

More recently, refurbishment work to the Assembly Chamber, in summer 2008, included provision of level access to the floor of the chamber and the installation of a wheelchair viewing platform and platform hoist to the Public Gallery.

All of the public areas in Parliament Buildings, including the Great Hall, Long Gallery and committee meeting rooms are fitted with induction loop systems to facilitate persons with hearing difficulties. There are also current plans to provide an additional toilet for disabled people at Ground Floor Level and to appoint Adapt (NI) and RNIB to carry out further accessibility audits.

The NI Assembly Commission's Equality Scheme was approved by the Equality Commission for NI on 27 February 2008 and prior to approval consultation took place with disability organisations. In addition the Commission's current Disability Action Plan also includes consultation with disability organisations.

More recently the Commission has completed a consultation exercise on the screening of its policies and through this process disability organisations were consulted in order to gather views on our policies and practices. Consultation with organisations is ongoing and representatives of disability organisations sit on the Disability Advisory Group, which is chaired by the Commission's Equality Manager, in order to discuss issues such as facilities and services and to input into policy.

In addition, a representative of the Assembly's Education Service also discusses accessibility with all participants in the education programme at the time of booking to enable special requirements to be met.

Parliament Buildings: Car Parking

Mr J McCallister asked the Assembly Commission if it will take immediate emergency action to address the car parking situation on sitting days.

(AQO 1226/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The Assembly Commission fully acknowledges the difficulties experienced in parking in the car parks, particularly on sitting days.

All car parks within the Stormont Estate are however owned and managed by DFP. Whilst access to the upper car parks at Parliament Buildings is restricted to Assembly use only, the Assembly does not have exclusive access to or use of the Lower East car park and therefore cannot reserve it solely for Assembly use.

The Commission has however requested that the Secretariat engages with DFP to establish if there are any other measures that can be taken to resolve this problem. These negotiations are well underway. The Director of Facilities also participates in a regular working group with DFP personnel and has also been in direct contact with senior officials in DFP with a view to dealing strategically with the perennial problem of car parking facilities available for the Assembly's use.

For your further information, DFP is carrying out a full audit of car parking on the Stormont Estate and will report back to the Director of Facilities on completion of that exercise.

Stormont Estate

Mr D Kinahan asked the Assembly Commission if it has entered into any negotiations with the owners of the Stormont Estate to increase the space directly under the Assembly's control.

(AQO 1220/10)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): In response to your question there have been no discussions between Assembly officials and the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), who own the Stormont Estate, with regard to increasing the space directly under the Assembly's control.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 14 May 2010

(AQW 6175/10)

Tá sonraí ar na costais go dtí seo a bhaineann le bunú an Údaráis um Oideachas agus Scileanna leagtha amach sa tábla thíos:

Details of the costs to date in respect of the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority are set out in the table below:

	05/06 £'000	06/07 £'000	07/08 £'000	08/09 £'000	09/10* £'000	Total £'000
ESA Implementation Team	-	258	1,032	1,909	2,095	5,294
RPA Policy and Legislative Team	107	956	832	810	530	3,235
Total	107	1,214	1,864	2,719	2,625	8,529

Figures are disclosed as at 29 March 2010



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