

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 7 January 2011

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They should be sent to:

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

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

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 7 January 2011

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Community Relations and Good Relations Work

Mr T Lunn asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 69/11, (i) to provide a breakdown of the departmental costs of the expenditure on Community Relations and Good Relations Work in each financial year since 2005/06; and (ii) to provide a list of the community and voluntary organisations which received this financial assistance in each of those years.

(AQW 982/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness): Pursuant to your question AQW 69/11 on the costs of good relations work, we have detailed below the groups and organisations supported by this department over the last five years.

Community & Voluntary Groups	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Co-Operation Ireland	76,400	192,700	198,500	199,000	184,000
Hewlett Packard - Digital Communities	50,000	25,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Somme Heritage Centre		37,000	37,000	18,500	37,000
North & West Belfast Parades Forum		24,500	25,000	67,000	64,000
Transition Training				30,000	35,000
Women Into Politics		37,000	35,000	35,000	36,000
Glencree Centre	5,600	13,000	1,000	1,000	
Reach Across					3,000
Maiden City Festival					40,000
Top of the hill Feile					15,000
The Gasyard Wall Feile					15,000
Greater Shantallow / Outer North Festival					15,000
Belfast Reconciliation Network					28,000
North Belfast Interface Network					13,000

Community & Voluntary Groups	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Greater Village Regeneration Trust				750	5,000
Falls Youth Providers					5,000
Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre					5,000
Lower Castlereagh Community Group					5,000
Mediation Northern Ireland					14,000
Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium				30,000	
Upper Springfield Development Co					17,000
Crimsom Players	6,600				
Re-imaging Communities		18,000			
Maydown Ebrington		6,000	25,000		
Killyleagh Mural Project		3,000			
Bright Community	35,000				
Newcastle Multipurpose Facility	77,000				
The Link (Ards)				13,250	
Jethro Centre	237,500				
Journey of Remembering		25,000			
Groundwork NI		70,000			
East Belfast Mission Mural Project				7,000	
Totals	488,100	451,200	345,500	425,500	560,000

Councils	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Antrim Borough Council	54,596.25	44,299.50	42,277.00	46,051.04	48,352.50
Ards Borough Council	51,622.50	55,897.49	56,300.00	91,296.75	89,962.50
Armagh City & District Council	84,000.00	77,121.31	83,800.00	87,990.00	92,389.50
Ballymena Borough Council	67,518.75	57,024.95	69,240.64	71,730.20	81,827.76
Ballymoney Borough Council	72,285.00	71,010.29	55,271.28	78,819.22	77,182.44
Banbridge District Council	85,883.25	71,881.39	74,929.64	98,986.25	103,935.56

Councils	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Belfast City Council	235,990.50	329,691.23	302,650.00	451,614.00	474,194.70
Carrickfergus Borough Council	57,674.25	46,719.49	48,725.00	49,498.21	53,719.31
Castlereagh Borough Council	65,779.50	59,111.23	52,242.64	54,716.70	68,512.50
Coleraine Borough Council	69,996.00	67,763.54	69,295.00	76,239.70	85,969.91
Cookstown District Council	73,917.00	72,199.25	67,846.42	55,027.96	77,626.50
Craigavon Borough Council	38,574.00	30,903.26	37,530.00	54,781.80	110,841.00
Derry City Council	120,225.00	124,290.66	138,310.00	239,290.69	318,519.55
Down District Council	87,897.75	86,729.38	86,723.62	91,901.27	96,576.12
Dungannon District Council	78,062.25	77,827.64	96,448.06	100,796.72	113,112.62
Fermanagh District Council	66,007.50	76,245.65	63,931.52	85,360.76	89,749.75
Larne Borough Council	52,387.50	50,019.51	52,045.00	54,647.25	57,379.61
Limavady Borough Council	75,960.00	54,073.92	58,260.00	64,923.00	71,415.30
Lisburn City Council	45,225.00	47,600.24	48,005.00	50,258.33	52,925.51
Magherafelt District Council	74,958.75	71,628.48	71,197.30	60,564.03	82,693.01
Moyle District Council	55,792.50	45,521.90	47,634.28	49,665.13	55,617.82
Newry & Mourne District Council	60,399.75	74,002.28	82,001.00	130,186.75	158,499.34
Newtownabbey Borough Council	68,217.00	66,763.91	65,483.61	71,111.25	74,668.81
North Down Borough Council	55,012.50	46,449.79	49,266.68	49,833.09	58,757.74
Omagh District Council	47,578.50	42,737.06	41,391.84	52,272.77	54,886.65
Strabane District Council	77,362.50	66,786.64	71,483.55	89,126.24	110,000.00
Total	1,922,923.50	1,914,300	1,932,289.08	2,406,689.11	2,759,316.01

Community Relations Council	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Programme	145,000	145,000	145,000	145,000	210,000
Small Grants Schemes & Media	570,000	612,108	570,000	570,000	570,000
Salaries & Administration	752,000	788,142	873,882	1,039,830	1,216,000

Community Relations Council	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Core Funding & Evaluation	1,391,000	1,391,000	1,391,000	1,351,000	1,351,000
Shared Future/CSI Policy Development			70,000	35,000	
Pathfinder Grants			240,000	200,000	200,000
Total	2,858,000	2,936,250	3,289,882	3,340,830	3,547,000

Department Supported	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Minority Ethnic Funding	637,000	681,000	636,000	945,000	1,047,000
Capital Build Programme	172,089	197,500	13,577	4,470	0
Technical Transfers to other Department	460,000	460,000	720,000	425,000	455,000
CEP	2,585,761.85	2598419.21	2338663.5	2417015.2	1651422.92

Community Empowerment Partnerships	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Ardoyne & Marrowbone	£267,650.00	£232,731.40	£239,528.00	£232,478.29	£112,502.26
Ballysillan	£58,271.60	£120,688.78	£140,365.00	£135,454.85	£78,069.23
Ligoneil	£53,739.70	£170,504.56	£131,712.35	£107,401.18	£96,003.93
Citizen Youth Project	£138,621.04	£138,971.94	£132,508.77	£149,285.64	£96,026.53
Greater Cliftonville	£174,645.18	£175,071.96	£213,259.46	£238,713.27	£131,029.29
Greater New Lodge	£257,273.30	£234,595.50	£219,769.00	£243,642.04	£158,862.29
Greater Greencastle	£136,764.00	£127,151.27	£124,034.84	£143,756.12	£88,374.76
Independent Advice Service	£296,131.00	£184,220.47	£195,997.49	£196,722.86	£198,344.10
Upper North	£283,177.14	£286,559.47	£253,245.34	£174,544.56	£65,610.58
Lower North	£273,591.20	£212,126.33	£168,551.52	£0.00	£0.00
Developing Leadership	£233,064.00	£194,772.06	£212,535.03	£278,743.71	£256,353.98
Partnerships in Community Transformation	£185,731.69	£156,618.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Rathcoole	£117,179.00	£173,191.97	£184,168.70	£222,659.92	£103,396.38

Community Empowerment Partnerships	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010
Upper Ardoyne	£97,098.00	£191,215.50	£122,988.00	£143,502.76	£69,267.59
Youthbank	£12,825.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Loughview	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150,110.00	£197,582.00
Total	£2,585,761.85	£2,598,419.21	£2,338,663.50	£2,417,015.20	£1,651,422.92

As we stated previously, it is not possible to provide full details of every group supported by the OFMDFM funding administered by the Community Relations Council (CRC); however, such information is included in the CRC's Annual Reports which are already in the public domain.

Quangos

Mr S Anderson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether any of the quangos identified for abolition in Great Britain have functions that are replicated by quangos in Northern Ireland; and if so, to identify the functions and relevant quangos.

(AQW 1823/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Public Bodies Bill 2010, introduced to the House of Lords on 28 October 2010, listed at Schedule 1 those bodies that the UK Government intends to seek powers to abolish with functions either being discontinued or delivered in a different way.

We have consulted with all departments in respect of the exercise of functions in Northern Ireland similar to those of the bodies listed in Schedule 1. Where similar functions are exercised in Northern Ireland, this may not however necessarily be through a non-departmental public body as some similar functions are delivered through departments, agencies or advisory committees. The table below indicates these bodies in Schedule 1 for which there is a direct equivalent in Northern Ireland but these would not all be defined as non-departmental public bodies or quangos.

SCHEDULE 1 BODIES - FUNCTIONS DELIVERED BY QUANGOS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

GB Body	NI Body	Function
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales	Agricultural Wages Board (Northern Ireland)	To set wages and certain employment conditions for agricultural and horticultural workers.
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board (NI)	The Functions are to give advice to the Department on such matters as it refers to the Board, to advise a Departmental Medical Officer on any case or question which the officer refers to the Board and to present an annual report to the Department.
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee	Provides advice to Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.

GB Body	NI Body	Function
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration	Criminal Justice Inspectorate (NI)	Inspects all DOJ organisations and agencies however statutory remit also differs from HMICA particularly in relation to civil and family justice.
National Consumer Council (Consumer Focus)	General Consumer Council NI	Multi-utility statutory role to represent consumers in electricity, natural gas, transport and water and sewerage.

Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Working Class Communities

Mr S Gardiner asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made in assisting vulnerable and disadvantaged working class communities in (i) Lurgan; (ii) Portadown; (iii) Craigavon; and (iv) Banbridge in the last twelve months; and how much investment has been made in each of these areas in this time.

(AQW 2456/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In the current financial year (2010/11), the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister will have provided Craigavon Borough Council with a grant of £113,319 for the provision of community relations services and activities, including the support of the Good Relations Officer's post. Craigavon Council area includes Portadown and Lurgan, it is not possible to provide a breakdown for each area separately.

Banbridge District Council will receive £117,894 for its community relations programme. The funding awards were allocated on the basis of the Good Relations Plans which each council submitted based on good relations audits for their areas. The good relations audits identified specific good relations issues in the council areas including those in working class communities.

OFMDFM provides development funding for the Craigavon Intercultural Programme and Craigavon Travellers Support Group and project funding for Craigavon Intercultural Programme. It is not possible to determine if this funding impacts wholly or partially on working class communities although it is likely to benefit the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

The Craigavon Intercultural Programme (CIP) was established in Portadown in 2006 to promote integration between host and migrant communities by providing a variety of services and activities. CIP works with a number of agencies in the area for the benefit of all. In the 2010/11 financial year the department was provided funding of £45,000. The award supports a bilingual Polish support worker; a bilingual Lithuanian support worker; an ethnic women's support worker and an administration assistant.

The Craigavon Travellers Support Committee is a well-established body, providing a range of services to the Traveller Community in the Craigavon area. Their work is undertaken in 5 key areas; early years, education, community development, advice and health. In the 2010/11 financial year the department was provided funding of £45,000. The funding supports a project manager and a project administrator.

The Craigavon Intercultural Programme manages a Community Resource Centre which is used by both minority ethnic community members and indigenous community groups. The capacity of individual groups will be enhanced through information sessions/community meetings, personal development sessions, focus groups, recreation, arts and social activities. In the 2010/11 financial year the department provided funding of £14,836.

OFMDFM provides core funding to the Community Relations Council for the delivery of good relations work and work with the victims and survivors' sector and is continuing to develop the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration (CSI). The public consultation on the draft programme concluded at

the end of October and the information gathered is currently being analysed. Public consultation events took place in a range of 11 venues including an event in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown on Wednesday 22nd September. That event was attended by 48 People.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr R Beggs asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they last contacted the Presbyterian Church in Ireland regarding the Presbyterian Mutual Society.[R]

(AQW 2630/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We have been in continuous contact with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland since 2008, and have been working extremely diligently with the Coalition Government to secure the best deal possible for PMS savers.

Contact has also been maintained at official level on our behalf and our Ministerial colleagues have also had recent contact.

EU Directives

Mr A Ross asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the total expenditure incurred as a result of (i) a failure to implement EU directives; and (ii) implementing EU directives, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2689/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: OFMDFM has never been fined for failing to implement an EU directive. Implementation of EU directives is a core business activity for policy teams and costs for this work cannot be disaggregated from overall operating costs.

Discussions with Banking Institutions

Ms M Ritchie asked First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail any discussions they have had with banking institutions, within the last six months, in relation to (i) assisting small to medium sized industries; and (ii) the development of new businesses and job creation, including the construction industry.

(AQW 2800/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We initiated a series of meetings with local financial institutions at the outset of the current economic crisis. This work has been maintained through the Cross Sector Advisory Forum. In addition DETI and DFP Ministerial colleagues have had a series of meetings with local banks to discuss their contribution to helping local companies weather the recession. They, along with their officials, have maintained regular contact with the banks and ensured that specific problems raised by businesses have been brought to the banks' attention

North/South Implementation Bodies and Areas of Co-operation

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the recommendations from the review of the North/South Implementation Bodies and Areas of Co-operation, as provided for in the St Andrew's Agreement, will be presented to the Assembly.

(AQW 2806/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We refer the member to the response to AQO 663/11 made in the Assembly on 6 December and also to the statement made in the Assembly on 14 September following a plenary meeting of the North South Ministerial Council. The text of the response of 6 December is set out below.

Consultation on all aspects of the St Andrews Agreement review is under way in both jurisdictions. That includes considering the case for additional bodies and areas of co-operation within the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC) where mutual benefit would be derived. It is expected that the review group

will move rapidly to conclude its work when the process is completed. A report by the review group will be considered at a future NSMC meeting, and, in accordance with statutory requirements, we will provide a report to the Assembly on the outcome of the meeting and on any decisions taken on the St Andrews Agreement review.

Commissioner's Office

Mr T Lunn asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the total running costs of each Commissioner's Office within the remit of their Department, including the salary and expenses of each Commissioner, in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2817/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The total running costs of each Commissioner's Office within the remit of our Department, including the salary and expenses of each Commissioner, are set out below.

COMMISSIONER'S office		Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland	Older Peoples Advocate for NI	Commissioner for Children and Young People for Northern Ireland	Commission for Victims and Survivors*
2007/08	Running costs	£138,384	N/A	£1,728,982	N/A
	Commissioner's salary	£31,008	N/A	£75,000	N/A
	Commissioner's expenses	£247	N/A	£1,317	N/A
2008/09	running costs	£189,290	£11,922	£1,674,768	£640,420
	COMMISSIONER'S salary	£31,628	£6,203	£76,875	£300,508
	Commissioner's expenses	£571	N/A	£1,067	£11,176
2009/10	running costs	£214,1323	£125,420	£1,742,937	£1,075,675
	commissioner's salary	£31,836	£27,915	£79,566	£333,569
	commissioner's expenses	£188	£115	£722	£9,248

* There were 4 Commissioners until 17.02.10; there have been 3 Commissioners since 18.02.10

It should be noted that the total running costs given above also include the Commissioner's salary and expenses which are then detailed afterwards.

Promoting Social Inclusion Working Group on Disability

Ms A Lo asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the Executive plans to publish its response to the report of the Promoting Social Inclusion Working Group on Disability.

(AQW 2833/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Our Department will be hosting a meeting of the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Working Group in January 2011 to inform the Executive's response to the Group's Report and ensure it is reflective of the views of representative disabled organisations and interested parties.

We intend to have the Executive's draft response issued for consultation by the end of February 2011 and the final document in the public domain by June 2011.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Ms A Lo asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when the first monitoring report on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be issued to the Office for Disability Issues. **(AQW 2836/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Our officials are currently working with the Office for Disability Issues (ODI), to co-ordinate the Executive's contribution to the UN report on implementation and progress on the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). The first interim report is due to be completed early in 2011.

BMF Business Services

Mr S Hamilton asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much their Department, and its arms-length bodies, have spent on BMF Business Services since May 2007. **(AQW 2862/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Department and its arms length bodies have spent £134,106 on BMF Business Services from May 2007 to date.

Equality Act 2010

Mr J Craig asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether he intends to introduce legislation along the lines of the Equality Act 2010, in relation to its provision on further protecting people with disabilities from discrimination. **(AQW 3035/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We are currently considering the options for legislative reform here and continue to legislate in order to provide legal protection against discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity. Since the restoration of devolution, we have introduced legislation to strengthen and improve the rights of individuals in a number of different areas.

It is vital that all legislation and not just that relating directly to disabled people, takes account of the needs of people with a disability. Government Departments must continue to lead by example through the comprehensive use of proofing and monitoring systems to ensure that both legislation and policy reflect the interests of people with a disability.

Promoting Social Inclusion Report on Disability

Mr C Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister when they will publish their response, which was scheduled for October 2010, to the Promoting Social Inclusion Report on Disability. **(AQW 3062/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Our Department will be hosting a meeting of the Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI) Working Group in January 2011 to inform the Executive's response to the Group's Report and ensure it is reflective of the views of representative disabled organisations and interested parties.

We intend to have the Executive's draft response issued for consultation by the end of February 2011 and the final document in the public domain by June 2011.

North-South Postal Arrangements

Ms M Ritchie asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 2653/11, what the timescale is for the North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat to examine the issue of cross

border postal services and arrangements; and if and when a Statement will be made to the Assembly on this issue.

(AQW 3136/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: Since the NSMC Plenary in July 2010, the NSMC Joint Secretariat has met with representatives from Consumer Focus Post and InterTradelreland to discuss cross-border postal services. InterTradelreland has agreed to explore the extent to which this matter is impacting on business and cross-border trade by including relevant questions in their quarterly Business Monitor in January 2011. The results should be available at the end of February 2011.

A progress report on new and emerging cross-border mobility issues will be made to a future NSMC Institutional meeting. Following this, we will make a Statement to the Assembly.

Sustainable Development Commission

Mr B Wilson asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they can give an assurance that they will continue to fund the Sustainable Development Commission.

(AQW 3174/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: On 22 July 2010, DEFRA unilaterally announced its decision to withdraw funding for the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC). Having given due consideration to the implications of this decision, we have reluctantly accepted that it would not be feasible for the local SDC office to continue to provide the full range of services and we will cease funding of the organisation after 31st March 2011.

We remain in discussions with counterparts in DEFRA and the devolved administrations to ensure sustainable development remains at the core of our work, and we are actively progressing our plans for future delivery of our sustainable development strategy.

Cutting Arms-length Bodies

Mr J Craig asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an estimate of the savings that can be made by cutting arms-length bodies; and for his assessment of the bodies likely to be targeted.

(AQW 3200/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: As set out in the Finance Minister's draft Budget Statement on 15 December 2010, the Budget Review Group will review all arm's length bodies against agreed criteria and bring a final set of recommendations to the Executive, in anticipation of a final decision before May, to facilitate a Bill to rationalise arm's length bodies early in the next Assembly term.

This detailed work by the Budget Review Group over the coming months will enable an assessment of the financial implications to be made. All arm's length bodies will be reviewed as part of this work.

Social Investment Fund

Dr S Farry asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) when the strategy paper for the social investment fund will be published; (ii) the geographical areas that will benefit from the social investment fund; (iii) the criteria used to identify the recipient areas; (iv) the activities that will be supported; (v) the expected outcomes of the money invested; and (vi) whether funding will be underpinned by a commitment to ensure that the resources are used to complement existing support services and support providers who have a proven track record in addressing the issues facing the selected communities.

(AQW 3208/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: A key issue for the Executive will be the need to protect the most vulnerable in our society. We are currently leading the ongoing development of the Social Investment Fund and the Social Protection Fund programmes and will shortly bring proposals to the Executive to consider.

The specific spending areas to be addressed from the Social Investment Fund, and the detailed mechanisms to agree the associated logistics, will be for the Executive to agree following further advice based on the strategy paper currently being developed. The SIF will be targeted at tackling disadvantage.

Funding of £20 million per annum will be allocated across the Budget Period. The draft Budget proposals are subject to a public consultation period with views being sought from interested parties. The Executive expects to publish a final Budget document in February 2011.

Social Investment Fund

Dr S Farry asked First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail (i) when the strategy paper for the social protection fund will be published; (ii) the geographical areas that will benefit from the social protection fund; (iii) the criteria used to identify the recipient areas; (iv) the activities that will be supported; (v) the expected outcomes of the money invested; and (vi) whether funding will be underpinned by a commitment to ensure that the resources are used to complement existing support services and support providers who have a proven track record in addressing the issues facing the selected communities.

(AQW 3209/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Executive remains committed to tackling the problem of disadvantage here.

Following on from the Executive's commitment at Greenmount, a key issue will be the need to protect the most vulnerable in our society. The SPF will be to assist those in severe hardship as a result of the economic downturn.

OFMDFM is recommending that the Executive allocate £20 million in year one, with equivalent or increased funding in future years.

The details of the scheme are still under consideration.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Nitrates Derogation

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the recent extension to the Nitrates Derogation until 2014 applies to the spreading of poultry litter on land; and if not, why not. **(AQW 2712/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew): The European Commission Decision extending the derogation under the Nitrates Directive for the north of Ireland until 31 December 2014 applies only to the spreading of manure from grazing livestock, namely cattle, sheep and goats, on grassland farms.

The derogation does not apply to manure from pigs or poultry or poultry litter because spreading this material on land at rates above the general 170kg/Nitrogen/hectare limit set by the Directive will over supply nutrients, particularly phosphorus.

An over supply of nutrients would compromise the aim of the Directive which is to prevent water pollution and therefore does not meet the conditions for derogation.

Grassland farms wishing to operate under an individual derogation must make an annual application and meet specific criteria including submission of fertilisation accounts and additional nutrient management measures.

Rose Energy Incinerator at Glenavy

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much her Department estimates it would cost annually to dispose of poultry litter produced in Northern Ireland lawfully, in compliance with the EU Nitrates Directive, if the proposed Rose Energy incinerator at Glenavy were not to go ahead.

(AQW 2713/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Over 200,000 tonnes of poultry litter is generated in the north of Ireland each year and the vast majority is spread on land. However, land spreading of poultry litter at current levels is not sustainable in the long term due to its high phosphorus content, the enriched phosphorus status of local soils and the resulting detrimental impact of excess phosphorus on water quality.

A working group of government officials and poultry industry representatives has recently investigated interim options for the storage and use of poultry litter pending the establishment of a sustainable long term technical alternative to land spreading. A range of options including alternative treatment systems available in Britain, the south of Ireland and further afield have been actively investigated. Conclusions of this work to date indicate that most potential options are either not available due to lack of capacity or are cost prohibitive.

Where capacity has been identified, the cost of disposal is estimated to be approximately £90 per tonne of poultry litter. However, the capacity available is limited and insufficient to deal with the amount of poultry litter currently spread on land in the north. There are also logistical and technical constraints.

As a viable option with sufficient capacity has not been identified an annual cost cannot be estimated.

Rose Energy Incinerator at Glenavy

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, given the legal challenges to the Rose Energy incinerator at Glenavy, whether her Department will continue to look at alternative technologies and methods for the lawful disposal of poultry litter to ensure that the poultry industry has a fallback position should the incinerator project fail to go ahead.

(AQW 2714/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department, in conjunction with the Agri Food and Bio-Sciences Institute, monitors the development of emerging technology and methods for the disposal of poultry litter on an ongoing basis. For example, my Departmental Scientific Adviser recently took part in a European conference on technologies for processing livestock manures held in the Netherlands.

In 2010, my Department, the Department of Environment and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment established a working group with representatives of the poultry industry to investigate any viable interim options for the storage and use of poultry litter pending the establishment of a sustainable long-term technical alternative to land spreading.

The working group has actively investigated a range of options including alternative treatment systems available in Britain, the south of Ireland and further afield. Conclusions of this work to date indicate that most potential options are either not available due to lack of capacity or are cost prohibitive.

The Departments and the industry are currently conducting on-farm trials of low cost temporary storage measures for poultry litter prior to land spreading. However, land spreading of poultry litter at current levels is unsustainable in the long term due to its high phosphorus content, the enriched phosphorus status of local soils and the resulting detrimental impact of excess phosphorus on water quality.

Alternative technologies brought forward by industry are welcomed and will be considered by my Department.

Welfare of Animals Bill

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the timetable for the full implementation of the Welfare of Animals Bill.

(AQW 2767/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: It is my intention that the Welfare of Animals Bill will be enacted during the lifetime of this Assembly.

I propose that the Bill will be implemented in two stages. The first stage will be the application of the Bill provisions by my Department in respect of farmed animals, which is likely to commence in April 2011 when the necessary provisions are enacted by a commencement order.

The second stage will be the application of the Bill provisions by councils in respect of non-farmed animals i.e. domestic pets and horses. In acknowledgement that preparation is required by Councils for implementation, I have given a guarantee to the ARD Committee that the respective clause in the Bill, which gives councils the power to appoint inspectors to undertake enforcement, will not be commenced until 12 months after Royal Assent. On this basis enforcement by councils will not commence until April 2012, which will allow councils time to get the necessary systems and procedures in place and be ready to implement the new powers before they come into force. I have also guaranteed annual funding of £760k for the next budget period to allow Councils to implement these powers.

As part of the first stage, provisions will be enacted in the Bill, similar to the powers in respect of cruelty offences in the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 1972, to allow the PSNI to continue to deal with animals in distress. This will ensure that there is no discontinuity in the protection afforded to non-farmed animals in the 12 month period prior to Councils assuming the enhanced powers provided by the new Bill.

Stray Domestic Animals

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans she proposes to introduce for the care of stray domestic animals.

(AQW 2768/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department has no plans to introduce new proposals for the care of stray domestic animals.

My Department has legislative responsibility for stray dogs. Under the Dogs Order 1983 district councils may seize stray dogs. Councils must maintain dog pounds or make arrangements for the use of approved kennels to detain stray dogs. Councils are required to ensure that dogs are properly fed and maintained when in their care and that veterinary treatment is arranged where necessary.

Whilst the Dogs (Amendment) Bill, which has just completed Committee stage in the Assembly, does not change these requirements, it will strengthen and improve the existing arrangements to help tackle the issue of stray dogs and promote responsible ownership. The Bill will introduce compulsory microchipping of all dogs. In future, this will make it easier to identify stray dogs and trace them back to their owner. It will also mean that careless or irresponsible owners are more likely to be identified and penalised.

USPCA

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what plans her Department has in place with the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the care of stray animals.

(AQW 2769/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department has no plans in place with the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA) for the care of stray animals.

The Dogs Order 1983 provides powers for district councils to seize stray dogs and requires councils to care for them by ensuring that they are properly fed and maintained, and that veterinary treatment is

provided if necessary. I am aware that the USPCA assists some district councils with the impounding and re-homing of stray dogs.

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail (i) the number of officials within her Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of her Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2792/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: While DARD has no officials directly involved in engagement with the European Parliament, Council, related committees or European commissioners the Department does employ a permanent member of staff based in the NI Executive Office in Brussels. The Department's representative in Brussels follows all relevant policy developments and provides local intelligence, facilitating contacts with the European commission, the European Parliament and the permanent representative offices in Brussels.

In each of the last three financial years the Department submitted bids for EU grants and subsidy. Details of the funding granted are outlined below:-

EU Grants & Subsidies			07/08 Year (£000)	08/09 Year (£000)	09/10 Year (£000)
Resource Grants & Subsidies	*		278,152	277,464	324,737
Capital Grants & Subsidies			10,079	11,123	6,258
Total	**		288,231	288,587	330,995

All figures are sourced from the Annual Resource Accounts

* Resource Grants & Subsidies include all CAP programmes (ie Single Farm Payments etc)

** Total is EU element only, does not include matched expenditure on National schemes

Botulism in Cattle

Mr P Frew asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action will be taken by her Department to tackle botulism in cattle over the next twelve months.

(AQW 2831/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: While Botulism is not a notifiable disease under the Diseases of Animals Order (1981), I recognise that it can cause significant problems for farmers.

My Department attaches great importance to farmers adopting effective biosecurity measures for the prevention and control of this disease. My Department has issued advisory leaflets on botulism to all farmers and posters are on display at local DARD Veterinary offices, agricultural offices, auction marts, UFU and NIAPA offices to alert farmers to the dangers of botulism to their animals and advise them of appropriate control measures. This information is also available on the DARD website.

In addition, supported by funding from DARD, AFBI offer a testing programme and samples from post-mortem cases are tested when the pathologist and history indicate that botulism is a likely diagnosis. If AFBI receive a sample that is positive for botulism Veterinary Service will arrange for public health advice to be given to the farmer.

AFBI also issued a letter to all Private Veterinary Practices in 2009 reinforcing the latest advice and they will provide advice to herd owners.

Over the next twelve months, my Department will continue to take appropriate action to ensure that herd owners are aware of the risks and receive advice in the event of a positive test for Botulism.

DARD Direct Facility in Newtownards

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the DARD Direct office proposed for Newtownards.

(AQW 2864/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: In January 2009, I announced my intention to establish a network of DARD Direct offices across the north of Ireland, including one in Newtownards.

Since then, my officials have been working with the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) to identify, secure, and develop office accommodation, which optimises alignment to the DARD Direct specification in each location.

Four such offices are now fully operational and we are progressing plans to complete a further three this year.

With respect to a DARD Direct office in Newtownards, it has not been possible to secure a property which meets our needs that could be delivered within this financial year.

At this time, it is planned to progress a DARD Direct office for Newtownards in 2011/12, subject to the availability of funding.

Microchipping of Dogs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what tests have been carried out to ensure that the microchipping of dogs is efficient and effective.

(AQW 2891/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I am not aware of any recent tests of the efficiency and effectiveness of microchipping.

However, the workability of the technology is demonstrated by its widespread use in many statutory and non-statutory animal identification regimes around the world (such as the EU pet passport disease-control system).

In these islands the major registration databases hold the details of around 4 million animals, mostly cats and dogs. Owners, vets and animal welfare organisations testify that microchipping is an efficient and effective way of identifying lost, stray and stolen animals.

Microchipping of Dogs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the merits of the microchipping of dogs compared to the use of dog identification tags.

(AQW 2892/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The requirement for dogs to be identified as being licensed via collar tags is set out in the Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations 1983. Collar tags provide a method of quick visual identification that allows a neighbour, for example, or a dog warden, to return the dog to its owner. If a collar tag is absent, a dog warden can see easily that a dog appears to be unlicensed.

Unlike collar tags, which can become damaged or lost, microchipping provides permanent identification that allows for the rapid identification of lost, stray or stolen dogs. The two systems of identification are therefore complementary.

Microchipping of Dogs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what concerns she has regarding the potential for the duplication of ID codes when microchipping dogs, given that these ID codes are supposed to be unique.

(AQW 2893/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I have no concerns on this issue.

The Bill empowers my Department to make regulations prescribing and regulating the microchipping of dogs. The regulations will include technical specifications – including compliance with relevant ISO technical standards. While it is technically possible, though exceptionally rare, for ISO compliant microchips to generate duplicate identification numbers, the widespread distribution of these chips and the huge number of microchips in use around the world means that in practice there is no scope for confusion or duplication.

Microchipping of Dogs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why the compulsory microchipping of dogs is being considered when the methodology being proposed will not capture all the relevant data.

(AQW 2894/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Dogs (Amendment) Bill will require owners to have a microchip implanted in their dogs and to have their contact details accurately recorded on one of a number of databases operated by a range of providers across these islands.

This methodology has been in use for many years now and allows for the rapid identification of lost, stray or stolen dogs. The relevant data is quickly and easily recorded either on-line, by phone or by post.

Microchipping of Dogs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her Department's position on the microchipping of dogs.

(AQW 2895/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Dogs (Amendment) Bill completed its Committee stage in the Assembly on the 29 November and will introduce the compulsory microchipping of dogs.

I have given a commitment not to commence the relevant clause of the Bill until 12 months after royal assent. This will allow owners, database operators and local authority dog wardens time to prepare for the introduction of this mandatory system of identification.

Drainage Council

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) to outline the functions of the Drainage Council; and (ii) to detail its running costs in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2915/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:

- (i) The primary functions of the Council are:
- Designation of watercourses for maintenance by the Department under the Drainage (NI) Order 1973.
 - De-designation of watercourses in cases where circumstances have changed or its maintenance at public expense is no longer justified.
 - Consideration of Drainage/Flood Defence Schemes to ensure imparity and value of public money.
 - Consultee role with regards to environmental aspects of Drainage/Flood Defence works or schemes.

- A more detailed outline of the functions is readily available in the public domain and can be viewed at <http://www.riversagency.ni.gov.uk/index/ni-drainage-council.htm>
- (ii) The members of the Drainage Council receive no salary but are entitled to reimbursement of travelling expenses. Therefore, the running costs for the Drainage Council consists only of venue costs and travel expenses.

The running costs for the last three years are:

2008:	£1813.40
2009:	£1990.87
2010:	£2231.13
Total:	£6035.40

Meat Imports

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development from which countries (i) red meat; and (ii) white meat is currently imported; and how the meat is labelled when it is being sold. **(AQW 2944/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: From January this year my Department's records show that the origin of red meat imported directly came from New Zealand, Australia and Argentina while the white meat came from Thailand, Brazil and China. You will however appreciate that the vast majority of imports into the north come here indirectly, mainly through other EU Member States. My Department does not hold details of meat imports of EU origin as such products can move freely between Member States. Imports from countries outside the EU can enter through a Border Inspection Post in any Member State. Such imports are issued with a Common Veterinary Entry Document which permits them to move freely within the EU. It is therefore not possible to provide information on meat imported indirectly into the north of Ireland from non-EU countries.

In relation to the labelling of meat sold, this is the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency, in Belfast. My Department is responsible only for the EU-wide Beef Labelling Regulations which requires all beef in the supply chain to be labelled with specified traceability and origin information. This includes the country, or countries, in which the animal was born, reared and slaughtered in. Beef imported from outside the EU must also be labelled in accordance with these rules. Where all the compulsory information is not available in relation to non-EU imports, labels must state that the meat is not of EU origin and give the name of country in which the animal was slaughtered.

Passing of Herd Numbers

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department will review the guidelines on the passing of herd numbers following the death of a holder to make it possible for a herd number to transfer from one keeper to another, such as from father to son. **(AQW 2961/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has no plans to review these guidelines which have now been in place for almost two years. It is also relevant that the number in question (which is not the keeper's property, but merely a reference number used by DARD for administrative and disease control purposes) is not a "herd" number, but rather a "keeper" number and, being person-related, is not transferable under the current administrative systems, whether the keepers in question are alive, dead or as is possible were a number applies to several keepers, a combination.

East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether the additional funding required for the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme, as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project, will be forthcoming from her Department within the 2011/12 construction programme, ensuring that people and properties are protected from flooding and the estimated £2m cost savings from the joint project realised.

(AQW 2965/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Funding for the flood alleviation element of the Connswater Community Greenway project from 2011/12 will be dependent on the outcome of the Executive budgetary process which is expected to be finalised in February 2010. I have secured £2m funding for this project in the current financial year and will continue to ensure that we gain the maximum benefit from whatever future funding is available.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline her Department's policy on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.

(AQW 3015/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The NI Environment Agency, an executive Agency within the Department of the Environment, is leading development on the Sustainable Drainage Systems policy. Rivers Agency is providing input to the process as a member of the SuDS working group. In the interim, Rivers Agency continues to administer consent to discharge under the Drainage Order from SuDS and provides advice to Planning Service in line with PPS15 when this drainage solution is part of a development proposal. Sustainable Drainage Systems will also be considered by DARD Rivers Agency during the development of the 'Flood Risk Management Plans' as required by the Floods Directive.

These are due to be in draft by December 2014 and finalised in 2015 by which stage the DoE policy position should be clearer.

Brucellosis

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, pursuant to AQW2340/11, whether this particular strain of brucellosis has been identified in any other EU member state.

(AQW 3025/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Because there is not an internationally agreed standard for *B. abortus* molecular strain typing, it is not possible to make comparisons between *Brucella* culture from different countries.

Traditionally the bacteria responsible for bovine brucellosis, *Brucella abortus*, has been subdivided into a number of biovars, which can be thought of as high level 'strains'. There is an internationally accepted procedure for biotyping and nomenclature of biovars which facilitates international comparisons. North of Ireland brucellosis breakdowns are currently demonstrating two biovars. The same biovars may be shared by different countries but are not sufficiently discriminating to enable meaningful comparisons between individual breakdowns.

The approach currently being taken to the more refined classification of molecular typing of bacterial isolates of *Brucella abortus* (of which strain 12 is one example from dozens) is still under development and evaluation. There is currently no internationally accepted standard method for molecular typing of *B. abortus* isolates. To date, AFBI have tested only isolates from breakdowns from the north of Ireland and hence it is not possible to say categorically if this particular strain has been found in any other member state.

Countryside Management Scheme

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farm businesses that applied to join the Countryside Management Scheme in 2010 have been accepted.

(AQW 3130/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Over 4800 applications were received in March 2010. The number to be progressed depends on availability of funding which is not yet known.

Countryside Management Scheme

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the future role of the Countryside Management Scheme.

(AQW 3131/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The future role of the Countryside Management Scheme will continue to be as is set out in the Rural Development Programme (2007-2013):

- To support sustainable development of rural areas and to respond to society's increasing demand for environmental services;
- To introduce or to continue to apply agricultural production methods compatible with the protection and improvement of the landscape and its features, natural resources, the soil and genetic diversity; and
- To encourage and support agricultural production methods which protect and improve the quality of rivers and lakes, and contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to the impact of climate change.

Looking further ahead, the Scheme beyond 2013 will be the subject of review in the context of the next Rural Development Programme period.

Countryside Management Scheme

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farm businesses in each constituency are currently in the Countryside Management Scheme.

(AQW 3132/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department does not hold information on the number of participants in the Countryside Management Scheme (CMS) in each constituency. However, I can provide you with the number of participants on a county basis.

Table 1 shows participation for the Countryside Management Scheme at 30 June 2010.

TABLE 1. COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SCHEME PARTICIPANTS AT 30 JUNE 2010

County	New CMS	Previous CMS	Total CMS
Antrim	165	1790	1955
Armagh	98	1059	1157
Down	90	1176	1266
Fermanagh	271	829	1100
Derry/Londonderry	126	1512	1638
Tyrone	193	2095	2288
Total	943	8461	9404

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development whether her Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental savings measures and their anticipated impact. **(AQW 3205/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The publication of the Executive's draft Budget heralds the start of the public consultation process. The Executive has remitted to departments the task of producing detailed departmental plans. I now have to sit down with my officials and analyse the situation, take careful stock of the money at my disposal and the pressures which have to be funded.

It will take some time to work out where exactly we stand but I intend to make a statement in the New Year and engage with stakeholders on the way ahead.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Libraries NI

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many posts at Senior Executive Officer level and above have been (i) removed; and (ii) created since the creation of Libraries NI. **(AQW 2656/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr N McCausland): Libraries NI took on responsibility for the public library service on 1 April 2009. However, for the purpose of answering this question I have taken the 'establishment of Libraries NI' to have commenced when the Implementation Team was set up (in June 2007). Since then forty one posts at SEO level and above were removed:

- Eleven library staff who would have been eligible to transfer to Libraries NI (under the TUPE* transfer scheme) from the five Education and Library Board's and were declared redundant on 31 March 2008.
- 13 library staff who would have been eligible to transfer to Libraries NI (under the TUPE transfer scheme) from the five Education and Library Board's and were declared redundant on 31 March 2009.
- A further 17 were identified in the roll out of the Libraries NI management structure and these were released on 31 March 2010.

It is planned that a further eleven posts will be declared redundant before 31 March 2011, pending DFP approval.

Twenty posts at Senior Executive Officer level and above have been created since 1 April 2009.

*Transfer of Undertakings (protection of Employment) Regulations

BMF Business Services

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much his Department, and its arm length bodies, have spent on BMF Business Services since May 2007. **(AQW 2672/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In the period May 2007 to November 2010, the Department and its Arms Length Bodies has spent the following amount on BMF Business Services:

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure including ALBs £40,885

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years. **(AQW 2793/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: There are currently no officials from within my Department directly engaged with European political institutions.

Details of applications for European funding made by DCAL and associated Arms Length Bodies in the last three years are set out in the Table at Annex 1.

Velodrome Project, Downpatrick

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the proposed velodrome project for Downpatrick, including when a decision will be made on the location and the amount of funding that will be allocated to the project. **(AQW 2996/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Velodrome project is being considered under the Elite Facilities Programme (now known as the Major Facilities and Infrastructure Programme).

The second phase of this Programme required successful bidders to produce an outline business case (OBC). Projects selected to proceed to that stage were Down District Council (velodrome), Ballyholme Yacht Club (sailing), Lisburn City Council (volleyball and basketball), Antrim Borough Council (athletics) and Wilmar Leisure (tennis).

However, you will be aware from my press release issued on 21 December 2010, regarding the impact of the draft Budget 2011-2015 on my Department's activities, that my capital allocation does not allow for these major sports facilities to be taken forward at this time

Irish Language Strategy

Mr Pat Sheehan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given that a commitment was made over three years ago, when he intends to bring forward an Irish language strategy. **(AQW 3034/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I am not and will not be bringing forward an Irish Language Strategy.

However, considerable work has been done on a Regional or Minority Languages Strategy for the Ulster-Scots language, culture and heritage and the Irish language to meet the requirements stipulated in the Northern Ireland Act.

There remains an outstanding issue in relation to culture in the classroom which I hope to progress with the Minister of Education. I will bring forward the Strategy when this issue has been resolved.

Killyleagh Library

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many people have used the Killyleagh Library in each of the last five years. **(AQW 3064/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The following table shows the number of people who have visited Killyleagh Library and the number of active borrowers who have used Killyleagh Library in each of the last five years.

	Visits (Based on Sample Week)	Active Borrowers
2009/10	16,900	498
2008/09	26,468	857
2007/08	22,308	945
2006/07	21,788	933
2005/06	21,944	970

Killyleagh Library

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much Libraries NI has spent on (i) infrastructure improvements; and (ii) new stock, at Killyleagh Library in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3065/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The attached table shows how much Libraries NI has spent on infrastructure improvements and new stock at Killyleagh Library in each of the last five years.

	Spend on Infrastructure Improvements (£)	Spend on New Stock (£)
2009/10	4,511	8,015
2008/09	*2,594	6,947
2007/08	*2,024	4,332
2006/07	*844	2,915
2005/06	*2,112	89

* Figures provided by the South Eastern Education Library Board (SEELB).

Arts and Disability Forum

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether the Arts and Disability Forum is considered a front-line service.

(AQW 3069/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Arts Council recognises that the Arts and Disability Forum, along with other funded organisations that work with people with disabilities, fits well within the Arts Council Strategy and the Arts and Disability Policy.

Justice Bill: Sport

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, given that the sections of the Justice Bill which deal with football issues and spectators have not been subject to an equality impact assessment and may constitute an infringement of the rights of a Section 75 group and result in unnecessary legal costs should they be challenged in the courts, whether he supports the inclusion of these sections in the Bill; and what steps he will take to review the process that has led to this situation.

(AQW 3088/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I have already stated publicly that I support the introduction of legislation that will help organisers of major Football, Rugby and GAA matches protect existing and future fans from certain forms of dangerous and unacceptable behaviour which can, on occasion, cause disruption at or around games. I also believe that the sports law and spectator behaviour sections of

the current Justice Bill seek to deal with the key areas that currently require legislative consideration. The subjection of these sections of the Bill to an equality impact assessment, however, has been and remains a matter for the Minister of Justice, David Ford MLA.

I am, nonetheless, aware that the original sports law and spectator behaviour policy proposals were subjected to an equality screening exercise and that, subsequently, an Impact Assessment was carried out on the entire Justice Bill including those sections dealing with sports issues. I also understand that neither the screening exercise nor the Impact Assessment concluded that any of the sports related proposals constituted an infringement of the rights of any Section 75 group. Rather, it was concluded that they would have a positive impact on all Section 75 groups and would help promote good community relations by tackling certain forms of misbehaviour which can both arise from, and lead to, poor community relations. Any review of the process that led to this conclusion is a matter for the Minister of Justice in the first instance.

Libraries in the North Down Area

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how many books were lent by each library in North Down in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3109/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The information requested is set out in tables attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

FINANCIAL YEAR 2005 – 2006

Library Location	Transaction	
	Issues	Renewals
Bangor Carnegie Library	141, 388	39, 570
Donaghadee Library	43, 247	9, 759
Hollywood Library	49, 226	16, 397
Total	233, 861	65, 726

FINANCIAL YEAR 2006 - 2007

Library Location	Transaction	
	Issues	Renewals
Bangor Carnegie Library	121, 459	33, 376
Donaghadee Library	29, 385	6, 172
Hollywood Library	43, 937	16, 050
Total	194, 781	55, 598

FINANCIAL YEAR 2007 – 2008

Library Location	Transaction	
	Issues	Renewals
Bangor Carnegie Library	91,084	28,074
Donaghadee Library	46,659	11,454
Hollywood Library	45,718	17,988
Total	183,461	57,516

FINANCIAL YEAR 2008 – 2009

Library Location	Transaction	
	Issues	Renewals
Bangor Carnegie Library	136,039	42,753
Donaghadee Library	45,389	12,010
Hollywood Library	46,711	17,819
Total	228,139	72,582

FINANCIAL YEAR 2009 – 2010

Library Location	Transaction	
	Issues	Renewals
Bangor Carnegie Library	206,371	48,527
Donaghadee Library	37,685	9,756
Hollywood Library	43,588	15,964
Total	287,644	74,247

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Dr S Farry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011 -2015; and whether it will include details of departmental savings measures and their anticipated impact.

(AQW 3139/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: It is certainly my intention to publish details of my Department's settlement, including Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the announcement of the draft Budget. However, given the number and variety of the sponsored bodies which will have to prepare these plans, there may be some slippage with some detail on saving delivery plans.

Down District Council's Velodrome Application

Mr W Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure when a decision will be made on Down District Council's velodrome application, under the Elite Facilities Programme.

(AQW 3172/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Velodrome project is being considered under the Elite Facilities Programme (now known as the Major Facilities and Infrastructure Programme).

The second phase of this Programme required successful bidders to produce an outline business case (OBC). Projects selected to proceed to that stage were Down District Council (velodrome), Ballyholme Yacht Club (sailing), Lisburn City Council (volleyball and basketball), Antrim Borough Council (athletics) and Wilmar Leisure (tennis).

However, you will be aware from my press release issued on 21 December 2010, regarding the impact of the draft Budget 2011-2015 on my Department's activities, that my capital allocation does not allow for these major sports facilities to be taken forward at this time

Libraries NI

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the scope and purpose of the current review of the ten libraries, including which libraries are under review and the terms of reference. **(AQW 3175/11)**

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Libraries NI is currently involved in reviewing its service provision across the entire public library estate.

The review is a three stage process:

- A review of the library estate in Greater Belfast;
- A review of the library estate in the rest of Northern Ireland; and
- A review of mobile library provision across Northern Ireland.

The evaluation criteria for the review, sub-divided into a number of specific criteria seek to identify libraries that are:

- Fit for purpose;
- Capable of delivering on the vision of Libraries NI;
- In the right location; and
- Sustainable.

Following a detailed Business Analysis of the 76 libraries which formed the subject of Stage 2, the following 10 libraries were identified as not meeting the criteria as set out above:

- Carnlough
- Draperstown
- Fintona
- Gilford
- Kells and Connor
- Killyleagh
- Moneymore
- Moy
- Richill
- Greystone

The findings of the report were approved by the full Board on the 9 December 2010.

These reviews are operational matters for Libraries NI; the Board of which includes councillors from my own party, the SDLP, Sinn Fein and the UUP

A full public consultation on the Review proposals will commence on 10 January 2011 and will run for 12 weeks. As part of this process a series of meetings will be arranged, at which Libraries NI will discuss the proposals with library users, staff and the Culture, Arts & Leisure Committee.

Nothing has been finalised by the Libraries NI Board at this stage and I would encourage everyone with an interest in libraries to participate in the consultation process. This will help ensure that in the future Northern Ireland has a modern, accessible and excellent library service.

Library Provision in Killyleagh

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to outline his future plans for library provision in Killyleagh.

(AQW 3181/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Library services in Killyleagh are being considered within Libraries NI's ongoing strategic review of the libraries estate.

A full public consultation on the Review proposals will commence on 10 January 2011 and will run for 12 weeks. As part of this process a series of meetings will be arranged, at which Libraries NI will discuss the proposals with library users, staff and the Culture, Arts & Leisure Committee.

Nothing has been finalised by the Libraries NI Board at this stage and I would encourage everyone with an interest in libraries to participate in the consultation process. This will help ensure that in the future Northern Ireland has a modern, accessible and excellent library service.

This is an operational decision to be made by Libraries NI.

Department of Education

Maghera High School Site

Mrs M O'Neill asked the of an agreed Area Based Planning strategy, what measures she has instructed her officials to take to ensure that the vacated Maghera High School is retained in public ownership for continued redeployment as part of the schools' estate.

(AQW 2470/11)

Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane): Is le Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Oirthuaiscirt é iarshuíomh Magherafelt High School agus caithfidh siad cloí leis an treoir polasaí a d'eisigh Láraonad Comhairleach na Seirbhíse um Thalamh agus Réadmhaoin.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB), which owns the former Maghera High School site, must adhere to the policy guidance issued by the Central Advisory Unit of Land and Property Services. This requires all owners of public sector property to keep their land holdings under continual review and to release surplus property with the least possible delay, subject to the need to realise the best value for the Public.

My Department is in liaison with the Board and the Land and Property Service on the timing of the potential disposal of the Maghera High School.

Teachers

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of teachers who left teaching and received an enhanced redundancy package and were then employed in (i) a temporary post; or (ii) a full-time permanent position in each of the last three academic years, broken down by gender.

(AQW 2538/11)

Minister of Education: Please see table below:

Year	Male Left employment with an enhanced redundancy	Male re-employed temp 01/09/07 – 31/08/10	Male re- employed perm	Female left with enhanced redundancy	Female re-employed temp 01/09/07 – 31/08/10	Female re- employed perm
2007/08	73	43	0	182	117	0
2008/09	51	23	0	100	48	0
2009/10	67	0	0	133	7	0
Totals	191	66	0	415	172	0

Spreagann an Roinn fostóirí chun tosaíocht a thabhairt do mhúinteoirí nua-cháilithe nó do mhúinteoirí cleachta neamhscoirtha atá ag iarraidh fillleadh ar fhostaíocht, nuair is féidir, agus folúntais post á líonadh. Ina theannta sin, thug an Roinn comhairle d'fhostóirí nár chóir dóibh múinteoirí scoirtha a athfhostú le clúdach gearrthéarmach a dhéanamh ach amháin nuair nach bhfuil múinteoirí nua-cháilithe agus múinteoirí cleachta neamhscoirtha le fáil.

My Department exhorts employers to give preference, wherever possible, to newly qualified teachers (NQTs) or experienced non-retired teachers seeking to return to employment when filling vacancies, including those of a temporary nature. My Department has also advised employers that retired teachers should only be re-employed to provide short-term cover where NQTs or experienced non-retired teachers are unavailable.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education to detail all costs incurred, to date, for setting up the Education and Skills Authority, including staff salaries and expenses.

(AQW 2558/11)

Minister of Education: Leagtar amach sa tábla thíos sonraí ar na costais go dtí seo i leith bhunú an Údaráis um Oideachas agus Scileanna:

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	10-11* £'000	Totals £'000
ESA Implementation Team	-	258	1,032	1,909	2,697	1,041	6,937
RPA Policy & Legislative Team	107	956	832	810	580	4	3,289
Totals	107	1,214	1,864	2,719	3,277	1,045	10,226

* Figures for 2010-11 are as at 31 October 2011.

These costs are an 'invest to save' measure. The establishment of the ESA will release £20 million per year from unnecessary bureaucracy, and will provide more effective arrangements for raising standards; planning the education estate; and ensuring access to the curriculum on the basis of equality.

New Build for Lurgan College

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education for an update on her Department's new plan for post-14 education provision in the Lurgan and Craigavon area, which is impeding the provision of a new build for Lurgan College.

(AQW 2559/11)

Minister of Education: Is ceist a bhaineann le húdaráis bhainistíochta na scoileanna é socrú na bpleananna um sholáthar oideachais iar-14 i gceantar an Lorgain agus Craigavon agus is fúibh moltaí a dhéanamh a d'fhéadfainn measúnú a dhéanamh orthu.

Plans for the provision of post-14 education in the Lurgan and Craigavon area are a matter for the school managing authorities to determine and bring forward proposals for my consideration. My Department sets the policy context within which proposals can be brought forward and aims to put in place education provision on an area basis that is sustainable and viable in the long term. Our focus remains on ensuring that, at the age of 14, young people in the Craigavon area and across the north, will be able, through the Entitlement Framework, to access a much broader, better balanced and more economically relevant range of courses.

My Department has asked the SELB to review the capital investment needs of Lurgan College, within the wider context of delivery of the Entitlement Framework by all schools, with the view to bringing forward a strategic plan for the whole area. The plan is awaited.

Additionally, we continue to provide support via the school managing authorities in the area, to the Craigavon Area Learning Community and to the individual schools within it to help them plan and co ordinate their curricular offer in a coherent manner that expands options for young people, reduces duplication of often costly provision and provides increased opportunities for teachers and young people to come together to learn with and from one another.

Funding of Preparatory Schools

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 7575/10, when the Equality Impact Assessment on the funding of preparatory schools will be published.

(AQW 2560/11)

Minister of Education: Tá an tuairisc um Measúnacht Tionchair an Chomhionannais (EQIA) sa chéim dheireanach de chur i gcrích. Baineann an tuairisc seo leis an mholadh le maoiniú a bhaint ó ranna ullmhúcháin na scoileanna gramadaí.

The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) report on the proposal to withdraw funding from the preparatory departments of grammar schools is in the final stages of completion. My Department will shortly be writing to all those who participated in the consultation to advise of the EQIA's publication on the Department's website.

Vacant School Places

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the current number of vacant school places in each primary school, in North Down and Ards.

(AQW 2561/11)

Minister of Education: Mionsonraítear sna táblaí thíos líon na n-áiteanna folmha scoile i ngach bunscoil i gceantair Chomhairle Ceantair Dhún Thuaidh agus Chomhairle Ceantair na hArda.

The number of vacant school places in each primary school, in North Down and Ards District Council areas is as detailed in the tables attached.

Figures provided have been derived from approved enrolment number against actual enrolment at the census date (8 October 2010) and exclude pupils in receipt of a statement of special educational

needs and pupils admitted to Year 1 on appeal as they are admitted over and above a school's approved admissions / enrolment.

NORTH DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

School Name	Places Available
Hollywood Primary School	205
Crawfordsburn Primary School	6
Ballyholme Primary School	42
Clandeboyne Primary School	412
Redburn Primary School	284
Bloomfield Primary School	147
Grange Park Primary School	1
Kilcooley Primary School	451
Rathmore Primary School	138
Towerview Primary School	24
Kilmaine Primary School	0
Ballymagee Primary School	8
St Patrick's Primary School	106
St Comgall's Primary School	5
St Malachy's Primary School	162
Bangor Central Primary School	11
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	32

ARDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

School Name	Places Available
Ballyvester Primary School	41
Loughries Primary School	31
Grey Abbey Primary School	3
Carrickmannon Primary School	20
Newtownards Model Primary School	21
Kirkistown Primary School	0
Castle Gardens Primary School	153
Victoria Primary School (Ballyhalbert)	35
Portavogie Primary School	39
Ballywalter Primary School	44
Comber Primary School	128
Victoria Primary School	76

School Name	Places Available
Ballykeigle Primary School	34
Donaghadee Primary School	106
Millisle Primary School	87
Alexander Dickson Primary School	156
Londonderry Primary School	18
Carrowdore Primary School	62
West Winds Primary School	94
Andrews Memorial Primary School	222
Killinchy Primary School	47
Abbey Primary School	43
St Mary's Primary School	20
St Anne's Primary School	45
St Finian's Primary School	70
St Patrick's Primary School	3
St Mary's Primary School	166
St Mary's Primary School	195
Kircubbin Primary School	40
Portaferry Integrated Primary School	49

Connor House Preparatory School, Bangor

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the total cost of transferring pupils from Connor House Preparatory School, Bangor to other primary schools.

(AQW 2562/11)

Minister of Education: As an 85 dalta atá ag freastal ar Connor House, beidh 19 dalta ó Bhliain 7 ag aistriú go dtí leibhéal iar-bhunscolaíochta i mí Mheán Fómhair 2010.

Of the 85 pupils currently attending Connor House, 19 Year 7 pupils will transfer to post primary education in September 2011. As it will be for parents/guardians to decide which school they wish to send their child to, it is not possible to accurately project the total cost of transferring the remaining 66 pupils from Connor House to other primary schools. Some parents/guardians may choose to send their child to a primary school, whilst others may choose another preparatory department. The level of funding and therefore cost is not the same in each case.

Artworks

Mr A McQuillan asked the Minister of Education to detail the value of the artworks that her Department currently has (i) on display; and (ii) in storage.

(AQW 2619/11)

Minister of Education: Tá na saothair ealaíne sa Roinn Oideachais ar iasacht ó Bhailiúchán Ealaíne an NICS. Is le Rannán Réadmhaoine na Roinne Airgeadais agus Pearsanra (DFP) é an bailiúchán agus is iad a bhainistíonn é.

The Department of Education's artworks are on loan from the NICS Art Collection which is owned and managed by Properties Division in the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP). As this is a DFP asset, all on loan artworks will be covered in DFP's own response to this question.

Training Lip Reading Teachers

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education what plans are in place to ensure a pathway is in place for training lip reading teachers.

(AQW 2677/11)

Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios dom ag Príomhfheidhmeannaigh na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlann nach múintear léamh beola ar bhonn foirmiúil chuig daltaí lagéisteachta sna scoileanna. Tuigim gur ceann de na scileanna is riachtanaí é an léamh beola do dhaoine fásta a bhfuil lagéisteacht orthu agus iad níos sine in aois.

I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards that lip reading/speech reading is not formally taught to hearing impaired children in schools. I understand that lip reading/speech reading may be a skill most required by adults who have acquired a hearing impairment later in life.

There is not, therefore, any pathway in place for training teachers in lip reading techniques.

School Maintenance Contracts

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education what measures are employed by (i) her Department; (ii) the Education and Library Boards; and (iii) other organisations within the education sector to ensure that school maintenance contracts are awarded on a value for money basis without compromising on the quality of the materials used or work done.

(AQW 2705/11)

Minister of Education: My Department seeks to ensure that all procurement is carried out in line with Public Procurement Policy as approved by the Executive in 2002 and in accordance with the principles of best practice. The Department of Finance & Personnel Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) advises and assists the Department on all matters regarding procurement. CPD issues approved procedures and procurement guidance directly to the Centres of Procurement Excellence, which includes the Education and Library Boards and other Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). My Department holds regular accountability meetings with the ELBs and other Non Departmental Public Bodies in the education sector at which procurement issues are discussed.

Tá na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann agus na heagraíochtaí eile cuí san earnáil oideachais freagrach as a chinntiú go bhfuil córais ann a chinntíonn go gcloíonn gach gníomh fála, bronnadh an chonartha cothabhála san áireamh, le reachtaíocht fála agus go soláthraítear luach ar airgead.

ELBs and other appropriate organisations within the education sector are responsible for ensuring systems are in place to ensure that all procurement activity, including the award of maintenance contract, is compliant with relevant procurement legislation and delivers value for money.

Education Other Than At School Service

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education (i) how Education Other than at School provision is organised in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area; and (ii) for her assessment of this provision.

(AQW 2747/11)

Minister of Education: Tuigim ó Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Oirdheiscirt (SEELB) go n-eagraítear a sholáthar Oideachas Seachas Oideachas Ar Scoil (EOTAS) ar bhonn geografach le hIonaid Chomharsanachta Oideachais sa Chaisleán Riabhach, in Ard Mhic Nasca agus i nDún Pádraig.

I understand from the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) that its Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) provision is organised on a geographical basis with Neighbourhood Education Centres based in Castlereagh, Holywood and Downpatrick. There is a contract with Lagan Valley Project to provide a service. There is also provision for Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 pupils at Longstone Special School for pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (Beechcroft Unit), and Lakewood and Ardmore House schools. In addition, the SEELB provides home tuition for those pupils who are out of school for more than 6 weeks and support for school-aged mothers.

The Education and Training Inspectorate's (ETI) report of an evaluation of Alternative Education Provision (AEP) and EOTAS in the SEELB, published in April 2008, concluded that "overall, the AEP in SEELB makes good use of its available resources and provides good value for money. The provision has major strengths and is consistently good. The SEELB and the wider community can be confident in the quality and effectiveness of the provision. No follow-up inspection is required".

Education Other Than At School Service

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education whether there are any plans to change the Education Other than at School provision in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area; and (ii) what consultations are planned with staff and stakeholders.

(AQW 2748/11)

Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios dom ó Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Oirdheiscirt (SEELB) go bhfuil an post 'Ceannaire Sholáthar Oideachais Eile' (AEP) (an bainisteoir oibríochtúil) ar fáil agus go ndéanfar agallaimh roimh an Nollaig leis an phost seo a líonadh.

I understand from the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) that the post of Head of Alternative Education Provision (AEP) (the operational manager) is vacant and interviews for a replacement will take place before Christmas.

The SEELB has also advised that the management structure for AEP is currently being reviewed and should this require any significant change, a development proposal would be required. This would be carried out in accordance with relevant Education Orders and Department of Education guidance. If this is a requirement, consultation will take place with all of the relevant stakeholders. Any review will be predicated on improvement to enhance day-to-day management of the provision.

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of officials within her Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of her Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2810/11)

Minister of Education: Is féidir liom a dheimhniú nach bhfuil duine ar bith de mo chuid feidhmeannach i dteagmháil le hinstiúidí polaitíochta na hEorpa faoi láthair.

I can confirm that none of my officials are currently involved in engagement with European political institutions. In addition, I can also confirm that the Department of Education submitted three applications for EU funding from the EU Peace III Programme in 2008 but none of these applications were successful.

Admission Criteria of Nursery Schools and Units

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education whether equality legislation applies to the admission criteria currently used by nursery schools and nursery units.

(AQW 2838/11)

Minister of Education: Tá réimse reachtaíochta comhionannais ann agus níl baint ag gach cuid de le critéir iontrála a úsáideann na scoileanna agus aonaid na scoilíochta. Mar shampla, ní shainmhínítear

scoileanna mar údaráis phoiblí chun críocha Alt 75 den NI Act 1998 agus mar sin de, ní bhaineann an reachtaíocht seo le critéir iontrála a úsáideann naíscoileanna agus aonaid naíscolaíochta.

There is a range of equality legislation and not all of it will apply to admissions criteria used by nursery schools and nursery units. For example, schools are not defined as public authorities for the purposes of Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 therefore this legislation may not apply to admissions criteria used by nursery schools and nursery units.

Responsibility for drawing up admissions criteria rests entirely with the Board of Governors of each nursery school/unit and the criteria reflect the Governors' priorities for admission. There is, however, a duty upon the Governors to ensure any admissions criteria are legally based and compliant with relevant equality legislation. Equality legislation which is relevant in this instance includes:

The Human Rights Act 1998 which requires public bodies including schools to act in a manner that is compatible with human rights.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (NI) 2005 which makes it unlawful for a school to discriminate against a disabled person in the arrangements it makes for determining admission to the school.

The Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 which makes it unlawful to discriminate on the grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin in a number of fields including education.

The Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 which makes it unlawful to discriminate against an individual on the grounds of his or her sex in a number of fields including education.

Uptake of Free School Meals in Primary Schools

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Education to detail the level of free school meal uptake among primary school children in each Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 2858/11)

Minister of Education: Athraíonn líon na bpáistí a fhaigheann saorbhéilí scoile ó sheachtain go seachtain.

The number of children taking school meals varies from week to week. However, information collected annually from the School Meals Census provides a snapshot of the numbers taking meals on the day on which census information is gathered. The most recent figures available, for primary school pupils, taken from the 2009 census were as follows:

	Pupils Entitled To Free School Meals	Pupils Taking Free School Meals	% Of Entitled Pupils Taking Free School Meals
BELB	7,079	5,887	83
NEELB	5,087	4,176	82
SEELB	4,764	3,414	72
SELB	6,570	5,549	84
WELB	7,322	6,009	82
Total	30,822	25,035	81

Grades of School Leavers

Mr W Humphrey asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of school leavers resident in the Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Area who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and Maths, in each of the last five years for which data are available.

(AQW 2883/11)

Minister of Education: Tá an freagra le fáil sa tábla thíos. Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil nár bailíodh an t-eolas go dtí an bhliain acadúil 2005/06 ar aghaidh agus mar sin de, níl ach eolas do cheithre bliana ar fáil sa tábla.

The answer is contained in the table below. Please note that the data were only collected from the 2005/06 academic year onwards therefore only four years of data are contained in the table.

Number of school leavers resident in Greater Shankill Neighbourhood Renewal Area achieving at least 5 GCSEs A*-C (inc. equivalents) including English and Maths by school type 2005/06 to 2008/09

	Non Grammar School Leavers resident in Greater Shankill NRA		Grammar School Leavers resident in Greater Shankill NRA		Total School Leavers resident in Greater Shankill NRA	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2005/06	46	18.7	15	93.8	61	23.3
2006/07	33	16.2	15	100.0	48	21.9
2007/08	26	12.9	16	80.0	42	18.9
2008/09	37	17.3	13	100.0	50	22.0

Source: School Leavers Survey

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(AQW 2884/11)

Minister of Education: Tá an freagra le fáil sa tábla thíos. Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil nár bailíodh an t-eolas go dtí an bhliain acadúil 2005/06 ar aghaidh agus mar sin de, níl ach eolas do cheithre bliana ar fáil sa tábla.

The answer is contained in the table below. Please note that the data were only collected from the 2005/06 academic year onwards therefore only four years of data are contained in the table.

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2006/07	33	16.2	15	100.0	48	21.9
2007/08	26	12.9	16	80.0	42	18.9
2008/09	37	17.3	13	100.0	50	22.0

Source: School Leavers Survey

Chris Hughes

Lurgan College

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Education, whether her Department has received any correspondence from political representatives opposing a new school building for Lurgan College. **(AQW 2897/11)**

Minister of Education: Fuair mo Roinn comhfhreagras ó ionadaí polaitiúil chuir i gcoinne na scéime molta caipitiúla oibreacha do Lurgan College cheal plean fhoriomláin ceantair um sholáthar iarbhunscolaíochta san earnáil rialaithe i gceantar na Lurgan.

My Department is in receipt of correspondence from one political representative which opposed the proposed capital works scheme for Lurgan College in the absence of an overall area plan for post-primary provision in the controlled sector in the Lurgan area.

On 10 August 2009, DE advised SELB that it was unable to approve the EA for Lurgan College as it did not sufficiently take into account the wider education policy framework in relation to Sustainable Schools and the delivery of the Entitlement Framework (EF).

In writing to the SELB on 2 October 2009, DE asked SELB to reconsider the proposal in the wider context of delivery of the EF in the Craigavon area (Lurgan and Portadown) and to set out clearly how this development will contribute to the delivery of high-quality and sustainable provision on an area basis. The revised EA is awaited

School Closures

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Education how many schools have closed at least once in the last two months due to adverse weather conditions. **(AQW 2901/11)**

Minister of Education: I rith na míonna Deireadh Fómhair agus Samhain 2010, chuardaigh 52 scoil faomhadh na Roinne le haghaidh dúnadh speisialta, ar feadh lae amháin ar a laghad, mar gheall ar dhrochaimsir.

During the months of October and November 2010, 52 schools sought the Department's approval for at least one exceptional closure day due to adverse weather conditions.

Clearly the month of December caused further challenges for schools and the information regarding applications for closure in December is currently being collated. Once this work has been finalised a list of all schools closed will be placed in the Assembly Library.

Enrolment in Irish Medium Schools

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Education pursuant to AQW1212/11, how many pupils currently enrolled in Irish medium schools and units are from the Protestant community. **(AQW 2910/11)**

Minister of Education: Tá 24 Gaelscoil ann. Tá sé taifeadta go bhfuil seisear daltaí ón phobal Protastúnach; 2,776 dalta ón phobal Caitliceach; 9 ndalta ar 'Críostaithe eile' iad; agus 157 dalta ar taifeadadh nár tugadh a gcreideamh nó nach raibh creideamh ar bith acu.

There are 24 Irish medium schools. Six pupils are recorded as being from the Protestant community; 2,776 pupils from the Catholic community; 9 pupils recorded as 'Other Christian'; and 157 pupils with religion recorded as 'not stated/none'.

There are 12 Irish medium units situated in English medium primary or post primary schools, with a total of 855 pupils. No pupils in those units were recorded as being Protestant; and, of the others, fewer than 5 have their religion recorded as something other than 'Catholic'.

Of the 410 children in funded places in the 29 Irish medium voluntary and private pre-school centres: 309 children have their religion recorded as Catholic; 101 children have their religion recorded as 'not stated/none'. No children have their religion recorded as 'Protestant' or 'Other Christian'.

Access to Pre-School Provision

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Education whether all pre-school children with special educational needs from the East Belfast constituency, who applied were able to access suitable local pre-school provision in the current academic year.

(AQW 2930/11)

Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios agam ag Príomhfheidhmeannaigh Bhoird Oideachais agus Leabharlann Bhéal Feirste agus an Oirdheiscirt go raibh rochtain ar sholáthar réamhscoile áitiúil oiriúnach ag gach páiste a bhfuil ráiteas ar riachtanais speisialta aige nó aici nó a bhfuil measúnú reachtúil á dhéanamh air nó uirthi maidir leis na riachtanais speisialta seo, sa bhliain acadúil reatha.

I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Belfast and South-Eastern Education and Library Boards that all children on whom a statement of special educational needs is maintained or are undergoing statutory assessment of their special educational needs were able to access suitable local pre-school provision in the current academic year.

Nursery School Places

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education how many nursery school places were available in (i) Newtownabbey; (ii) Carrickfergus; and (iii) Larne in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2932/11)

Minister of Education: Mionsonraítear sna táblaí thíos líon na n-áiteanna reachtúla naíscoile i mBaile na Mainistreach; Carraig Fhearghais; agus Latharna i ngach bliain le cúig bliana anuas.

The statutory nursery school places available in Newtownabbey; Carrickfergus; and Larne in each of the last five years are as detailed in the attached tables. The North Eastern Education and Library Board have advised that information in respect of the number of applications received is only available for the last four years and is also detailed in the attached tables. The number of applications detailed includes those in respect of children in their final pre-school year (who are the target of the provision) and those in their penultimate pre-school year.

	2010/11 School Year	
	Nursery places available	Total Applications
Newtownabbey	754	1278
Carrickfergus	312	395
Larne	234	304

	2009/10 School Year	
	Nursery places available	Total Applications
Newtownabbey	754	1264
Carrickfergus	312	470
Larne	234	276

	2008/09 School Year	
	Nursery places available	Total Applications
Newtownabbey	754	1106
Carrickfergus	312	368
Larne	234	227

	2007/08 School Year	
	Nursery places available	Total Applications
Newtownabbey	754	1264
Carrickfergus	312	438
Larne	234	245

	2006/07 School Year	
	Nursery places available	Total Applications
Newtownabbey	754	Not available
Carrickfergus	312	Not available
Larne	234	Not available

Nursery School Places

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education how many applications were received for nursery school places in (i) Newtownabbey; (ii) Carrickfergus; and (iii) Larne in each of the last five years. **(AQW 2933/11)**

Minister of Education: Mionsonraítear sna táblaí thíos líon na n-áiteanna reachtúla naíscoile i mBaile na Mainistreach; Carraig Fhearghais; agus Latharna i ngach bliain le cúig bliana anuas.

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Newtownabbey	754	1264
Carrickfergus	312	438
Larne	234	245

	2006/07 School Year	
	Nursery places available	Total Applications
Newtownabbey	754	Not available
Carrickfergus	312	Not available
Larne	234	Not available

Closure of Schools

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Education whether any schools have closed in the last two months as a result of a heating system failure; and if so, to list the schools affected.

(AQW 2939/11)

Minister of Education: I mí Dheireadh Fómhair agus i mí na Samhna 2010, d'iarr na 5 scoil atá liostaithe thíos ar an Roinn Oideachais druidim eisceachtúil a fhaomhadh cionn is gur theip ar an chóras téimh agus d'fhaomh an Roinn na hiarratais seo.

During the months of October and November 2010, the 5 schools listed below applied to, and received approval from, the Department of Education for an exceptional closure citing heating failure as a reason for their request.

- Blythefield Primary School, Belfast
- Forth River Primary School, Belfast
- St Brigid's Primary School, Agher
- St Finian's Primary School, Newtownards
- St Peter's High School, Derry

Sale of School Palying Fields and Sites

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the number of school playing fields and playgrounds that have been sold in each of the last 15 years, (ii) the names and addresses of these sites; and (iii) the price for which they were sold.

(AQW 2952/11)

Minister of Education: Sholáthair na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann an t-eolas sna táblaí thíos. The information is outlined in the table below as been provided by the Education Boards.

Name and Address	Date	The Price for which they were sold
Carbane Playing Fields, Newry	27/3/09	£365,000
Annadale Crescent, Belfast	13/12/1998	£53,000
Forthbridge Playing field	5/4/2001	£685,000
Whitewell Playing Fields	28/7/2007 and 21/9/1999	Leased to N'Abbey CC. In 1999 small area sold for £110,000
Woodlands Playing Fields	5/11/1991 and 11/12/1998	Leased to City Council. In 1998 small area sold for £135,000

A total of five playing fields have been sold over the last 15 years. These have been identified as defined in your question. There may be other school playing fields and playgrounds sold but these would have formed part of the sale of the complete school property and hence are not included in the above table.

Abusive Pupils

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Education what measures are in place to protect teachers from abusive pupils.

(AQW 2981/11)

Minister of Education: Bíonn freagracht dhlíthiúil ar Bhord Gobharnóirí agus ar Phríomhoidí scoileanna le dea-iompar agus smacht a chothú.

Board of Governors and Principals of every grantaided school have a legal responsibility to encourage good behaviour and discipline. It is critical that a school's position is clearly set out in its Discipline Policy and that the entire school community – pupils, parents and staff – are fully aware of it and the implications. Sanctions are available to schools, such as suspension and expulsion, for breaches of the school discipline policy, including verbal abuse of and physical attacks on school staff, and should be covered in school policies.

The Department's publication 'Promoting and Sustaining Good Behaviour: A Discipline Strategy for Schools' (1998) sets out a support model of progressively more intensive interventions for pupils whose behaviour is challenging. The Strategy is underpinned by guidance issued by the Department to schools in 2001, "Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour". The Department has also issued guidance on the use of reasonable force to restrain or control pupils who are at risk of harming themselves or others.

In addition, the Teachers' Negotiating Committee, of which the Department is a member, is currently in the process of finalising a workable, affordable teachers' health and well being strategy, aimed at promoting a more proactive approach to teachers' health and wellbeing through an inclusive approach to best policy and practice on all aspects of workplace health. The Committee is also in the final stages of agreeing guidance on tackling violence against staff in schools which will include guidance on the handling, recording and reporting of violent incidents.

Children with a Full-time or Part-time Classroom Assistant

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Education how many children in mainstream education with (i) learning difficulties; and (ii) care issues currently have a full-time or part-time classroom assistant in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area.

(AQW 2986/11)

Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios dom ag Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Oirdheiscirt gur mar seo a leanas líon na ndaltaí i scoileanna príomhshrutha a bhfuil ráitis ar riachtanais speisialta oideachais acu agus a bhfuil tacaíocht á thabhairt dóibh ó chúntóir ranga lán aimsire nó páirt aimsire:

I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board that the number of pupils with statements of special educational needs who are currently supported by a full-time or part-time classroom assistant in mainstream schools is:-

- (i) 177 with moderate/severe/specific learning difficulties
- (ii) 1074 with care issues (medical/sensory/attention/behavioural difficulties)

School Maintenance Backlog

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to provide a breakdown of the current school maintenance backlog in each school in the North Down area.

(AQW 2989/11)

Minister of Education: Seo mar a leanas riaráiste cothabhála na scoileanna i dtoghcheantar an Dúin Thuaidh, de réir chórais bhainistíochta eastáit na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlann.

According to the Education and Library Boards' estate management system the maintenance backlog in schools in the North Down constituency is as follows:

School	Maintenance Backlog (£)
Ballyholme Primary School	3,500
Ballymagee Primary School	3,290
Ballyvester Primary School	6,920
Bangor Central Primary School	143,850
Bangor Grammar School	4,791,098
Bangor Nursery School	49,400
Bloomfield Primary School	306,105
Clandeboyne Primary School	268,695
Clifton Special School	3,700
Crawfordsburn Primary School	20,250
Donaghadee Primary School	140,430
Glencraig Integrated Primary School	61,900
Grange Park Primary School	256,540
Hollywood Nursery School	8,075
Hollywood Primary School	222,594
Kilcooley Primary School	249,242

School	Maintenance Backlog (£)
Millisle Primary School	119,335
Priory College	568,935
Rathmore Primary School	366,955
Redburn Primary School	599,405
St Anne's Primary School	18,210
St Columbanus' College	556,895
St Comgall's Primary School	3,130
St Malachy's Primary School Bangor	191,193
St Patrick's Primary School Holywood	296,145
Trinity Nursery School	45,050
Total	9,300,842

You will note that the total backlog figure for North Down is considerably larger than that detailed in a previous response to you in September 2009; this is mainly due to the addition of Bangor Grammar School to the table. This school was not previously included as it was due to be replaced as part of the Schools' Modernisation Programme. A backlog figure for this school was obtained following a condition survey, carried out as part of my review of capital projects, earlier this year. This review was commissioned to ensure that the investment in the schools estate was consistent and supportive of the DE policy Framework.

Moderate Learning Difficulties

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils in each primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area who currently attend a moderate learning difficulties unit.

(AQW 2993/11)

Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios dom ag Príomhfheidhmeannach Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Oirdheiscirt (SEELB) gur mar seo a leanas líon na ndaltaí atá ag freastal ar aonad dóibh siúd a bhfuil deacrachtaí measartha foghlama acu (MLD) i mbunscoileanna an SEELB:

I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) that the number of pupils who currently attend a moderate learning difficulties unit (MLD) in primary schools in the SEELB is as follows:

School	No of Pupils
Bloomfield PS	15
Castlewellan PS	10
Downpatrick PS	30
Knockbreda PS	18
Seymour Hill PS	19
St Colman's PS	19
St Colmcille's PS	20
St Kieran's PS	6

School	No of Pupils
St Malachy's PS	26
Towerview PS	15
West Winds PS	6
Total	184

The above named primary schools are the only primary schools in the SEELB which have MLD units. All pupils who attend these units are registered at that primary school.

Glenwood Primary School, Belfast

Mr W Humphrey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2586/11, given that her Department has categorised the proposed major capital works at Glenwood Primary School, Belfast as partially compliant with the Sustainable Schools policy, what action needs to be taken to ensure that the proposed works are fully compliant.

(AQW 3009/11)

Minister of Education: Ciallaíonn measúnú 'páirt-chomhlíontach' ar na Tionscadail um Mhóroibreacha Caipitil go bhfuil roinnt ceisteanna ann a bhaineann go díreach le scoil éigin nó a bhaineann le ceisteanna níos leithne maidir le soláthar inbhuanaithe sa cheantar sin.

The assessment of major capital works projects as partially compliant means that some issues have emerged, which relate either directly to a school, or to wider issues about sustainable provision in that area.

In the case of Glenwood Primary School, my Department has asked the Belfast Education and Library Board to ensure that the proposed major capital works project is part of an area based solution, which aims to produce sustainable provision that serves the future needs of all primary school children in the Shankill area. My Department will continue to work closely with the board on this matter.

Springhill Primary School, Belfast

Mr W Humphrey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 2585/11, given that her Department has categorised the proposed major capital works at Springhill Primary School, Belfast as non-compliant with the Sustainable Schools policy, what action needs to be taken to ensure that the proposed works are fully compliant.

(AQW 3010/11)

Minister of Education: Ciallaíonn measúnú 'neamh-chomhlíontach' ar na Tionscadail um Mhóroibreacha Caipitil go bhfuil buarthaí móra ann faoin tionscadal atá molta faoi láthair agus go mbeidh athruithe de dhíth le díriú isteach ar cheisteanna a bhaineann go díreach leis an scoil nó a bhaineann le ceisteanna níos leithne maidir le soláthar inbhuanaithe sa cheantar sin.

The assessment of major capital works projects as non-compliant means that there are major concerns about the project as currently proposed and reworking is required to address school specific or wider issues about sustainable provision in that area.

In the case of Springhill Primary School, my Department has asked the Belfast Education and Library Board to ensure that the proposed major capital works project is part of an area based solution, which aims to produce sustainable provision that serves the future needs of all primary school children in the Upper Shankill area.

Draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of Education, following her decision to extend the consultation period on the draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy, when she expects the strategy to be implemented. **(AQW 3118/11)**

Minister of Education: Is tréimhse ríthábhachtach i saol an pháiste iad na luathbhlianta agus tá sé riachtanach go bhfreastalóidh an Straitéis ar riachtanais gach páiste.

The early years are a vitally important time in a child's life and it is imperative that the Strategy that is delivered meets the needs and requirements of all children.

There is clearly a significant interest among parents, schools and a range of stakeholders on the best way forward for early years provision and services in the coming years. I want all interested parties to know that they have had the opportunity to contribute to the debate and I have, therefore, extended the deadline for the consultation to 31 January 2011.

The consultation to date has raised a wide range of important issues. It has identified a desire for a much broader based cross departmental Early Years Strategy which covers key services from 0-6 in an integrated fashion. While it would essentially be a decision for the Executive to decide to progress this I have written in the first instance to ministerial colleagues in both OFMDFM and DHSSPS to arrange a meeting to hear their views in order to help me decide how I wish to proceed.

I do not wish to delay the publication and implementation of an Early Years Strategy any longer than is necessary. However, I want to ensure that the Strategy that is taken forward has taken careful account of the issues raised.

Therefore I will wish to consider the timetable for the publication of the Strategy following the completion of the consultation, the analysis of the findings and my meetings with ministerial colleagues.

Capital Projects for the City of Londonderry

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the capital projects for the City of Londonderry that are awaiting approval. **(AQW 3182/11)**

Minister of Education: Seo a leanas na cúig thionscadal i gceantar Dhoire atá ar an Phlean Soláthair Infheistíochta.

In the Derry area there are currently 5 projects on the Investment Delivery Plan namely:-

Belmont Special School
Ebrington PS
Eglinton PS
Foyle & Londonderry College
New Buildings PS

and a further 4 projects comprising 6 schools which are at the early stages of planning, namely:-

Broadridge PS
Bunscoil Cholmcille
Gaelscoil Edain Mhoir
Rosemount PS }
St Anne's PS } single project
St Eugene's PS }

Department for Employment and Learning

Honoury Degrees

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the cost incurred, including expenses, by each university for the provision of honorary degrees in each of the last five years. **(AQW 2728/11)**

Minister for Employment and Learning (Mr D Kennedy): This is information that my Department does not hold. The funding provided by my Department can only be used for the purposes for which it is given and no funding is provided for awarding honorary degrees. The information provided by the universities is detailed in the table below. The University of Ulster could not provide costs for academic years 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Academic Year	2005/06 £	2006/07 £	2007/08 £	2008/09 £	2009/10 £
Queen's University	10,666	9,440	28,014	33,171	17,843
University of Ulster	n/a	n/a	58,325	71,535	65,500

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years. **(AQW 2812/11)**

Minister for Employment and Learning:

- (i) For the purpose of this question, "European political institutions" is taken to refer to the European Council, the European Parliament or the European Commission. Five members of staff currently have direct contact with the European Commission on delivering on the implementation of European Social Fund (ESF) projects and the Transnational Network Project on Empowerment and Inclusion.
- (ii) In terms of the Department's success rate in accessing European funding in the last three years:
- A total of €166 million ESF funding was allocated to Northern Ireland for the period 2007-2014 and the Department is the Managing Authority for these funds on behalf of the European Commission; and
 - a total of €0.494 million "Transnational Network Project on Empowerment and Inclusion" funding was accessed in August 2009 for a period of 3 years.

Student Loans

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) what is the current interest rate on student loans taken out (a) before 1998; and (b) after 1998; (ii) for his assessment of the disparity in these rates; and (iii) to detail what representations he has made to the student loans company to correct this disparity. **(AQW 2968/11)**

Minister for Employment and Learning: I can advise that (i) for the current academic year 2010/11, the interest rate for student loans taken out (a) before 1998 (mortgage style loans) is 4.4% and (b) after 1998 (income contingent repayment loans) is 1.5%; (ii) the reason for the difference in the interest rates is that mortgage style loans and income contingent repayment loans are entirely distinct loan products which are governed by separate legislation and also have different loan repayment

arrangements; (iii) as the interest rates for each loan type have been set in accordance with the relevant legislation, I have not made any representations to the Student Loans Company on this matter.

Sign Language Interpreters

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning when training for sign language interpreters and tutors will commence.

(AQW 2976/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: I am committed to delivering the personal pledge of my predecessor to enhance course provision in sign language in Northern Ireland. My Department has taken receipt of proposals from potential delivery partners and is currently working with those partners to ensure that the training to be provided meets with the expectations of the sign language sector. This has necessitated, for example, a short feasibility study to address issues such as sustainability of provision and future developments within the interpreting profession.

Subject to formal approval of expenditure by the Department of Finance and Personnel, it is my intention that preparatory course provision will be operational by June 2011 and that initial tutor and interpreter provision will commence in September 2011.

Re-aligning GCE A Level Equivalents

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) any correspondence which his Department has had with the Irish Universities Association in relation to re-aligning GCE A Level equivalents for entry to university in the Republic of Ireland, to take account of the introduction of the A* grade at GCE A2 Level; (ii) his Department's response to any such correspondence; and (iii) what action he intends to take to ensure that students from Northern Ireland are not disadvantaged.

(AQW 3073/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: My Department has not had any correspondence with the Irish Universities Association in relation to re-aligning GCE A Level equivalents for entry to university in the Republic of Ireland, to take account of the introduction of the A* grade at GCE A2 level. However, I understand that the Council for the Curriculum, Assessment and Examinations (CCEA) is currently, with the support of the Minister of Education, pursuing the matter with the Irish Universities Association.

I will be asking the Minister of Education to update me on the outcome of this issue, as I am concerned that students from Northern Ireland could be placed at a disadvantage when applying to universities in the Republic of Ireland.

Student Loans Company

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) the number of people who have been overcharged by, or made overpayments to the Student Loans Company; (ii) the total amount overcharged/overpaid; (iii) the average amount overcharged/overpaid per person; (iv) the number of refunds issued and the total amount refunded; and (v) the average time taken to provide full refunds for overcharges/overpayments.

(AQW 3114/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: Due to the unavoidable time lag between income contingent repayment student loan deductions being made and the Student Loans Company receiving information from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, it is possible for students to over repay their loan before the Student Loans Company becomes aware that their repayments should stop. Students are never therefore "overcharged" and over repayments by students are refunded with interest by the Student Loans Company when borrowers' accounts are reconciled at the end of the financial year.

It is not possible to provide all the information requested broken down by each year but I can advise that over the last five full financial years from 2005/06 to 2009/10 (i) the number of Northern Ireland domiciled graduates who have made overpayments is 4,006; (ii) the total amount overpaid is

£2,551,850; (iii) the average amount overpaid per person is £637; (iv) 3,084 customers have received refunds and the total amount refunded is £2,037,412; (v) No figures are held for the average time taken to provide full refunds for overpayments.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister for Employment and Learning if he can confirm that his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental saving measures and the potential impact of these measures.

(AQW 3143/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: Following the delayed publication of the Draft Budget last week, my officials are working through the detailed implications for my Department over the four year Budget period. When that process is completed we will then be in a position to publish a detailed Savings Delivery Plan. In the interim, I will endeavour to publish an indication of the areas from which I may have to seek reductions in expenditure as soon as possible.

Antrim College

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what action he is taking to address access to further and higher education and vocational training within the South Antrim constituency since the closure of Antrim College; and what access is currently available.

(AQW 3194/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: Northern Regional College's Business Improvement Plan, which was commissioned by the College to examine its operations and improve efficiency, has presented proposals for the rationalisation of its estate. Whilst the plan includes the proposed closure of Antrim Campus in June 2011, the College has indicated that it intends to continue to have a presence in the Antrim area. To that end, it is pursuing a number of possible partnership arrangements with other local education providers, to enable it to continue to offer further education in Antrim, particularly to part-time students. A wide range of full time provision will also continue to be delivered through the College's other campuses and outreach centres. The College has recently completed a new £10m project at Newtownabbey which will provide further education for full time students from the Antrim area. These measures will ensure that a comprehensive range of further education provision continues to be accessible to all those living in the area.

Additionally, 52 training suppliers are contracted by my Department to deliver the ApprenticeshipsNI and Training for Success programmes throughout Northern Ireland, offering a wide range of vocational training provision. Whilst these programmes are demand led my Department provides a guarantee of a training place to all eligible participants who wish to avail of the opportunity, including those in the South Antrim constituency.

The higher education institutions actively target potential students within the South Antrim constituency by promoting course provision through a wide variety of media. As a result, students from this area continue to access higher education provision at Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, St. Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College. In addition Northern Regional College provides a range of higher education courses to students in the area.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Executive Office in Brussels

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any communication her Department has had with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels in each of the last 24 months.

(AQW 2746/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster): Individual communications between my Department and the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels (ONIEB) are not compiled.

However, my Department has been in regular contact with ONIEB in relation to projects that need State Aid Approval. Also recently, matters relating to Regional Aid post 2013, a reduced rate of Corporation tax in Northern Ireland and the Presbyterian Mutual Society have necessitated contact with ONIEB.

In addition, the Department liaised with ONIEB in relation to the following:

- (i) a visit to Brussels by the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service in October 2010
- (ii) arrangements for the visit to Northern Ireland of Commissioner Marie Geoghan Quinn on the 12 November 2010
- (iii) to use ONIEB facilities for a presentation on 2 December 2010 about the ISLES offshore grid study.

In November 2010 ONIEB contacted (i) the Department's Consumer Affairs Branch to ascertain who would advise a consumer about a property deal in Bulgaria and (ii) the Department's Finance Division seeking clarification on a briefing request.

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the number of officials within her Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of her Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2813/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment:

- (i) There are currently no DETI officials directly involved in engagement with European political institutions;
- (ii) In each of the last 3 years, DETI has successfully accessed the following EU funding:
 - (a) EU Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for NI 2007 – 2013

DETI recorded expenditure on the Central EU Database is set out below. 50% of this expenditure is EU funded.

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*	Total
£541,793	£7,810,059	£3,847,671	£12,199,523

* The 2010-11 figure relates to the period 1 April – 30 November 2010 only. It is anticipated that further payments will be made by the end of March 2011.

(b) EU Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II) Programme 2000-2008

A total of £5,783,111 (£2.4m of which was EU funding) was paid directly to 24 projects during financial year 2008-09.

(c) Interreg IVA 2007-2013

The Department has received the following Interreg IVA funding in respect of Project Kelvin:

2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Total
€2,950,000	€16,200,000	€10,350,000	€29,500,000
	£77,255.17	£32,958.52	£110,213.69

Direct International Routes between Belfast International Airport and Toronto

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department, or its agencies, have provided funding to support direct international routes between Belfast International Airport and Toronto in each of the last three years; and whether there are any plans to provide such funding in the future.

(AQW 2962/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: No funding has been provided in the last three years to support flights between Belfast and Toronto. The development of new air services is primarily a matter for the commercial judgement of the airports working with the airlines to determine whether a route will be financially successful. In the absence of clear market failure, such as gave rise to the now closed Northern Ireland Air Route Development Scheme, any direct governmental involvement would be seen as market manipulation and be contrary to the current EU guidance on the provision of start-up aid to airports and airlines.

However, the Canadian market is an important market for tourism to Northern Ireland and where an opportunity exists in such a market, Tourism Ireland will commit co-operative marketing funds in order to help secure a new, or re-instated, service.

Key Flight Routes from Northern Ireland's Airports

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department has a policy which sets out the criteria for funding for the creation and retention of key flight routes from Northern Ireland's airports, and if not, what consideration she has given to developing such a policy.

(AQW 2963/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The development of new air services is primarily a matter for the commercial judgement of the airports working with the airlines to determine whether a route will be financially successful. In the absence of clear market failure, such as gave rise to the now closed Northern Ireland Air Route Development Scheme, any direct governmental involvement would be seen as market manipulation and be contrary to the current EU guidance on the provision of start-up aid to airports and airlines.

In this context my Department and the agencies funded by it, which include Invest NI, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Tourism Ireland Limited, all actively work with Northern Ireland's airports to provide assistance where possible.

Promotion of Tourism

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much her Department has spent on the promotion of tourism in each constituency in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2975/11)

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

Year:	Marketing, Advertising & Promotion:	Publications:	Total:
2007/08	£ 4,095,000	£ 221,000	£ 4,316,000
2008/09	£ 8,243,000	£ 411,000	£ 8,654,000
2009/10	£ 8,856,000	£ 155,516	£ 9,011,516
Total:	£ 21,194,000	£ 787,516	£ 21,981,516

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

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment when she intends to make public Mr Arthur Boyd's next six-monthly progress report on the affairs of the Presbyterian Mutual Society.

(AQW 2987/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: A six-monthly progress report on the affairs of the Presbyterian Mutual Society was filed with the Registrar of Industrial and Provident Societies on 17th December 2010 and covers the period 17th May 2010 to 16th November 2010. This is available for public scrutiny at the registrar's office at Waterfront Plaza, Belfast and online: http://www.detini.gov.uk/deti-registry-index/credit_union-society_search.htm.

Funding by Invest NI

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the companies that are currently funded by Invest NI in the (a) Down District Council; (b) Newry and Mourne District Council; and (c) Banbridge District Council areas; (ii) how much funding has been allocated to each company in each of the last three years; and (iii) the purpose of each allocation of funding.

(AQW 2998/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: During the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2010, Invest NI approved offers of assistance worth £35m to companies in the Down, Newry and Mourne and Banbridge District Council Areas (DCA). Table 1 shows the amount of assistance offered in each DCA in each of these 3 years. This represents the value of support which is expected to be paid towards business-related investment during the life-time of assisted projects.

TABLE 1: INVEST NI ASSISTANCE OFFERED (£M) IN BANBRIDGE, DOWN, AND NEWRY & MOURNE DCAS (2007/08 – 2009/10)

Year	Banbridge		Down		Newry & Mourne		Total	
	Number of Offers	Assistance Offered (£m)	Number of Offers	Assistance Offered (£m)	Number of Offers	Assistance Offered (£m)	Number of Offers	Assistance Offered (£m)
2007-08	46	0.71	54	0.83	140	6.13	240	7.67
2008-09	49	0.60	41	0.54	156	16.62	246	17.76
2009-10	60	0.91	86	1.15	212	7.30	358	9.37
Total	155	2.22	181	2.52	508	30.05	844	34.79

The support offered by Invest NI over this 3 year period involved 844 projects. The resources needed to provide the requested information for each project would constitute a disproportionate cost. Therefore, the response is restricted to the 38 projects which were offered £100,000 or more that are already in the public domain and the publication of which will not harm the commercial interests of the company concerned. Table 2 provides details of those projects and the purpose of Invest NI's support.

TABLE 2: Individual Details of Offers Over £100k made by Invest NI in Banbridge, Down, and Newry & Mourne DCAs (2007/08 – 2009/10)

Dca	Client Name	Year	Total Assistance Offered (£)	Purpose Of Project
Banbridge	M J M Marine Limited	2009-10	323,316	Indigenous Product Development
Banbridge	Radius Plastics Limited	2008-09	242,287	Inward Investment
Banbridge	Radius Plastics Limited	2009-10	220,661	Inward Investment
Banbridge	Radius Plastics Limited	2007-08	136,353	Inward Investment
Banbridge	Armaghdown Creameries Limited	2007-08	115,370	Indigenous Business Growth
Banbridge	M J M Marine Limited	2009-10	105,993	Indigenous Business Growth
Down	Vivomed Ltd	2007-08	182,758	Indigenous Business Growth
Down	Nitronica Limited	2008-09	150,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Down	Nitronica Limited	2007-08	136,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Down	T S Foods Limited	2009-10	120,585	Indigenous Product Development
Down	Lynn's Country Foods Limited	2009-10	100,800	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	B/E Aerospace (UK) Limited	2008-09	6,800,000	Inward Investment
Newry & Mourne	Mm Teleperformance Limited	2008-09	3,050,000	Inward Investment
Newry & Mourne	First Derivatives Public Limited Co.	2008-09	2,698,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	Norbrook Laboratories Limited	2007-08	2,500,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	B/E Aerospace (UK) Limited	2008-09	1,202,670	Inward Investment

Dca	Client Name	Year	Total Assistance Offered (£)	Purpose Of Project
Newry & Mourne	Independent News And Media Plc	2007-08	1,060,000	Inward Investment
Newry & Mourne	Thompson Aero Seating Limited	2009-10	875,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	First Derivatives Public Limited Co.	2009-10	788,866	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	Mm Teleperformance Limited	2009-10	611,620	Inward Investment
Newry & Mourne	First Derivatives Public Limited Co.	2009-10	500,740	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	Eurostock Foods Ni Ltd	2007-08	490,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	First Derivatives Public Limited Co.	2008-09	426,883	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	Mourne Country Meats Limited	2008-09	320,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	Mourne Country Meats Limited	2009-10	276,639	Indigenous Maximising Efficiencies
Newry & Mourne	Toughglass Ltd	2007-08	250,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	Cartoncare Limited	2007-08	231,000	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	Norbrook Laboratories Limited	2007-08	219,404	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	Norbrook Laboratories Limited	2007-08	212,481	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	Moyfab Engineering Limited	2008-09	198,255	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	B/E Aerospace (Uk) Limited	2009-10	167,865	Inward Investment
Newry & Mourne	First Derivatives Public Limited Co.	2009-10	149,328	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	Mourne Country Meats Limited	2009-10	140,000	Indigenous Business Growth

Dca	Client Name	Year	Total Assistance Offered (£)	Purpose Of Project
Newry & Mourne	Softedge Systems (Ni) Limited	2008-09	140,000	Inward Investment
Newry & Mourne	J.K. Fabrications Limited	2009-10	129,147	Indigenous Product Development
Newry & Mourne	Nacelle Systems Consultancy Ltd	2008-09	115,010	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	Del-Lites (Ireland) Limited	2009-10	109,397	Indigenous Business Growth
Newry & Mourne	First Derivatives Public Limited Co.	2009-10	108,894	Indigenous Product Development
Total			25,605,322	

The remaining 806 projects in Table 1 include 802 which were offered assistance of £8.27m, the majority of which was to indigenous companies.

In addition, during the same period Invest NI also indirectly offered support of over £260,000 to nearly 1,000 new business starts through the Enterprise Development Programme (formerly the Start a Business programme), delivered in conjunction with Enterprise Northern Ireland. Table 3 shows the number of businesses and the associated assistance offered to these projects.

TABLE 3: NEW LOCAL BUSINESSES ASSISTED UNDER THE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN BANBRIDGE, DOWN AND NEWRY & MOURNE DCAS (2007/08 – 2009/10)

FIN YEAR	Banbridge		Down		Newry & Mourne		Total	
	Offers	Assistance Offered (£)	Offers	Assistance Offered (£)	Offers	Assistance Offered (£)	Offers	Assistance Offered (£)
2007-08	100	35,200	149	58,000	203	77,000	452	170,200
2008-09	63	19,600	89	32,000	113	40,000	265	91,600
2009-10	53	0	101	0	99	0	253	0
Total	216	54,800	339	90,000	415	117,000	970	261,800

Note: The new Enterprise Development Programme established in 2009 does not offer financial support to establish a business but provides training, advice and guidance.

Northern Ireland Electricity

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) for her assessment of whether it is consistent with current EU policy for the Irish Government owned Electricity Supply Board to acquire 100% of the Northern Ireland Electricity grid; and (ii) whether her Department has made any representations to the Irish Government in relation to this matter.

(AQW 3048/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: I am not aware of any EU policy obstacle to the sale of the Northern Ireland Electricity Grid system to ESB. Both the UK Office of Fair Trading and the Irish Competition Commission have examined the transaction, which is an entirely commercial matter between Arcapita-owned NIE and ESB, and have determined that there is no impediment to completing the transaction.

I have made no representations to the Irish Government in relation to the specific EU issue raised by the Member. However, the Member is already aware that I have met with Minister Eamon Ryan and the Chairman and Chief Executive of ESB on a number of matters.

Proposed Sale of Northern Ireland Electricity's Grid

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what representations she, or her departmental officials, have made to the Irish Government in relation to the proposed sale of Northern Ireland Electricity's grid to the Electricity Supply Board.

(AQW 3050/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: As Energy Minister, I have responsibility for protecting the interests of energy consumers in Northern Ireland. I have, therefore, taken a close interest in the proposed sale of NIE to ESB and in July I met with Eamon Ryan, the Irish Energy Minister, to discuss the transaction.

Subsequently, I, and my officials, have met with ESB senior management and have secured written commitments in relation to issues including the continued independence of NIE, a commitment to grid investment, and in relation to job security and pensions for NIE staff. These commitments, in a letter from the Chief Executive, have already been lodged in the Assembly Library.

Proposed Sale of Northern Ireland Electricity's Grid

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she is aware that the sale of Northern Ireland Electricity's grid to the Electricity Supply Board will make it beyond the reach of any private intervention.

(AQW 3072/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The then Northern Ireland Electricity was floated on the stock exchange in 1993 and the public was able to trade in its shares. The Bahrainian-based bank Arcapita purchased Viridian Group in 2006, at which time the company ceased to have shares on the stock exchange.

The sale of NIE is an entirely commercial matter and the Department has no formal powers to intervene in the transaction.

Regulation of the Home Heating Oil Market

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she will bring forward measures to regulate the home heating oil market.

(AQW 3095/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Regulation has been viewed as unnecessary due to the competitive nature of the oil industry. The home heating oil markets in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland also are not regulated. Nor is it apparent that significant benefit could be achieved

by regulation. Regulation would not protect Northern Ireland consumers from volatile movements in international oil prices and it would impose sizable regulatory costs on the oil supply and distribution sector. This comprises more than 250 companies employing 10,000 people across Northern Ireland. This cost would, in turn, be passed on to business and domestic users.

However, I am alert to concerns about the cost of home heating oil, especially for those on low incomes, and my Department continues to monitor the oil supply and distribution network. Recent figures from independent energy consultants indicate Northern Ireland consumers have been able to buy their oil cheaper than consumers in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland.

EU State Aid Approval

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (i) to explain the nature of the EU state aid approval needed for the Executive to carry out its rescue plan for the Presbyterian Mutual Society; (ii) what work has been done to achieve this approval to date; (iii) what are the stages of the approval and what is the current position; (iv) whether similar approvals were required and provided in relation to UK Government support for other banks and building societies; and (v) if and when EU approval is expected to be given.

(AQW 3135/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: State Aid approval is required for the £175 million loan element of the package. This is because the loan element does not pass the Commission's Market Economy Investor test.

DETI officials have drafted the required State Aid notification documents, these have been signed off by HMT and the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and were formally notified, via the Commission's electronic State Aid Notification Interactive (SANI) system, on 5 January 2011. The next stage of the State Aid process will involve the European Commission undertaking a detailed assessment to ensure the NI Executive's package of assistance is compatible with the State Aid rules.

In all cases where the UK provided State Aid to banks and building societies, the aid was subject to a similar detailed assessment. The Commission's assessments and decisions can be accessed from the European Commission's State Aid Register. (http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/register/).

The Commission's policy is to never comment on specific cases until a decision has been taken. It also states that the time it needs to arrive at a decision depends on many factors including the complexity of the case.

In this case, the BIS State Aid unit has advised that it could take the Commission some time to arrive at a decision. This advice is based on the Commission's ongoing workload relating to financial institution / banking cases as well as the complexity and uniqueness of this case, for example the fact that Presbyterian Mutual Society is not a bank. DETI will be working closely with UKREP, BIS and HMT to ensure that the Commission's assessment process is as short as possible. Precise timings will become clearer as we work through the State Aid approval process.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr S Neeson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if she can confirm that her Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental saving measures and the potential impact of these measures.

(AQW 3145/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: My department plans to publish draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-15, which would include details of departmental savings measures and the potential impact of these measures.

Broadband Upgrades

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 168/11, which telephone exchanges in the South Antrim constituency have had broadband upgrades to date; and to detail the increase in the broadband speed as a result of each upgrade.

(AQW 3163/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Upgrades are taking place in 10 exchange areas in the South Antrim constituency, Antrim, Crumlin, Dundrod, Templepatrick, Randalstown, Toombridge, Kells, Glengormely, Ballyclare and Whiteabbey. This work is ongoing with, to date some 60% of upgrades completed, which is in line with the project plan. Regarding the speeds available as a result of these upgrades, broadband speeds depend on a wide range of individual factors for consumers however the minimum services as specified in the contract are being delivered in those areas that have had an upgrade completed. Precise details can be found through the website www.fasterbroadbandni.com.

Regulator to Ensure the Fair Pricing of Oil

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether she has any plans to appoint a regulator to ensure the fair pricing of oil, given the level of dependency on oil as a primary heating source.

(AQW 3180/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Regulation of the Northern Ireland oil sector has been viewed as unnecessary due to the competitive nature of the oil industry. The home heating oil market in the rest of the UK is not regulated. Nor is it apparent that significant benefit could be achieved by regulation. Regulation would not protect Northern Ireland consumers from volatile movements in international oil prices and it would impose sizable regulatory costs on the oil supply and distribution sector.

Draft Budget

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the impact of the draft Budget on the construction industry.

(AQW 3185/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The level of capital investment funding available to the Executive is planned to fall over the next four years as a result of the 2010 national Spending Review, as announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20 October 2010.

Following the publication of the local draft Budget document on 15 December 2010, it is not possible at this stage to determine the impact on the construction sector, as departments are currently considering their draft Spending Plans. In addition, not all of the capital investment by Northern Ireland departments relates to construction activity.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether her Department intends to put proposals to the administrator of the Presbyterian Mutual Society in relation to setting out the Executive's plan to ensure that savers have their money returned.

(AQW 3189/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Yes. My Department plans to put the Executive's proposals to the Administrator as soon as practically possible.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update on (i) plans to provide funds to the Presbyterian Mutual Society administrator for distribution to members; (ii) when members can expect to receive this assistance; and (iii) what level of financial assistance members can expect. **(AQW 3206/11)**

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: As announced in their recent Spending Review, the Coalition Government has agreed to both make a £175M loan facility available to the Executive and also contribute £25 million to a Mutual Access Fund (MAF) in 2011/12. Funding for the proposed solution has now been incorporated in the Executive's draft budget and spending plans for the four year period 2011 – 2015 which were agreed on 14 December.

A significant number of important steps still need to be taken before payments can be made. These include, in particular, making the necessary legislation for both schemes in the Assembly, the Administrator securing members' and creditors' agreement to the proposals as part of his formal Scheme of Arrangement, and securing EU State Aids approval to the Executive's proposed loan.

Details of payments to be made have not yet been finalised.

Transfer of Planning Functions

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to outline the level of funding his Department intends to allocate to local councils, as part of the transfer of planning functions; and (ii) whether he can confirm that the transfer of planning functions will be at zero cost to local councils. **(AQW 2566/11)**

Minister of the Environment (Mr E Poots): The Executive has yet to agree the circumstances and timescale for the transfer of planning functions to councils. Arrangements for transfer will be determined in line with those decisions and will take account of resource issues.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many complaints have been made against the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in the last 12 months; and (ii) how many of those complaints have been upheld after investigation. **(AQW 2778/11)**

Minister of the Environment: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has received seven formal complaints. One complaint was upheld after investigation.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment how many cases the Northern Ireland Environment Agency has dealt with in the last 12 months. **(AQW 2779/11)**

Minister of the Environment: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has received seven formal complaints. One complaint was upheld after investigation.

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years. **(AQW 2811/11)**

Minister of the Environment: A number of Departmental officials are currently engaged directly with European Institutions in relation to the implementation of EU Directives, infraction proceedings and

monitoring programme requirements. However, at any one time, the level of engagement varies greatly and is dependent on the nature of the matter and the current work programme.

Officials are not directly engaged with European Union political institutions in relation to accessing EU funding. Instead they act in support of officials in the European Division of the Department of Finance and Personnel who liaise on behalf of all the departments.

Through the INTERREG IIIA programme and the Building Sustainability Programme, EU Funding of £2.2 million was secured by the Department over the last three financial years as follows:

2007-08	£1,289,000
2008-09	£911,000
2009-10	Nil

Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of the Environment how many staff will be required to administer (i) license processing; and (ii) any other aspects of the Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010.

(AQW 2914/11)

Minister of the Environment: The Department is currently implementing the provisions of the Goods Vehicles Act with a view to it being operational early in 2012.

At this point in the process it is not known what the staffing requirement for the introduction and management of various aspects of the new licensing system will be. The Department is currently considering resource requirements to enable the Act to be effectively implemented, managed and enforced.

MOT Test

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many cars failed an MOT test in each of the last three years; and (ii) what these figures represent as a percentage of the total number of tests carried out.

(AQW 2971/11)

Minister of the Environment: The information requested for the last three years has been included in the following table. The table reflects figures for private car vehicle tests ("MOT's") only.

Private Cars – Vehicle Tests		
Apr 10 - Oct 10 (Year to date)		
Total	Tests Conducted	383040
	Fail	83160
	Fail %	22%
Apr 09 - Mar 10		
Total	Tests Conducted	604439
	Fail	129844
	Fail %	21%
Apr 08 - Mar 09		

Private Cars – Vehicle Tests		
Total	Tests Conducted	582472
	Fail	122767
	Fail %	21%
Apr 07 - Mar 08		
Total	Tests Conducted	518190
	Fail	115584
	Fail %	22%

Driving Tests

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many learner drivers failed their driving test in each of the last three years; (ii) what these figures represent as a percentage of the total number of driving tests taken; and (iii) how this figure compares with the rest of the UK.

(AQW 2973/11)

Minister of the Environment: The information requested for the last three years has been included in the following tables. The tables reflect figures for car learner drivers taking their test from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010.

NORTHERN IRELAND FIGURES

“L” Tests	1 Apr 2009 to 31 Mar 2010	1 Apr 2008 } to 31 Mar 2009	1 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008
Total tests Conducted	61027	67202	65541
Total tests Failed	30271	36298	35979
% failure rate	49.6%	54%	54.8%

UK COMPARISON FIGURES

“L” Tests	1 Apr 2009 to 31 Mar 2010	1 Apr 2008 to 31 Mar 2009	1 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008
Northern Ireland % failure rates	49.6%	54%	54.8%
*Great Britain % failure rates	46%	45%	44%

* Figures sourced from the 2009/10 Driving Standards Agency Annual Report and Accounts

MOT Test

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of the Environment what is the current average waiting time for an MOT test, broken down by test centre.

(AQW 2974/11)

Minister of the Environment: The information requested has been included in the following table. This information is updated on a weekly basis and posted on the Agency's website.

Vehicle waiting times for week ending 11/12/2010

Test Centre	Average waiting time (days)
Agency	6
Armagh	6
Ballymena	6
Belfast	5
Coleraine	5
Cookstown	6
Craigavon	5
Downpatrick	5
Enniskillen	7
Larne	5
Lisburn	5
Londonderry	6
Mallusk	5
Newry	6
Newtownards	5
Omagh	6

Sustainable Drainage Systems

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment to outline his Department's policy on Sustainable Drainage Systems.

(AQW 3016/11)

Minister of the Environment: A Cross-Government Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Working Party set up and chaired by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), is working towards the publication of a SuDS Strategy which is intended to provide a coherent approach for all stakeholders. A draft Strategy was issued for consultation from July to October 2009.

A number of the Department's Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) already help promote the use of SuDS. In particular PPS 15 'Planning and Flood Risk' includes guidance on the use of SuDS at Annex C of the document. Policy LC 3 of the second Addendum to PPS 7 encourages greater use of permeable paving in urban areas to help reduce flash flooding. In addition, draft PPS 16 on Tourism which was published on 23 November 2010 proposes the appropriate use of surface materials to ensure adequate control of surface water run-off.

Management Training Courses

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment how many departmental staff have attended management training courses in each of the last two years.

(AQW 3018/11)

Minister of the Environment: My Department offers a central management development programme which is certified by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM). The number of staff attending courses as part of the programme was 31 in 2008/09 and 24 in 2009/10. Staff also attended one off management training courses during this period. The numbers attending these courses were 95 in 2008/09 and 13 in 2009/10.

Sewage Pumping Station at Loughadian Brae

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) any assurance he was given that the sewage pumping station at Loughadian Brae, Poyntzpass was installed correctly; (ii) who approved the installation; (iii) whether an inspection was carried out prior to this approval; (iv) whether the pumping station has been approved, and if not why; (v) who is responsible for the operation of the pumping station; (vi) to outline what conditions were stipulated when approving permission for the pumping station and the emergency overflow; (vii) whether Northern Ireland Environment Agency staff have visited the site in the last four years; and (viii) for an update on any enforcement action in relation to the pumping station.

(AQW 3029/11)

Minister of the Environment: Under the terms of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), on behalf of the Department of the Environment, consents continuous or emergency discharges to waterways from commercial, industrial or domestic properties. The pumping station at Loughadian Brae, Poyntzpass was consented by NIEA on 27 July 2007.

The discharge from this asset was inspected by NIEA prior to the consent being issued. The Agency has consented the emergency discharge to the waterway and as such can only enforce the conditions of the discharge consent.

NIEA does not advise on or consent the construction of a pumping station. The Agency is aware of construction issues associated with this pumping station however, the responsibility for dealing with this lies with the consent holder. In this case, the contractor who constructed the pumping station is the consent holder, who I understand has gone out of business. Under these circumstances, responsibility for the pumping station must be taken on by the householders who use the system.

The consent requires the pumping station to be designed to include the following safeguards to minimise the risk of an emergency discharge.

1. All surface (storm) water shall be excluded from the pumping station;
2. A standby pump which automatically activates should the duty pump fail (for reasons other than a power cut) is provided;
3. Suitable storage capacity is provided, usually 6 hours, but in this case 12 hours;
4. Facilities for connection to a mobile generator are provided should power be interrupted;
5. Access is provided for a tanker to remove sewage should both pumps be inoperative;
6. Maintenance schedule and records are to be retained for inspection by NIEA;
7. A telemetry based alarm system to alert the consent holder or their agent should there be a failure of the pump(s);
8. Should a discharge occur 6mm screening is required to limit the discharge of solids.

After a number of complaints regarding this asset NIEA staff visited the pumping station and found that there was no telemetry alarm aerial, which is a breach of its consent. The Agency is currently putting together a file in respect of this breach of consent with a view to submitting this to the Public Prosecution Service.

With regard to pollution complaints made in relation to the pumping station, I can confirm that there have been 2 reports of suspected pollution. The complaints were made in March 2007 and in August 2010. Both were investigated by Water Quality Inspectors acting on behalf of NIEA. During these investigations, there was no active discharge from the site and no evidence was detected of an impact on the adjacent waterway.

Speed Awareness Course

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of the Environment to outline any restrictions that apply to drivers who have received a caution for speeding and wish to avail of the speed awareness course as a substitute for three points on their licence.

(AQW 3032/11)

Minister of the Environment: The speed awareness course is an initiative run by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and therefore responsibility does not lie with my Department.

I would recommend that you address your question on the restrictions associated with the initiative to the Chief Constable.

Planning Service

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of the Environment what requirements exist for Planning Service to consult with planning authorities in the Republic of Ireland in relation to (i) development plans; and (ii) specific applications, which have an impact on border areas.

(AQW 3096/11)

Minister of the Environment: Development Plans

- (i) Article 7 of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans or programmes on the environment (commonly known as the SEA Directive) provides for transboundary consultations on draft development plans where either the plan making body considers that the implementation of the plan or programme being prepared in relation to its territory is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State, or in instances where a Member State likely to be significantly affected so requests. The process of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is undertaken in parallel with the preparation of development plans.

Article 7 of the SEA Directive is transposed by Regulation 13 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 and this sets out in greater detail the requirements for transboundary consultations between plan-making authorities in Northern Ireland with their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland. In addition a best practice guidance note on SEA transboundary consultation for development plans is available on the Planning Service website.

While there are no other statutory requirements to consult authorities in the Republic of Ireland, the Department, in the interests of good environmental planning practice, will normally forward copies of all relevant development plan documents to neighbouring County Council(s) in the Republic seeking comments as part of the plan preparation process.

- (i) Specific Applications

Part 6 of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 relates to development likely to affect other EEA states.

Where it comes to the attention of my department that an application is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA state my Department shall in accordance with Regulation 18(1) of Part 6 publish a notice in the Belfast Gazette; send to the EEA state the particulars about the application and; give the EEA state a reasonable time in which to indicate whether it wishes to participate in the procedure for which these regulations provide.

In addition, my Department shall in accordance with Regulation 18(4), arrange for the particulars and information in respect of the EIA application to be made available within a reasonable time and will ensure that those authorities and the public concerned are given an opportunity, before planning permission for the development is granted, to forward within a reasonable time frame, their opinion on the information supplied.

In accordance with Regulation 18 (5) my Department shall enter into consultation with the EEA state and agree a timeframe for response.

On the determination of the application concerned, my Department shall in accordance with Regulation 18 (6) inform the EEA state and forward to it a statement of the content of the decision and any conditions attached thereto; the main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based including if relevant, information about the participation of the public; and a description, where necessary, of the main measures to avoid, reduce and if possible, offset the major adverse effects of the development.

Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of the Environment (i) whether an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on his decision to downgrade the Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office to a sub-office; (ii) to detail the results of the Assessment; and (iii) when he will make a decision on this matter.
(AQW 3102/11)

Minister of the Environment: The decision about the status of the Downpatrick Planning Office does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the reasons for down-grading Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office to a sub-office.
(AQW 3104/11)

Minister of the Environment: The arrangements for Area Planning Offices are designed around the 11 council clusters. They will provide for an affordable, effective and consistently robust service across Northern Ireland, including Downpatrick, under both the existing 26 councils and when the new 11 council model comes into effect.

Divisional Planning Offices

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of the Environment how many (i) planning or technical; (ii) administrative; and (iii) ancillary staff are currently employed in each of the divisional planning offices, broken down by (a) grade; (b) gender; and (c) religious background; and (ii) what are the comparative figures for (a) 2005; (b) 2007; and (iii) 2009.
(AQW 3106/11)

Minister of the Environment: Staffing numbers for the 2009 and 2010 years in the Department's Divisional Planning Offices (DPO) broken down by Grade and gender are set out in the tables below.

Ballymena	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Administrative Assistant	7	11
Administrative Officer	10	14
Personal Secretary	1	1
Executive Officer 2	4	6
Executive Officer 1	1	1
Staff Officer	1	1
Deputy Principal	0	1
Divisional Planning Manager	1	1
Principal Professional & Technical Officer	4	5

Ballymena	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	9	11
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	21	22
Professional & Technical Officer	13	18
Total	72	92
	2010	2009
Sex	No.	No.
Female	45	58
Male	27	34
Total	72	92
	2010	2009
Classification	No.	No.
Administrative	24	35
Professional & Technical	48	57
Total	72	92

Belfast	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Administrative Assistant	4	12
Administrative Officer	10	14
Personal Secretary	1	1
Executive Officer 2	4	5
Executive Officer 1	1	2
Staff Officer	0	1
Deputy Principal	1	1
Divisional Planning Manager	1	1
Principal Professional & Technical Officer	4	3
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	6	7
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	14	15
Professional & Technical Officer	14	19
Technical Grade 1	1	1
Total	61	82

Belfast	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
	2010	2009
Sex	No.	No.
Female	33	43
Male	28	39
Total	61	82
	2010	2009
Classification	No.	No.
Administrative	21	36
Professional & Technical	40	46
Total	61	82

Craigavon	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Administrative Assistant	9	18
Administrative Officer	16	22
Personal Secretary	1	1
Executive Officer 2	2	5
Executive Officer 1	2	2
Staff Officer	0	1
Deputy Principal	1	1
Divisional Planning Manager	1	1
Principal Professional & Technical Officer	3	4
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	11	13
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	25	26
Professional & Technical Officer	20	34
Total	91	128
	2010	2009
Sex	No.	No.
Female	47	69
Male	44	59
Total	91	128

Craigavon	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
	2010	2009
Classification	No.	No.
Administrative	31	50
Professional & Technical	60	78
Total	91	128

Downpatrick	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Administrative Assistant	8	15
Administrative Officer	7	14
Personal Secretary	1	1
Executive Officer 2	3	5
Executive Officer 1	1	3
Staff Officer	0	1
Deputy Principal	1	1
Divisional Planning Manager	1	1
Principal Professional & Technical Officer	3	5
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	7	8
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	18	22
Professional & Technical Officer	14	24
Total	64	100
	2010	2009
Sex	No.	No.
Female	40	64
Male	24	36
Total	64	100
	2010	2009
Classification	No.	No.
Administrative	21	40
Professional & Technical	43	60
Total	64	100

Londonderry	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Administrative Assistant	6	8
Administrative Officer	7	16
Personal Secretary	1	1
Executive Officer 2	3	4
Executive Officer 1	0	2
Staff Officer	0	1
Deputy Principal	1	1
Divisional Planning Manager	1	1
Principal Professional & Technical Officer	4	5
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	8	11
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	20	20
Professional & Technical Officer	19	20
Total	70	90
	2010	2009
Sex	No.	No.
Female	39	49
Male	31	41
Total	70	90
	2010	2009
Classification	No.	No.
Administrative	18	33
Professional & Technical	52	57
Total	70	90

Omagh	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Administrative Assistant	5	14
Administrative Officer	15	23
Personal Secretary	1	1
Executive Officer 2	4	6
Executive Officer 1	0	2
Staff Officer	1	1
Deputy Principal	1	1

Omagh	2010	2009
Grade	No.	No.
Divisional Planning Manager	1	1
Principal Professional & Technical Officer	4	4
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	9	9
Higher Professional & Technical Officer	29	28
Professional & Technical Officer	8	20
Technical Grade 1	1	1
Typist	1	2
Support Grade 2	2	4
Total	82	117
	2010	2009
Sex	No.	No.
Female	41	62
Male	41	55
Total	82	117
	2010	2009
Classification	No.	No.
Administrative	28	50
Professional & Technical	52	63
Ancillary	2	4
Total	82	117

The Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) collects equality monitoring information for the purpose of providing statutory reports to the Equality Commission and also to enable the Service to monitor the effectiveness of its corporate equal opportunities policies. These functions are carried out by the Department of Finance and Personnel looking at the whole of the NICS as a single employer. This means that equality monitoring information is not held or processed in a way that identifies the profile of individual offices. Therefore, details on religious background cannot be provided.

For the 2005 and 2007 years the only figures available are overall staff numbers for each of the Divisional Offices and these are as follows-

2005

Divisional Office	Staff Numbers
Londonderry/Coleraine	85
Ballymena	88
Craigavon	111
Omagh/ Enniskillen	104

Divisional Office	Staff Numbers
Belfast	80
Downpatrick	97
Total	565

2007

Divisional Office	Staff Numbers
Londonderry/Coleraine	89
Ballymena	92
Craigavon	124
Omagh/ Enniskillen	116
Belfast	80
Downpatrick	87
Total	588

I previously explained to you in my letter of the 30 November 2010, the need to reduce staffing levels in the Planning Service and on 13 December 2010, I also provided you with details of the number of staff employed in the Downpatrick DPO in the Administrative disciplines.

Planning Applications

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of planning applications processed to decision stage in each divisional planning office in (i) 2005/06; (ii) 2006/07; (iii) 2007/08; (iv) 2008/09; (v) 2009/10; and (iv) 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2010, broken down by District Council area.

(AQW 3113/11)

Minister of the Environment: The information requested is contained in Planning Service's annual and quarterly development management reports. The most recently published information is up to the period September 2010. The next quarterly report is due to be published in March 2011. The details requested are set out in the table below.

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	April 10/ June 10	July 10/Sept 10
Belfast Division							
Belfast	2438	2345	2493	2512	1807	393	269
Castlereagh	533	581	537	489	447	89	106
Newtownabbey	639	593	592	541	610	124	97
Ballymena Division							
Antrim	1144	1059	867	751	660	122	147
Ballymena	1270	1136	1038	894	850	139	184
Carrickfergus	290	302	324	322	270	79	55
Magherafelt	1273	1309	905	883	825	143	171
Larne	344	360	372	399	381	92	107
Craigavon Division							
Armagh	1289	1073	1472	987	756	193	152
Banbridge	993	1089	1072	976	599	147	198
Craigavon	1121	962	1051	890	760	196	179
Newry & Mourne	2375	1655	2183	1876	1551	352	469
Coleraine Division							
Ballymoney	771	666	558	541	342	83	74
Coleraine	1131	1232	956	1095	763	201	162
Moyle	426	406	291	397	332	88	77

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	April 10/ June 10	July 10/Sept 10
Downpatrick Division							
Ards	1307	1141	1004	947	846	232	220
Down	1616	1385	985	978	969	196	195
Lisburn	1541	1278	1116	1277	1161	284	229
North Down	616	815	747	930	684	188	178
Enniskillen Division							
Fermanagh	2008	2507	2032	1506	1427	259	335
Londonderry Division							
Derry	968	1014	1237	878	832	143	199
Limavady	773	553	500	508	344	80	99
Omagh Division							
Cookstown	980	979	901	776	659	114	152
Dungannon & South Tyrone	1708	1926	1472	1336	955	253	209
Omagh	1591	1688	1254	1208	890	172	202
Strabane	1016	1030	621	740	503	103	117

(Applications decided does not include withdrawn applications)

Sub-office of the Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of the Environment, following the staff and office rationalisation procedures, how many (i) planning or technical; (ii) administrative; and (iii) ancillary staff are currently employed in the sub-office of the Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office, broken down by (a) grade; (b) gender; and (c) religious background.

(AQW 3121/11)

Minister of the Environment: The current staffing numbers for the Downpatrick Divisional Planning Office broken down by Grade and gender are given set out in the table below.

	2010
Grade	No.
Administrative Assistant	8
Administrative Officer	7
Personal Secretary	1
Executive Officer 2	3
Executive Officer 1	1
Deputy Principal	1
P&T officer	14
Higher P&T officer	18
Senior P&T officer	7
Principal P&T officer	3
Grade 6 Divisional Manager	1
Total	64
	2010
Gender	No.
Female	40
Male	24
Total	64

The Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) collects equality monitoring information for the purpose of providing statutory reports to the Equality Commission and also to enable the Service to monitor the effectiveness of its corporate equal opportunities policies. These functions are carried out by the Department of Finance and Personnel looking at the whole of the NICS as a single employer. Equality monitoring information is not held or processed in a way that identifies the profile of individual offices. Therefore, details on the religious background of the workforce in the Downpatrick office cannot be provided.

Plastic Bag Levy

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of the Environment when regulations to introduce a plastic bag levy will be brought forward if the draft Budget is approved.

(AQW 3123/11)

Minister of the Environment: In order to introduce a single use bag levy in Northern Ireland it will first be necessary to have relevant primary legislation passed by the Assembly. My officials are looking at how this can be brought forward as soon as possible. Regulations, made under the primary legislation, will also be required to enable the levy to operate and I can confirm that work on these will commence alongside the process to put in place the necessary primary legislation.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of the Environment how many Tree Preservation Orders have been revoked for the purpose of granting planning permission in each local council area, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 3165/11)

Minister of the Environment: No Tree Preservation Orders have been revoked for the purpose of granting planning permission since April 2006.

Information in the form requested for the period prior to April 2006 is not readily available and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. It is unlikely however that a Tree Preservation Order would be revoked for the purpose of granting planning permission because of the fact that planning permission overrides Tree Preservation Orders.

Planning Application H/2008/0089/F

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to planning application H/2008/0089/F, to detail (i) when it was validated; (ii) when it was presented to Magherafelt District Council with an option to approve; (iii) when it was referred to his office and for how long he has been considering this application; (v) whether the Planning Service has made a decision or when he expects a decision to be made.

(AQW 3214/11)

Minister of the Environment:

- (i) A valid planning application for a hotel at Magherafelt Road, Castledawson was received by my officials on 4 February 2008.
- (ii) An initial opinion was taken to council on 10 February 2009 with an opinion to refuse on 4 grounds.
- (iii) A meeting took place with Martin McGuinness MP on 27 March 2009.
- (iv) My officials further consulted Magherafelt District Council with an opinion to approve the application on 9 June 2009.
- (v) Subsequent to this, Dr McCrea MP MLA made representations to my officials on behalf of objectors and I met Dr McCrea on 19 January 2010 at which time he raised a number of detailed points on behalf of the objectors.
- (vi) I have received further advice and I am currently considering the issues raised on behalf of the objectors. I intend to make a decision to determine the application in the near future.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr T Lunn asked the Minister of the Environment if he can confirm that his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental saving measures and the potential impact of these measures.

(AQW 3217/11)

Minister of the Environment: My Department are currently working through the detail of the Executive's Draft Budget and assessing the implications for the Department's services and programmes. Every effort is being made to publish this information as soon as possible which will include details of spending proposals and savings measures.

Fast Food Outlets in the Vicinity of Schools

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment if he has any plans to propose planning policy to control the development of fast food outlets in the vicinity of schools.

(AQW 3226/11)

Minister of the Environment: I have no plans to control the development of fast food outlets in the vicinity of schools.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Civil Service: Temporary Contracts

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many staff employed within the Civil Service and the respective arms-length bodies are currently employed on temporary or 51-week contracts.

(AQW 1722/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr S Wilson): The numbers of staff employed on temporary or 51 week contracts at 3 November 2010 within the NI Civil Service and the respective arms-length bodies are set out on the attached table.

NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED IN THE NI CIVIL SERVICE AND THE RESPECTIVE ARMS-LENGTH BODIES CURRENTLY EMPLOYED ON TEMPORARY OR 51 WEEK CONTRACTS AT 3 NOVEMBER 2010

Department	Core Dept / Agencies	Arms Length Bodies	Overall Total
DARD	26	0	26
DCAL	6	101	107
DE	9	913	922
DEL	25	1291	1316
DETI	7	20	27
*DFP	109	0	109
DHSSPS	5	0	5
DOE	106	2	108
DOJ	52	783	835
DRD	12	30	42
DSD	157	194	351
OFMDFM	0	7	7
PPS	13	0	13
Overall Total	527	3341	3868

Notes: *DFP - Figure provided is at 15 October 2010.

Civil Service Overtime

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the procedures and protocols governing the working of overtime by Civil Servants; and what grades can authorise overtime.

(AQW 2160/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The NICS policy for the payment of overtime is contained within Chapter 8.08 of the HR Handbook, a copy of which has been placed in the Library for information. Overtime can be worked with the prior approval of the Head of Branch. Payment of overtime worked is normally authorised by Staff Officer or above. However, exceptions exist in the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, the Department of the Environment, the Department for Social Development and the Department for Regional Development whereby payment of overtime can be approved at Executive Officer 1 or analogous grades for business reasons.

Saving Plans

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel which Departments have presented him with saving plans and which have yet to do so.

(AQW 2612/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Departments have not been asked to submit Savings Delivery Plans to DFP. Instead they have been asked to publish their Savings Delivery Plans at the same time as, or shortly after, the publication of the draft Budget.

However, departments were asked to enter details onto the DFP database of the spending areas where the indicative level of savings should be made. This was to have been completed by 26 August. To date only four departments, DCAL, DETI, DFP and DOE, have complied with this request.

Legislative Proposals in the European Commission

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether there is a specific individual or section within his Department to identify, at an early stage, legislative proposals in the European Commission and the potential impact on Northern Ireland.

(AQW 2789/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: OFMDFM's European Policy and Co-Ordination Unit (EPCU) has a role to monitor EU Directives across NI departments. EPCU notifies all EU Co-Ordinators of all newly adopted EU Directives on a monthly basis.

DFP has an EU Co-ordinator, who is responsible for notifying business areas within the Department of all EU Directives. It is the responsibility of the business area to identify the potential impact on Northern Ireland.

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2794/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Officials in my department are not involved in engagement with political institutions. Officials in the main deal with the European Commission through the Commission's departments or Directorates General.

In 2007 my department succeeded in securing a substantial package of EU funding for the 2007-13 period through the Regional Competitiveness & Employment Programme, the PEACE III Programme and the INTERREG IVA Programmes with these allocations confirmed to Northern Ireland through Commission Decisions at the outset of the funding period. In addition to this funding package my Department has worked to increase Northern Ireland's participation in the INTERREG IVB transnational and INTERREG IVC interregional programmes. These Programmes award funds competitively to partnerships of organisations from several Member States. DFP aims to treble the number of projects with Northern Ireland partners from a baseline figure of 17 approvals during the 2000-06 programming period. So far, in the 2007-13 period, there have been 35 projects approved from 96 applications which

involve Northern Ireland. These projects will see local partners working with over 50 organisations from 23 Member States and non-Member States. They will bring more than €6.3 million additional European funding to Northern Ireland

Work is continuing to ensure NI accesses the remaining funds which will be awarded under these programmes under next 12-18 months.

Redundancy Packages

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the redundancy terms on offer in the public sector compared to those in the private sector.

(AQW 2920/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Department has not commissioned any comparison of the redundancy terms in the public sector and the private sector.

It should be noted that the Department of Finance and Personnel administers the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) only for Civil Servants and those Non Departmental Public Bodies, which are listed at Annex 2, of the 1972 Section of that scheme.

Redundancy Payments

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of Civil Service personnel who received redundancy payments in each of the last three years; (ii) the total amount paid out in each year; and (iii) the number of redundancy payments totalling in the current year to date (a) £10,000 or less; (b) £10,001 - £20,000; (c) £20,001 - £30,000; (d) £30,001 - £40,000; (e) £40,001 - £50,000; and (f) above £50,000.

(AQW 2922/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: In 2007/2008 one Civil Servant was made redundant, the cost of which cannot be disclosed as this would be in breach of the Data Protection Act; in 2008/2009 no Civil Servants were made redundant; and in 2009/2010 two Civil Servants were made redundant. The 2009/2010 cost was £124,756, which includes the initial costs for leavers during 09/10 years, and any ongoing liabilities.

The number of redundancies and redundancy payments totalling in the current year to date are two within the £10,001 - £20,000 bracket. These payments are for ongoing Annual Compensation Payments only, paid from 1 April 2010 to 30 Nov 2010. No Civil Service personnel left on redundancy in 2010/11 to date.

Lone Pensioners Allowance

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many pensioners in the (i) North Down constituency; and (ii) the North Down Borough Council area have benefited from the Lone Pensioners Allowance since its introduction; and how much they have saved on their rates bill as a result.

(AQW 2964/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The table below shows the total Lone Pensioner Allowance awards made by Land & Property Services for owner occupiers in the North Down Borough Council area, along with their total value (as at 12 December 2010):

Council	Total awards 01 April 08 to date	Total value £
North Down Borough	1,962	£958,791

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive administers Lone Pensioner Allowance for the social and private rented sectors. The Executive has supplied the following information on total current awards of Lone Pensioner Allowance by its relevant office (as at 30 November 2010):

NIHE Office	Total current awards
Bangor	282

Land & Property Services records show the total amount awarded by NIHE during the period for the North Down Borough Council area (as at 12 December 2010):

Council	Total value of awards 01 April 08 to date
North Down Borough	£103,465

Information is not available for North Down constituency as Land & Property Services records Lone Pensioner Allowance information by local government district and not parliamentary constituency.

The Level of VAT on Extensions and Refurbishments on Buildings

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, given the difficulties confronting small builders and construction firms, whether he will consider requesting that HM Treasury varies downwards the level of VAT on extensions and refurbishments on buildings with a value not exceeding £100,000.

(AQW 2985/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: While I have not recently received any substantive proposals in relation to reducing VAT on extensions and refurbishments, I am firmly of the view that we should consider all possible options to support economic growth in Northern Ireland.

As you will be aware, the Coalition Government will shortly be publishing its consultation paper on rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. A draft of this has recently been received and while the document focuses primarily on mechanisms for reducing the rate of corporation tax in Northern Ireland, the Government have also indicated that they are willing to consider other tax options to stimulate the local economy.

I am happy to consider any proposals developed for reducing VAT on extensions and refurbishments in this context. I intend engaging with Treasury Ministers, in conjunction with Executive colleagues, on the Government's paper early in the New Year. Furthermore, I would also encourage local stakeholders to respond to the Government's consultation with any views or proposals they may have and I will be pressing the Treasury to give these full consideration.

Desertcreat College Development

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, in light of the budget announcement of 15 December 2010, what financial commitment his Department has made to the Desertcreat college development; and to outline the expected timescale for the project.

(AQW 3103/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: My department has made no financial commitment to the Desertcreat College and I am not in a position to comment on any associated timescale for the project. The Minister of Justice and the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety would be better placed to respond.

Christmas Bonuses

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail (i) the number of civil servants in each Department who are receiving Christmas bonuses this year; (ii) the monetary value of the individual bonuses; and (iii) the total of all the bonuses, broken down by grade.

(AQW 3105/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The NICS does not pay Christmas bonuses to any of its staff.

Plastic Bag Levy

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel on what price for a single plastic bag is the estimated £4million revenue projection for the introduction of a plastic bag levy based.

(AQW 3122/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: In developing the estimated resource generated by a plastic bag levy it was assumed that the levy per bag would be 15p.

Based on current estimates some 189 million 'single use' carrier bags were used in Northern Ireland in 2009/10. As such a 15p levy per bag would generate some £28.4 million per annum. An adjustment to this figure was then made to account for the estimated decline in usage due to changes in consumer behaviour. An allowance was also made for the costs that the Executive will incur for administration, enforcement and promotion of the levy.

Plastic Bag Levy

Mr D McKay asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether a preferred use for the revenue raised by a plastic bag levy has been identified by the Executive; and if so, what is the preferred use.

(AQW 3124/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The proposed plastic bag levy receipts have been initially allocated to the advancement of the Green New Deal.

Dormant Bank Accounts Scheme

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the progress towards a dormant bank accounts scheme.

(AQW 3133/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: As you will be aware, this is a Treasury led initiative and therefore the timetable for the release of funds to the Reclaim Fund, the Big Lottery Fund and ultimately the opening of the applications process of the scheme is affected by a number of factors which are beyond the Executive's control.

HM Treasury have recently confirmed that the Co-operative Financial Services submitted their application to establish and administer the Reclaim Fund to the Financial Services Authority in November 2010. The Co-operative Financial Services expect to have the Reclaim Fund set up in spring 2011 subject to the Financial Services Authority approval and following this, it expects to be able to release the first tranche of surplus dormant accounts funds in the second quarter of 2011.

Based on the latest estimates provided by the Co-operative Financial Services a Barnett Share for Northern Ireland would be £1.5 – 2.9m. However, this is an estimate only and could be higher or lower.

In line with Section 17 of the Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Act 2008, HM Treasury will initiate a consultation exercise with all the Devolved Administrations on the apportionment process early this year concluding, in April 2011 at the latest. It is then expected that the draft Apportionment Order will be drafted, Laid in Parliament and passed by the House of Lords and House of Commons by May 2011.

In light of the continued uncertainty around the amounts likely to be available for the Scheme, I have decided that it would be prudent to await the outcome of the HM Treasury apportionment process before making my recommendations on priorities for the Scheme. At that point I would hope to have a clearer picture of the level of funding likely to be available to Northern Ireland and will be better placed to formulate the priorities.

NI Civil Service Art Collection

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list (i) the title; (ii) the artist; (iii) the current valuation; and (iv) the last known location, of the 14 paintings belonging to the NI Civil Service art collection whose whereabouts are unknown.

(AQW 3134/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The information requested is as follows.

(I) Title	(II) Artist	(III) Current Valuation £	(IV) Last Known Location
New Grange Restored	Malcolm Bennett	1,800	LEDU Office, Franklin Street, Belfast
Girl On a Sunbed	Betty Brown	225	Dungannon Crown Building, Thomas Street, Dungannon
Autumn Lane	Maisie Kennedy	120	Lincoln Buildings, Gt. Victoria Street, Belfast
Untitled	Felim Egan	1,750	Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate
The Black Box Painting	Rosaleen Davey	2,800	River House, High Street, Belfast
The Sleeper	Paul Finnegan	800	River House, High Street, Belfast
Figure In A Studio	David Crone	3,000	Gloucester House, Chichester Street, Belfast
At Whiterock, Co. Down	Denis Orme Shaw	610	Netherleigh House, Massey Avenue, Belfast
Lagan Canal, Shaw's Bridge	Romeo C Toogood	1,250	Dundonald House, Stormont Estate
Retablo 1	Alphonso Monreal	475	Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate
Retablo 2	Alphonso Monreal	475	Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate
Tullymore	David Crone	4,500	Dundonald House, Stormont Estate
Smithfield Market, Belfast	Colin Gibson	250	Rosepark House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast
Coastal Scene	Paul Cunningham	750	Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate

Housing Association

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the mechanism by which the Executive hopes to obtain £80m from Housing Associations over the budget period 2011-15.[R]

(AQW 3138/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: This issue will now be taken forward by the DSD Minister. It is not the case that the Executive will obtain this funding directly from the Housing Associations. Instead, the Housing Associations have been asked to deliver an additional £80 million of new social housing over the four year Budget period, which has freed up resources previously drawn from DSD for allocation elsewhere.

Presbyterian Mutual Society

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether the £25 million contribution to the Executive in relation to the Presbyterian Mutual Society is a gift or a loan; and whether the £25 million contribution by the Executive to the PMS is a gift or a loan.

(AQW 3157/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The exact details of how the proposed Mutual Access Fund element of Presbyterian Mutual Society (PMS) solution have not yet been finalised and any final solution will be subject to the agreement of the Executive, the Assembly, the EU, and PMS creditors and members.

The Government's £25 million contribution to this was conferred in the Spending Review and our own draft Budget makes provision for the Executive's £25 million contribution. In making their contribution the Government has required that it be repaid from any available surplus at the end of the ten year loan workout period for PMS assets. After this any remaining surplus would be available for distribution to PMS creditors and members.

Capital Projects

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) to detail the proposed amount available for expenditure on capital projects for the budget period 2011-2015; (ii) for a breakdown of the projects in each department; and (iii) for his assessment of the impact that this will have on the construction industry.

(AQW 3168/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The total planned gross capital expenditure over the four year Budget period amounts to some £5.2 billion.

Departments have full flexibility in terms of what projects or programmes to take forward and it will be for each department to now make their investment intentions clear as part of the consultation process.

Although the capital DEL allocation from Treasury will reduce considerably over the Budget period, the Executive has ensured that some £1.5 billion will be invested in 2014-15. This is similar to the level in 2005-06 and exceeds the long term trend. Whilst there will be some impact on the local construction sector, the Executive's proposals will ensure that the construction sector will not be as adversely affected as some had predicted.

Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2008-18

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what impact the publication of the draft Budget will have on the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (2008-18).

(AQW 3169/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The existing Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (2008-18) will be replaced by a new Investment Strategy to reflect the changed financial circumstances.

Plastic Bag Levy

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether all revenue generated by the plastic bag levy will be directed to support the Green New Deal.

(AQW 3171/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The proposed plastic bag levy receipts have been initially allocated to the advancement of the Green New Deal, however the specific details of the plastic bag levy scheme and any ongoing link with Green New Deal have yet to be finalised.

Plastic Bag Levy

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether all the revenue generated by the plastic bag levy will be invested in a Green New Deal programme.

(AQW 3173/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The proposed plastic bag levy receipts have been initially allocated to the advancement of the Green New Deal, however the specific details of the plastic bag levy scheme and any ongoing link with Green New Deal have yet to be finalised.

Non-domestic Regional Rate

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for her assessment of the additional expenditure that may be incurred by local small and medium sized enterprises as a result of the proposed increase in the non-domestic regional rate.

(AQW 3187/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: I announced as part of the draft budget that the non-domestic regional rate will be kept at the rate of inflation (using the GDP deflator). For the purpose of the budget document this equates to 2%, 2.25%, 2.5% and 2.5% over the four year budget period. These figures will be kept under review, to reflect any changes to inflation in the interim.

Under the rating system businesses are not classified according to their size. However for those businesses with an NAV of £5,000 (which is the upper NAV threshold for the small business rate relief scheme), a 2% increase in the non-domestic regional rate would increase that element of a rate bill by around £23, in 2011/12, to £2101 on average (after relief).

Using recent trend data would provide an increase in the non-domestic district rate, of 4.6% between 2010/11 and 2011/12. The increase for the district rate aspect of the same rate bill, using that assumption, would on average be around £41 for a property with an NAV of £5,000.

For illustration, on the same basis, the overall average bill for business rates (properties with an NAV of around £18,000) would increase next year by a little over £300, of which around £110 would be associated with the regional rate. Using inflation as the basis of the non-domestic regional rate increase means that while there will be an increase to that aspect in monetary terms, it represents a freeze in real terms.

Plastic Bag Levy

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) how much he estimates the carrier bag levy will raise in revenue; (ii) whether the levy will also apply to paper bags; (iii) when it will come into force; (iv) which Department will collect and distribute the revenue; (v) and how will the levy be enforced.

(AQW 3199/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The introduction of a carrier bag levy is a matter for the Environment Minister to now progress. There were an estimated 189 million 'single use' plastic bags used in Northern Ireland in 2009-10. Allowing for changes in consumer behaviour and costs in administering and enforcement of the new scheme should allow for some £4million per annum to be generated. The draft Budget paper assumed that the levy will begin generating the additional revenue in 2011/12. The revenue raised will accrue to the Department of the Environment. In terms of enforcement and collection of revenue this will be for the Environment Minister to consider and advise on.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr S Neeson asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental savings measures and their anticipated impact.

(AQW 3204/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: My department is planning to publish its draft spending and savings proposals before Christmas. This will include its draft savings delivery plan, details of departmental savings measures and their anticipated impact.

Non-Domestic Regional Rates

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the impact that an increase in non-domestic regional rates will have on the economy.

(AQW 3211/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: I announced, as part of the draft budget, that the non-domestic regional rate will be kept at the rate of inflation over the next four years. The GDP deflator will be used as the measure of this. For the purpose of the budget document this equates to 2%, 2.25%, 2.5% and 2.5% over the four year budget period. These figures will be kept under review, to reflect any changes to the deflator. For the 2011/12 rating year this compares favourably to England where the inflationary increase in the non-domestic rate is based on the September 2010 retail price index figure of 4.6%. Similar increases are proposed for Scotland and Wales.

Using inflation as the basis of the increase means that while there will be an increase to the regional rate in monetary terms, there will be no change to the regional rate aspect of rate bills in real terms and thus represents a freeze in real terms. In light of this I consider that Northern Ireland's competitive position will not be adversely affected given the modest increase in the regional rate, which is lower than comparable figures elsewhere for 2011/12.

In addition, the Executive is providing a range of additional assistance to businesses through the rating system. The small business rate relief scheme is providing help of around £8million per annum to more than 16,000 of our smaller businesses in Northern Ireland. The level of rates for manufacturing will also continue to be held at 30% for the next four years, currently saving businesses around £50m per year. This will help businesses of all sizes, large and small. These highlight the range of work undertaken by the Executive to support business.

The position on both the regional rate and manufacturing rates is subject to consultation, as part of the budget, and Assembly approval in due course.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Cardiac Units

Mr T Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many times, in the past twelve months, cardiac units in each Health and Social Care Trust have had to use a taxi to respond to an urgent call because an ambulance was not available.

(AQW 1924/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey): In the past twelve months there have been 15 occurrences of a taxi being used by cardiac units to respond to an urgent call because an ambulance was not available. These instances occurred within the Western Health and Social Care Trust and were consistent with the agreed protocols that ensure patients who require emergency out of hospital cardiac care receive the medical attention they require without delay.

In these circumstances taxis were used to transport clinical staff to the patient. Any patient seen by a cardiac team who then required admission to hospital will have been transported by ambulance.

An increase in the DHSSPS budget would allow me to invest in cardiac services going forward.

Carlisle House Substance Misuse Treatment Centre

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will intervene to prevent the Health and Social Care Board from removing its support in March 2011 for three beds in the Carlisle House Substance Misuse Treatment Centre.

(AQW 2304/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The commissioning of local addiction services is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care system, based on an assessment of local clinical need. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) undertook a review of Tier 4 (inpatient) treatment services as part of the Trust's Modernisation and Reform Plan. As an outcome of this review, the decision to reduce the contract with Carlisle House from 6 beds to 3 beds was taken to balance the complement of the full range of service provision in the area.

The Trust is working with local partner agencies to improve working arrangements with organisations, such as Carlisle House, in the development of an integrated care pathway and the establishment of more robust governance arrangements that will improve information sharing, patient safety and quality of care. I understand that the Trust has been working closely over a number of months with Carlisle House in the process of contract renegotiation to achieve a successful outcome for all parties.

Carlisle House Substance Misuse Treatment Centre

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the Health and Social Care Board's decision to withdraw its support from March 2011 for three beds in the Carlisle House Substance Misuse Treatment Centre, what action he is taking to ensure that the beds are supported by another organisation so that Carlisle House maintains full occupancy.

(AQW 2305/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The commissioning of local addiction services is the responsibility of the Health and Social Care system, based on an assessment of local clinical need. The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) undertook a review of Tier 4 (inpatient) treatment services as part of the Trust's Modernisation and Reform Plan. As an outcome of this review, the decision to reduce the contract with Carlisle House from 6 beds to 3 beds was taken to balance the compliment of the full range of service provision in the area.

The Trust is working with local partner agencies to improve working arrangements with organisations, such as Carlisle House, in the development of an integrated care pathway and the establishment of more robust governance arrangements that will improve information sharing, patient safety and quality of care. I understand that the Trust has been working closely over a number of months with Carlisle House in the process of contract renegotiation to achieve a successful outcome for all parties.

Student and Volunteer Workers

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many hospitals are currently recruiting students or volunteers to help out in medical departments; and what specific roles do these volunteers or students fulfil.

(AQW 2663/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Most Trusts report that they do not actively recruit students or volunteers to help out in medical departments. However, Trusts try to facilitate a large number of requests from students for volunteer placements. Volunteers are involved in 23 hospital sites across the five Trusts. Volunteer roles vary across Trusts and include: wheelchair pushers, meet and greet, befriending roles, buddies on childrens wards, patient visiting and ward support.

BMF Business Services

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department, and its arms-length bodies, have spent on BMF Business Services since May 2007.
(AQW 2674/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Since May 2007 £16,170 has been spent on BMF Business Services by the Department and arms length bodies.

Lip Reading Classes

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans his Department has to provide financial support for lip reading classes.
(AQW 2675/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is for the Health and Social Care Board to commission services to meet the needs of the population of Northern Ireland. However, my Department is currently developing a new Disability Strategy for Northern Ireland, which will aim to improve outcomes and support for those with a physical disability, communication and/or sensory impairment, including those with hearing loss.

The draft strategy includes an action to review existing sensory rehabilitation services from a user perspective with a view to promoting provision of cost effective and timely services.

Induction Loops

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to increase the provision of fully functioning and maintained induction loop systems by his Department's service providers.
(AQW 2676/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Individuals with a sensory impairment are individually assessed by Sensory Support Services in Health and Social Care Trusts to determine their needs. Sensory equipment, including induction loop systems in private dwellings, is provided on the basis of this assessed need and available resources. Sensory support staff facilitate the provision of equipment and review the ongoing maintenance needs of the equipment with individual clients.

Furthermore, the Regional Sensory Services Group, chaired by the Health and Social Care Board and which includes RNID representation, is currently considering the development of a standardised equipment policy and access criteria for across NI.

Acquired Hearing Loss

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans are in place to create a strategy for the rehabilitation of people with acquired hearing loss.
(AQW 2678/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department is currently developing a new Disability Strategy for Northern Ireland, which is expected to be issued for consultation by the end of 2010. The strategy will aim to improve outcomes and support for those with a physical disability, communication and/or sensory impairment, including those with acquired hearing loss.

The draft strategy includes an action to review existing sensory rehabilitation services with a view to promoting provision of cost effective and timely services

Closure of Hospital Wards

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide details of all hospitals which currently have wards, units or areas which (i) are permanently closed; or (ii) have been

closed temporarily or have not been in use for a period of more than six months broken down by ward, unit or area of each hospital.

(AQW 2690/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) Details of all hospitals which currently have wards, units or areas which are permanently closed are shown in the following table:

Hospital	Unit/Ward Name
Altnagelvin	Ward 2
Altnagelvin	Stroke Unit/Ward 22
Gransha	Dementia/Functional Unit
Braid Valley	Day Hospital
Downe	Ward 3
Holywell	Tardree II
Holywell	Lissan II
Lagan Valley	Ward 2 Surgical
Mid Ulster	Surgical Ward 1
Mid Ulster	HDU
St Luke's	Ward 2
St Luke's	Ward 5
Tyrone & Fermanagh	Pine A&B
Tyrone & Fermanagh	Larch Villa
Tyrone & Fermanagh	Sperrin Ward
Waterside	X-Ray Room
Whiteabbey	Surgical Ward 4
Whiteabbey	Ward 8

- (ii) Details of all hospitals which currently have wards, units or areas which have been closed temporarily for a period of more than six months are shown in the following table:

Hospital	Unit/Ward Name
Erne	Ward 8
Muckamore	Conicar
Muckamore	Fintona North
Muckamore	Fintona South
Muckamore	Movilla A
Muckamore	Movilla B
Muckamore	Moyle
Royal Victoria	Ward 6F
Whiteabbey	Ward 2

This information has been supplied by Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland and has not been validated by the Department.

Fracture Patients

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients with fractures have been admitted to, and remained in hospital for at least 24 hours since 22 November 2010.

(AQW 2691/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is not yet possible to give an accurate assessment of the number of people with fractures who have been admitted to, and remained in hospital for at least 24 hours since 22nd November 2010.

Social Workers

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he can offer an assurance that he will ring-fence funding for social workers who are also front line Health Service staff.

(AQW 2718/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of social workers who provide a key front line service.

Whilst I will do everything I can to limit any impact the expected budget cuts will have on the frontline, I am not able to ring fence resources to particular staff groups. To do so would be to deny Trusts the flexibility to meet demand pressures where they arise and to adopt new and more effective methods of working across settings

As Health and Social Care are fully integrated in Northern Ireland, I am fighting for full protection of my budget.

Social Workers

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of newly qualified social workers who have obtained a post as a social worker in each of the last two years.

(AQW 2720/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information below is in relation to the last 2 financial years 08/09 and 09/10.

	Belfast Trust 08/09 09/10		Western Trust 08/09 09/10		Southern Trust 08/09 09/10		South Eastern Trust 08/09 09/10		Northern Trust 08/09 09/10	
AYE (Band 5)	(30)	(35)	n/av*	8			32			
Perm Contracts (Band 6)	24	23	12	7	15	14	5	27	n/av*	16
Temp Contracts (Band 6)	3	3	4	16	20	16			n/av*	13
Agency Staff	3	9	40 agency staff used over this 2 year period			11	4	n/av*		
Total	30	35	16	31	35	30	48	31	n/av*	29

* The head count information in the above table was provided by the HSCT's.

* indicates where data could not be provided within the timescale

Social Workers

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the risk to families as a result of the recruitment freeze on social workers.

(AQW 2721/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There is no recruitment freeze on social workers.

Family Group Conferencing

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the decision made by two Health and Social Care Trusts to no longer provide facilitated family group conferencing.

(AQW 2722/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by the HSC Board indicates that each of the 5 Health and social Care Trusts remain committed to providing Family Group Conferencing services as part of their family support services.

Generic Drugs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps are being taken to increase the percentage of generic drugs dispensed.

(AQW 2730/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department has been running a "Go Generic" campaign to increase the amount of generic prescribing in Northern Ireland for a number of years now. As a result there has been a marked increase in the amount of generic dispensing in Northern Ireland. My aim is to achieve a generic dispensing rate of 64% by March 2011 which is comparable to the current UK rate. This will equate to a 50% increase in generic dispensing in Northern Ireland since 2005.

The use of generic medicines in favour of branded equivalents continues to be a central strand in my Department's overall strategy to improve quality in medicines management for all patients through cost effective prescribing.

However, it is a matter for the clinician or GP, in consultation with their patient, to decide on the most appropriate course of treatment for the patient and to prescribe the medication to support that treatment. There have been clear instructions provided to prescribers that there will remain situations where it is appropriate for branded drugs to be prescribed and dispensed.

Prescription of Drugs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what initiatives are in place to reduce the prescription of drugs where alternative treatment pathways are available.

(AQW 2731/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Public Health Agency (PHA) has taken the lead in the promotion marketing of the physical activity referral programme which includes a range of schemes which take referrals from health professionals for previously sedentary individuals with the intention of treating a range of health conditions known to be associated with physical inactivity such as the prevention of coronary heart disease, stroke and some forms of cancer. They can also reduce the risk of developing hypertension, diabetes and obesity. In 2008 the PHA (then the Health Promotion Agency) commissioned research into the schemes and one of the benefits noted was a reduction in medication.

There are also a number of initiatives for people with mental health problems including a Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Specification provided to GP practice patients with mild to moderate

depression. The DES encourages the provision of non-drug therapies in the treatment of mild-moderate depression. In 2009 "Beating the Blues", a computer based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy programme, was introduced into GP practices to be used in the treatment of mild or moderate depression. The importance of talking therapies in early intervention and the management of conditions was also a key element in the document "A Strategy for the Development of Psychological Therapy Services" published by my Department in June 2010.

Beechcroft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for a breakdown of the schools attended by young people who have been admitted to Beechcroft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit as the result of attempted suicide; (ii) whether these schools are co-operating on this issue with the relevant statutory agencies; and (iii) whether the Department of Education has been informed of any non-compliance.

(AQW 2733/11)

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

Responsibility for the Intensive Support and Learning Unit at Beechcroft falls to the South Eastern Education and Library Board. Any enquiries regarding liaison with schools should be directed to the Minister for Education.

Beechcroft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, for each night of the last six weeks, how many young people have been referred to Beechcroft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit as a result of attempted suicide.

(AQW 2734/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: During each night of the last six weeks up to Monday 6 December 2010, nine young people were referred to Beechcroft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit as a result of attempted suicide.

Palliative Care Strategy for Children

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will consider bringing forward a palliative care strategy specifically for children.

(AQW 2740/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department published a Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy for Adults in Northern Ireland in March 2010. Although children are not included within the scope of the Strategy, it does include reference to the Department's Integrated Care Pathway for Children and Young People with Complex Physical Healthcare Needs, which maps out their journey from diagnosis to end of life care.

I remain committed to ensuring that a full range of high quality services are available to children and young people with palliative and end of life care needs, in the setting that is most appropriate to meet their needs. I have therefore asked the HSC Board to provide me with a report which determines how the Integrated Care Pathway is meeting the palliative and end of life care needs of children and young people and to identify any possible gaps which need to be addressed.

Nursing and Residential Homes

Mr D Hilditch asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the current average weekly cost per resident in a (i) nursing home; and (ii) residential home.

(AQW 2749/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The 2008/09 average weekly cost of Residential Care and Nursing Care is £694 and £561 respectively.

The above costs cover the Family & Child Care, Care of the Elderly, Mental Health, Learning Disability and Physical & Sensory Disability Programmes of Care and take no account of individual case complexities.

0844 and 08445 Telephone Numbers

Mr J Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why GP surgeries are permitted to use 0844 and 08445 telephone numbers when the use of these numbers has been stopped in England and Wales.

(AQW 2754/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am advised that the use of 0844 and 08445 numbers by GP surgeries has not been stopped in England and Wales.

A small minority of GP practices in Northern Ireland use 084 numbers. However, 0844 and 08445 numbers are not classified as premium rate numbers and I am advised that, in many cases, if called from a BT landline, they cost less than a call to an 028 number.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) children; and (ii) adults in each Health and Social Care Trust area are currently diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorders.

(AQW 2781/11)

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

Autism

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children have been born with autism in each of the last three years, broken down by hospital or other place of birth.

(AQW 2782/11)

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

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many new cases of autistic spectrum disorder have presented to each Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last 3 years.

(AQW 2783/11)

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

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2795/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) There are currently no DHSSPS officials who are directly engaged with European political institutions. Any engagement on health or social care-related issues would normally be by way of Westminster.
- (ii) My Department has been successful in two funding applications to the EU INTERREG IVA Programme, one in 2008, the other in 2009.

The first, made in conjunction with the Department of Health and Children in the Republic of Ireland, secured £24 million of funding to undertake a range of cross-border health and social care activity. These activities are currently ongoing.

The second, made in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in the Republic of Ireland, secured almost £1.3 million to undertake a three year collaborative project between the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Fire Services in the six border counties of Ireland. This project has started to roll out recently.

Locum Doctors

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the cost to each Health and Social Care Trust of hiring locum doctors in each of the last four years.
(AQW 2801/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The cost of locum doctors is set out in the table below. Information prior to 1 April 2007 relates to legacy Trusts and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

HSC Trust	2009/10 £m	2008/09 £m	2007/08 £m
Belfast HSC Trust	8.1	7.4	6.5
Northern HSC Trust	8.1	7.6	4.7
South Eastern HSC Trust	2.2	2.4	1.4
Western HSC Trust	7.0	5.2	4.7
Southern HSC Trust	4.9	4.7	2.9

Locum doctors are professionally-qualified, medical practitioners used in each Health and Social Care Trust on a temporary basis to ensure continuity of care for the patient.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many babies diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome have been born in each Health and Social Care Trust area in each of the last five years.
(AQW 2803/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of babies that have been born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome during each of the last five years is not available as these babies present with a wide spectrum of symptoms from mild irritability to seizures and occasionally death, and therefore these statistics are not routinely and consistently collected across all of the Health and Social Care Trusts.

Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any communication his Department has had with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels in each of the last 24 months.

(AQW 2818/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is not possible to detail all communications with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels as these are not usually retained. Most of the communications are in the form of e-mails from the Office to the Department and are "for information".

Legislative Proposals in the European Commission

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is a specific individual or section within his Department to identify, at an early stage, legislative proposals in the European Commission and the potential impact on Northern Ireland.

(AQW 2819/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Through liaison with the Department of Health and the other Devolved Administrations there is a procedure in place across my Department by which appropriate officials in relevant business areas are aware at an early stage of EU Commission proposals for legislation. However, there is no specific individual or section dedicated to this task.

Junior Doctors

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will undertake a review of the management of medical provision by junior doctors in hospitals; and if he will make a statement on this issue.

(AQW 2822/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have no plans to review the management of medical provision by junior doctors in hospitals, and will not therefore be making a statement on the issue.

Ambulance Service Protocols

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he will undertake a review of the Ambulance Service protocols which govern the transportation of patients from rural areas to hospitals, particularly the transportation of patients between 10pm and 8am; and if he will make a statement on this issue.

(AQW 2823/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have no plans to undertake a review of Ambulance Service protocols governing the transportation of patients to hospitals.

Ambulance policy is to take emergency patients to the nearest appropriate hospital unless directed to a specific hospital by a physician,. Not every hospital can deal with every emergency so bypass protocols have been developed for certain types of emergency to ensure patients are taken directly to a hospital with the right facilities to treat them. The protocols are based on professional clinical advice and were developed in partnership by the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS), the Health and Social Care Board and Health and Social Care Trusts.

In addition, NIAS's patient care service provides non-emergency transport for patients with a medical need to access hospital outpatient and other services. It generally operates from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm although in some areas these hours are extended.

Sleep Apnoea

Mr F Molloy asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the funding allocated to each Health and Social Care Trust for sleep apnoea; and (ii) the number of patients treated for this condition in (a) 2007/08; (b) 2008/09; (c) 2009/10; and (d) 2010/11.

(AQW 2825/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Patients reporting sleep apnoea can be treated in an inpatient, daycase, outpatient, daycase or primary care setting. As such the information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Staff Salaries in the Belfast Trust

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2281/11, to detail the positions held by staff within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust who earn (i) between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum; and (ii) in excess of £100,000 per annum.

(AQW 2839/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: This information could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Staff Salaries in the Northern Trust

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety pursuant to AQW 2281/11, to detail the positions held by staff within the Northern Health and Social Care Trust who earn (i) between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum; and (ii) in excess of £100,000 per annum.

(AQW 2841/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: This information could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Staff Salaries in the South Eastern Trust

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2281/11, to detail the positions held by staff within the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust who earn (i) between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum; and (ii) in excess of £100,000 per annum.

(AQW 2842/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: This information could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Staff Salaries in the Southern Trust

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2281/11, to detail the positions held by staff within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust who earn (i) between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum; and (ii) in excess of £100,000 per annum.

(AQW 2843/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: This information could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Fire Hydrants

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of fire hydrants which are in active use by the Fire and Rescue Service; (ii) the number of recorded incidents of vandalism which have been recorded on these fire hydrants in each of the last five years; and (iii) the cost of the repairs and the estimated amount of water lost as a result of these incidents.

(AQW 2846/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) holds location details for 87,571 Hydrant Fittings and 3,094 Strategic Hydrants across Northern Ireland.

Information on hydrants which have been vandalized is not routinely collected by NIFRS.

The installation and maintenance of fire hydrants is a matter for Northern Ireland Water. Neither my Department nor NIFRS holds any information on repairs or water lost through vandalism to fire hydrants.

Hospital Waiting Times

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current waiting times for each type of surgical procedure in the Accident and Emergency Units of each Belfast hospital, compared to the waiting times in the (i) 2001/02; and (ii) 2005/06 financial years; and if he will make a statement on this issue.

(AQW 2860/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on waiting times for surgical procedures in A&E units is not available.

In Priorities for Action 2010/2011 I set a target that that from April 2010, the HSC Board and Trusts should ensure 95% of patients attending any A&E department are either treated and discharged home, or admitted, within 4 hours of their arrival in the department. No patient should wait longer than 12 hours.

Hospital Waiting Times

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current waiting times for an appointment with each type of medical professional, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists, in each Belfast hospital compared to the waiting times in the (i) 2001/02; and (ii) 2005/06 financial years; and if he will make a statement on this issue.

(AQW 2861/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The waiting times for people referred for treatment by each type of allied health professional in each Belfast hospital, as at 3rd December 2010, are provided in the tables below. Information for the Ulster Hospital was not available as the South Eastern HSC Trust did not have sufficient time to collate the data. Comparable information for 2001/02 and 2005/06 is also not available as it was not collected at that time.

BELFAST CITY HOSPITAL

Number of patients waiting	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Allied Health Professions (by weeks waiting)					Total
	0 to 3	> 3 to 6	> 6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	
Dietetics	4	5	6	0	0	15
Occupational Therapy	12	3	2	5	0	22
Physiotherapy	133	66	28	25	44	296
Podiatry	19	11	0	0	0	30

Number of patients waiting	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Allied Health Professions (by weeks waiting)					
	0 to 3	> 3 to 6	> 6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	Total
Speech & Language Therapy	21	4	3	0	0	28

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Number of patients waiting	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Allied Health Professions (by weeks waiting) ¹					
	0 to 3	> 3 to 6	> 6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	Total
Dietetics	27	17	5	0	0	49
Orthoptics	81	44	5	0	0	130
Physiotherapy	167	128	47	1	0	343
Podiatry	3	1	0	0	0	4
Speech & Language Therapy	24	8	2	0	0	34

MATER HOSPITAL

Number of patients waiting	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Allied Health Professions (by weeks waiting) ¹					
	0 to 3	> 3 to 6	> 6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	Total
Dietetics	15	13	2	0	0	30
Occupational Therapy	14	12	14	20	2	62
Orthoptics	9	7	1	0	0	17
Physiotherapy	98	64	29	0	0	191
Podiatry	2	0	0	0	0	2
Speech & Language Therapy	3	0	0	0	0	3

MUSGRAVE PARK HOSPITAL

Number of patients waiting	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Allied Health Professions (by weeks waiting) ¹					Total
	0 to 3	> 3 to 6	> 6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	
Occupational Therapy	12	13	5	2	0	32
Physiotherapy	140	132	35	1	8	316

FORSTER GREEN HOSPITAL

Number of patients waiting	Waiting time from referral to treatment for Allied Health Professions (by weeks waiting) ¹					Total
	0 to 3	> 3 to 6	> 6 to 9	> 9 to 13	> 13	
Dietetics	97	119	87	24	2	329

While waiting times for services have been transformed in recent years, the increases in waiting times for allied health professionals are disappointing and are a direct result of my budget being cut. If it is cut further then we will see more increases in waiting times as we simply cannot match the demand in services without funding to match.

I apologise to those patients waiting longer to be seen and wish to assure you that I am making every effort to get people treated as quickly as possible.

Male Victims of Domestic Violence

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the programmes and services his Department funds to provide support for male victims of domestic violence. **(AQW 2866/11)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Domestic violence is a cross-departmental issue which DHSSPS and DOJ jointly lead on. My Department currently funds the Men's Advisory Project to deliver counselling services and anger management programmes to male victims of domestic violence. Male victims can access services including counselling within Health and Social Care through a range of mechanisms including:

- Accident and Emergency Services;
- Hospital and Community Mental Health Teams;
- Child and Family Services;
- General Practitioners and other primary care professionals;
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS);
- Therapeutic work with fathers of children experiencing domestic violence; and
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing (MARAC) safety planning for high risk victims of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) what training is provided to General Practitioners and staff in Accident and Emergency Units to deal with disclosures of domestic

violence and; (ii) whether medical professionals are trained to deal with, and recognise, the issues faced by both male and female victims so that they can properly assess risk.

(AQW 2867/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Domestic violence is a cross-departmental issue which DHSSPS and DOJ jointly lead on through the “Tackling Violence at Home” Strategy published in October 2005. As an integral part of this routine enquiry on domestic violence was introduced into ante and post natal care and this has since been extended to several Accident and Emergency Units. A key action in the 2010/12 Domestic Violence Action Plan is to extend the routine enquiry to all Accident and Emergency Units and to the Primary Care sector including General Practitioners. Continued Training for Health and Social Care Professionals is provided by Trusts covering all victims of domestic violence, both male and female. Training is currently available to General Practitioners through the Trust Area learning teams. Training is also provided to Health and Social Care professionals on the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process which was rolled out across Northern Ireland during 2010 and which helps identify and protect high risk victims of domestic violence.

Staff Salaries in the Western Trust

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2281/11, to detail the positions held by staff within the Western Health and Social Care Trust who earn (i) between £50,000 and £100,000 per annum; and (ii) in excess of £100,000 per annum.

(AQW 2869/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: This information could only be provided at disproportionate costs.

Minor Ailments Scheme

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of how the reduction in the minor ailments scheme will impact on GP surgeries.

(AQW 2907/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Minor Ailments Scheme will now focus on conditions which require treatment and not those from which people will mainly recover from in a matter of days, with or without medication. These adjustments were made to achieve a more effective use of the limited resources available and to ensure the scheme continues to provide the greatest benefit to people in Northern Ireland.

There is no evidence that these changes will impact on GP surgeries. Indeed patients suffering from conditions such as colds and hayfever should really be considering if they need to visit their GP at all.

Patients who feel the need for symptomatic relief for a wide range of minor illnesses like colds and coughs can still purchase over-the-counter remedies at pharmacies and other retail outlets.

Genito Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that patients have been turned away and phone lines left unstaffed because of insufficient resources, what action he is taking to improve the appointments system at the Genito Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

(AQW 2935/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Most people attending the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital are seen on a walk-in basis and almost three quarters are able to access the service within 48 hours. Those attending HIV clinics, erectile dysfunction (ED) clinics and GUM follow up cases normally have a pre-arranged appointment.

It is recognised that there may be times when demand can exceed capacity; however, it should be noted that all patients who are not able to be seen at the clinic on a particular day, are triaged by a nurse and given information and advice on the appropriate place for treatment, which may be at the clinic on a subsequent day.

Work is currently ongoing to explore the potential to develop HIV services outside the Belfast Trust. This, coupled with recently opened GUM clinics in other parts of the Province, should improve local access and reduce the demands on the Belfast service.

In addition, it should also be noted that funding has been secured to upgrade the current telephone system; it is anticipated that work will commence early in the New Year.

Genito Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to improve service provision and capacity for HIV appointments at the Genito Urinary Medicine Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

(AQW 2936/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Most people attending the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital are seen on a walk-in basis and almost three quarters are able to access the service within 48 hours. Those attending HIV clinics, erectile dysfunction (ED) clinics and GUM follow up cases normally have a pre-arranged appointment.

It is recognised that there may be times when demand can exceed capacity; however, it should be noted that all patients who are not able to be seen at the clinic on a particular day, are triaged by a nurse and given information and advice on the appropriate place for treatment, which may be at the clinic on a subsequent day.

Work is currently ongoing to explore the potential to develop HIV services outside the Belfast Trust. This, coupled with recently opened GUM clinics in other parts of the Province, should improve local access and reduce the demands on the Belfast service.

In addition, it should also be noted that funding has been secured to upgrade the current telephone system; it is anticipated that work will commence early in the New Year.

Imported Meats

Mr G Savage asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much (i) red meat; and (ii) white meat has been imported and then labelled as 'processed in Northern Ireland' in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2943/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: DARD is the Competent Authority with responsibility for importation of red meat and white meat from Third Countries. DARD has advised that it does not collect information on the quantity of red meat, or white meat, imported into Northern Ireland.

The Food Standards Agency does not collate details of the quantities of red meat and white meat imported from Third Countries nor quantities of such meat incorporated into various processed meat products.

The Food Standards Agency is the Competent Authority for food safety and, in Northern Ireland, certain food labelling and composition responsibilities.

The Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (as amended) which are enforced by Environmental Health Officers of District Councils require that food business operators must not mislead the consumer regarding particulars of the place of origin or provenance of the food. The Agency has issued guidance to help the food industry comply with this labelling requirement.

The subject of food labelling is currently under review in the European Union and the Commission is currently working on a draft Food Information for Consumers regulation.

Northern Ireland Family Fund

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much funding his Department has provided for the Northern Ireland Family Fund in each of the last three years.
(AQW 2953/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The table provided below shows the funding provided by my Department to support the Family Fund's work in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years:

Year	Amount
2008/09	£1,691,450
2009/10	£1,732,890
2010/11	£1,776,212

Northern Ireland Family Fund

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many families currently receive support from the Northern Ireland Family Fund.
(AQW 2954/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In 2009/10, The Family Fund supported 2,773 families in Northern Ireland. In addition, the most recent information available from The Family Fund at 30 September 2010 indicates that the Fund has supported 1,427 families in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Family Fund

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans he has to ensure the continuation of funding for the Northern Ireland Family Fund.
(AQW 2955/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department continues to provide funding support to The Family Fund and there are currently no plans to reduce this commitment.

Health and Social Care Trusts; Bonus Payments

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether senior or middle managers in any of the Health and Social Care Trusts have received bonus payments in each of the last three financial years; and, if so, what was the cost of these bonuses to the Health Service.
(AQW 2957/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There were no bonus payments made to the Senior Executives in the Health and Social Care in the current financial year, or in 2009/10 year. Details of Superior Performance Bonus payments made to the Senior Executives in 2008/09 year were recorded in the annual accounts and published in Trust's Annual Reports. Bonus payments are not available to middle managers on Agenda for Change pay arrangements.

Average Spend on Health per Head of Population

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average spend on health per head of population.
(AQW 2958/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The most up to date information available, from the HM Treasury Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, shows that in 2009/10 Northern Ireland had the lowest spend per head (including capital and revenue) of all UK Administrations.

In 2009/10, £1,881 was planned to be spent on Health per head of population. This is 2% lower than the average spend on Health across the UK

SPEND HEAD ACROSS UK ADMINISTRATIONS ON HEALTH

	Scotland £ per head	Wales £ per head	England £ per head	N Ireland £ per head
Health	2,066	1,956	1,896	1,881

Source: HM Treasury, PESA 2010, Chapter 10

Following the Appleby Review it has been demonstrated that the population in Northern Ireland have additional requirements for health services that are 10% greater than England. It also showed the need for social services is 35% greater here. When an analysis is undertaken of this additional need, it is found that the health and social care of the population here was underfunded by some £640m in 2010/11.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people under the age of 16 have been diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) age; and (ii) type of infection.

(AQW 2969/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of people under the age of 16 diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease in each of the last three years, broken down by age is not available.

Information on people under the age of 16 diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease is available for the following infections only: Uncomplicated Genital Chlamydia, Uncomplicated Gonorrhoea, Infectious Syphilis, Anogenital Herpes (first attack), and Anogenital Warts (first attack). It is important to note that information does not equate to the number of people diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease as a person may be diagnosed with more than one infection or more than one episode of the same condition.

The number of new episodes of selected infections for people under the age of 16, in each of the last 3 years, broken down by type of infection is detailed in the following table:

Type of Infection	Year		
	2007	2008	2009
Uncomplicated Chlamydia	11	13	8
Uncomplicated Gonorrhoea	0	0	0
Infectious Syphilis	0	0	0
Anogenital Herpes (first attack)	*	*	*
Anogenital Warts (first attack)	5	10	18

Source: Public Health Agency (PHA)

In order to avoid personal disclosure an '*' represents a cell count of less than 4.

Alternative Medicine Schemes

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any 'alternative medicine' schemes are currently operating and being funded by his Department; and the Health and Social Care Trusts in which these schemes are offered.

(AQW 2970/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am advised that the Belfast HSC Trust provides a range of complementary therapies in several areas including mental health, oncology and haematology, and maternity services.

In the Northern HSC Trust, the Chemotherapy unit at Antrim Hospital employs a part time complementary therapist, funded from endowment and gift monies, to provide treatment such as aromatherapy, massage, reflexology etc to patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust do not directly provide any 'alternative medicine' although as part of the Big Lottery funded Children's Hospice at Home scheme within the SHSCT some relaxation sessions are provided for families to help them manage the ongoing stress of coping with life threatening or life limiting illness.

The Western HSC Trust provide and fund physiotherapists within Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services and the Pain Clinic who use Acupuncture.

Health Budget

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the sources of money put into the health budget from sources other than Government; and to detail the amount of income from these sources in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 2984/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In 2007/08 HSC organisations obtained estimated revenue income from sources other than Government of £174m and in 2008/-09 of £190m. A breakdown is provided in the attached document. Further information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The HSC is also donated capital items such as buildings and equipment from time to time, which are not "income", but are nonetheless vital in delivering services.

Downe Hospital, Downpatrick

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps will he take to enhance existing services and provide additional services at the new Downe Hospital.

(AQW 2997/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The development of existing and new services at the Downe Hospital is a matter for the South Eastern Trust, and where appropriate the Health and Social Care Board, taking into account issues such as need, effectiveness and affordability of the proposed developments. Since the new Downe Hospital opened, the Trust has introduced several new services – cataract surgery, fracture surgery, a Midwifery Led Unit, bowel screening, consultant led sexual health services and new diagnostic procedures.

The Trust has advised that it is currently considering a number of further service development opportunities for the Downe Hospital including further development of the Midwifery Led Unit with the aim of increasing the number of births in the unit; increasing gynaecology activity; additional ENT ICATS outpatient clinics (including audiology diagnostic service); recruitment of a Community Consultant Paediatrician in the new year based in the Downe Hospital and offering a weekly out-patient clinic with links to inpatient acute paediatric service in the Ulster Hospital; expansion of cataract surgery; commencement of a Cardiac CT service; and commencement of a dermatology UVB (ultraviolet light) service.

Fire and Rescue Service

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of people currently employed in the Fire and Rescue Service; (ii) the number of employees who are (a) full-time fire-fighters; and (b) retained fire-fighters; (iii) how these figures compare to 2005; 2007; and 2009. **(AQW 2999/11)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The table below details the number of people employed within Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) in the years requested and the breakdown between staff groups.

	2005	2007	2009	Current staff
Wholetime Staff	869 (FTE)	875.5 (FTE)	903 (FTE)	884.5 (FTE)
Retained Staff	970	954	1,026	1,004
Regional Control Centre Staff	55 (FTE)	54.5 (FTE)	58 (FTE)	55 (FTE)
Support Staff	206 (FTE)	204 (FTE)	246 (FTE)	218 (FTE)

The establishment for Wholetime Firefighters, Controls and Support Staff is based on full-time equivalent (FTE) as NIFRS has a number of staff working part-time or job sharing.

Retained Firefighter establishment is based on actual people in post.

Fire and Rescue Service

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the number of people who have retired from the Fire and Rescue Service in each of the last ten years; and (ii) how many of these people went to work for other agencies and were then re-employed by the Fire and Rescue Service (a) as full time fire-fighters; (b) as retained fire fighters; (c) as managers; (d) as administrators; or (e) in other technical grades.

(AQW 3000/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) The table below details the number of people who have retired from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) in each of the last 10 years.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No of retirements	52	73	69	43	66	48	43	23	16	14

- (ii) NIFRS does not keep records of staff retiring, going to work for other agencies and then being re-employed by NIFRS.

Swine Flu Cases

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of confirmed Swine Flu cases in each month since January 2010; and the figures for the same period in the previous year.

(AQW 3001/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of laboratory confirmed Swine Flu cases in Northern Ireland during each month since January 2010, and the same period in 2009 are detailed in the table below:

Month	laboratory confirmed swine flu cases 2009	laboratory confirmed swine flu cases 2010
January	0	9
February	0	8
March	0	0
April	0	0
May	2	0
June	32	0
July	45	0
August	83	0
September	201	0
October	746	3
November	214	4
December	29	21*

Source: Public Health Agency (PHA)

* Information for December 2010 refers to the number of laboratory confirmed cases between 1st and 13th December 2010 inclusive.

Reported fractures

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have reported at hospitals since 1 December 2010 with fractures; and to provide the figures for the same period last year.

(AQW 3002/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by HSC Trusts indicates that between 1st December and 13th December 2010, 2,069 people reported to hospitals in Northern Ireland with fractures. This compares to 1,407 people during the same period in 2009.

Note that information provided by the South Eastern HSC Trust for the Ulster Hospital has been estimated based on the assumption that 60% of patients are referred to Outpatient Clinics from A&E with fractures.

Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme

Dr K Deeny asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what vaccine is used in the current Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme.

(AQW 3020/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Cervarix is currently used in the HPV vaccination programme. The UK contract

was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline following a rigorous process which followed EU procurement regulations. The Department of Health, England, currently intends to begin a procurement exercise for HPV vaccine in early 2011 which is expected to conclude during the summer 2011.

The analysis used to determine the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination was published in the British Medical Journal in July 2008. The Department of Health, England, has commissioned an update to the cost-effective modelling for the HPV vaccine. This model is taking into account new data on the

potential protection provided by HPV vaccine against cancer and non-cancer diseases. This model will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV vaccination programme.

My Department is kept informed throughout the procurement processes for childhood vaccines purchased by the Department of Health, England, on behalf of the four UK Health Departments. My Department will provide an input to Department of Health, England, officials, as required and in line with procurement regulations, to the forthcoming tender process for the HPV vaccine.

Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme

Dr K Deeny asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the next UK-wide tender process for a vaccine for the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme will begin and conclude.

(AQW 3021/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Cervarix is currently used in the HPV vaccination programme. The UK contract

was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline following a rigorous process which followed EU procurement regulations. The Department of Health, England, currently intends to begin a procurement exercise for HPV vaccine in early 2011 which is expected to conclude during the summer 2011.

The analysis used to determine the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination was published in the British Medical Journal in July 2008. The Department of Health, England, has commissioned an update to the cost-effective modelling for the HPV vaccine. This model is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by HPV vaccine against cancer and non-cancer diseases. This model will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV vaccination programme.

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Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme

Dr K Deeny asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department has carried out a cost benefit analysis on the use of a quadrivalent vaccine in the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme.

(AQW 3022/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Cervarix is currently used in the HPV vaccination programme. The UK contract

was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline following a rigorous process which followed EU procurement regulations. The Department of Health, England, currently intends to begin a procurement exercise for HPV vaccine in early 2011 which is expected to conclude during the summer 2011.

The analysis used to determine the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination was published in the British Medical Journal in July 2008. The Department of Health, England, has commissioned an update to the cost-effective modelling for the HPV vaccine. This model is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by HPV vaccine against cancer and non-cancer diseases. This model will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV vaccination programme.

My Department is kept informed throughout the procurement processes for childhood vaccines purchased by the Department of Health, England, on behalf of the four UK Health Departments. My Department will provide an input to Department of Health, England, officials, as required and in line with procurement regulations, to the forthcoming tender process for the HPV vaccine.

Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme

Dr K Deeny asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department will be consulted by the UK authorities, as part of the next tender process on the choice of vaccine for the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme.

(AQW 3023/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Cervarix is currently used in the HPV vaccination programme. The UK contract

was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline following a rigorous process which followed EU procurement regulations. The Department of Health, England, currently intends to begin a procurement exercise for HPV vaccine in early 2011 which is expected to conclude during the summer 2011.

The analysis used to determine the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination was published in the British Medical Journal in July 2008. The Department of Health, England, has commissioned an update to the cost-effective modelling for the HPV vaccine. This model is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by HPV vaccine against cancer and non-cancer diseases. This model will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV vaccination programme.

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Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme

Dr K Deeny asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department will express its opinion, as part of the forthcoming tender process, on the choice of vaccine for the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Programme; and if so, how and to whom will it be expressed.

(AQW 3024/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Cervarix is currently used in the HPV vaccination programme. The UK contract

was awarded to GlaxoSmithKline following a rigorous process which followed EU procurement regulations. The Department of Health, England, currently intends to begin a procurement exercise for HPV vaccine in early 2011 which is expected to conclude during the summer 2011.

The analysis used to determine the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccination was published in the British Medical Journal in July 2008. The Department of Health, England, has commissioned an update to the cost-effective modelling for the HPV vaccine. This model is taking into account new data on the potential protection provided by HPV vaccine against cancer and non-cancer diseases. This model will support the next procurement exercise for the HPV vaccination programme.

My Department is kept informed throughout the procurement processes for childhood vaccines purchased by the Department of Health, England, on behalf of the four UK Health Departments. My Department will provide an input to Department of Health, England, officials, as required and in line with procurement regulations, to the forthcoming tender process for the HPV vaccine.

Consumption of Cigarettes

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the changes in the consumption of cigarettes since the ban on workplace smoking was introduced; and what statistical evidence is now available on health improvements since the ban.

(AQW 3028/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Data is not available on the numbers of cigarettes consumed in Northern Ireland; consequently there are no figures to show any changes in

consumption since the introduction of smoke-free legislation in April 2007. However, data is available on adult smoking prevalence rates for the year prior to the ban 2006/07 and up until 2009/10 year. It shows that the prevalence rate prior to the smoking ban was 25% of the adult population while in 2009/10 it was 24%.

As smoking related illnesses take many years to manifest in an individual, the overall impact of smoke-free legislation on health improvement cannot be meaningfully measured within the short timeframe since introduction of the ban. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was prepared to assess the benefits and costs associated with introduction of the smoke-free legislation. This advised that benefits to the health service are expected to accumulate over a 20 year period with the estimated savings being based on a reduction in mortality from less exposure to second hand smoke and a further 2% reduction in smoking prevalence among active smokers.

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Mr C Boylan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he has had any discussions with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in relation to its proposals to scale back funding for projects which promote independent living and working for people with physical or mental disabilities.

(AQW 3045/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have had no discussions with the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in this regard. The Trust reserves the right to realign contracts to better meet the needs of the client group and ensure good value for money and cost effectiveness. Furthermore, the Trust has been open with the public, users, carers, the media and public representatives in relation to the financial pressures it is under to remain within budget and to continue to deliver the services that are essential to people's independence and well being.

Funding for Homestart Projects

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he will take to ensure the continuation of funding for Homestart projects and offices in Downpatrick, Newcastle, Ballynahinch and Kilkeel.

(AQW 3046/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: You will understand that, until my Departmental Budget has been finalised, I am unable to guarantee any new funding beyond the current arrangement, which runs to March 2011.

My Department has a particular focus on Families Matter, the family and parenting strategy. Through that strategy, I am investing £2.5 million a year, on a recurrent basis, to support families through a range of family support initiatives.

My officials are currently engaged with the Health and Social Care Board to ensure that this funding is used to best effect to support early intervention services for hard-to-reach families and provide, not only practical assistance, but also help in building their parenting resilience and skill. As existing providers, I would think that the Home Start schemes in question would be well positioned to enter into dialogue with their local Health and Social Care Trusts about how they might further contribute to delivering on this agenda, and I would urge them to do so.

Pain Management Treatment

Mr P Girvan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what recourse is available to patients who feel their pain management treatment isn't effective; and whether the health budget is designed to opt for cheaper medication.

(AQW 3047/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is for the clinician or GP, in consultation with their patient, to decide on the most appropriate course of treatment for the patient. While it is my Department's policy that drugs should be prescribed generically, it also allows for occasions where, in the clinical opinion of the prescriber, branded drugs should be prescribed and dispensed.

If a patient feels that their pain management treatment is not proving effective, they should discuss the position with their GP who can refer the patient to a specialist pain management clinic. These hospital-based clinics can provide a broader range of pain management solutions.

Medical Practitioners and Consultants

Mr P Girvan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why medical practitioners and consultants are allowed to work between the Health Service and private clinics, given that people on a lower income cannot afford to attend these private clinics.

(AQW 3049/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: All medical practitioners and consultants are permitted to work privately under the terms and conditions of nationally agreed employment contracts.

Full time doctors and consultants are contracted to work 40 hours, or more, each week for the HSC. Thereafter they may undertake private work for other organisations provided that it does not result in detriment to HSC patients or services, or diminish the public resources that are available for the HSC.

Children in Care

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, further to his statement of 14 December 2010 on the 11th Sectoral North-South Ministerial Council meeting, to detail the "particular concerns" which would trigger the use of arrangements under a joint protocol on Children in Care and on the Child Protection Register.

(AQW 3054/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Particular concerns that would trigger the use of arrangements under a joint protocol will include:

- Children whose names are on the child protection register/child protection notification system and who move between the jurisdictions;
- Children who are subject of legal orders in one jurisdiction who move to reside in another; and
- Children for whom there are significant concerns in relation to their welfare or who are assessed as particularly vulnerable who move between jurisdictions.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive and the joint protocol will assist staff to make decisions about sharing information in a timely manner to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children.

Accident and Emergency Facility at the Causeway Hospital

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there are any changes planned for the New Year to the existing accident and emergency facility at the Causeway Hospital.

(AQW 3057/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I refer the Member to the answer given to AQW 3100/11.

Cost of Healthcare Provision in Prisons

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the approximate annual cost to his Department of healthcare provision in prisons since April 2008.

(AQW 3058/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I refer my colleague to the information provided in AQW 7714/10.

Prostate Specific Antigen Test

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many men have undergone the prostate specific antigen test in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3059/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of men who have undergone the prostate specific antigen test in each of the last three years is not available.

Herceptin Treatment

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail the cost per cycle of Herceptin treatment; (ii) how many cycles of the drug were approved for treatment last year; and (iii) to define the criteria for qualification to receive this drug.

(AQW 3060/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) The cost of the drug is dependent on the patient's weight. The cost of one cycle of Herceptin for a 70kg patient is £1166.66; to treat one patient (70Kg) with adjuvant Herceptin (which is 18 cycles in total-one cycle every three weeks for one year) the cost for the drug alone is approximately £21000.00. The cost increases as the patient's weight increases.
- (ii) The number of cycles approved for treatment in the year 2009/2010 are given in the table below;

Trust	No. of cycles approved
Belfast	689
Northern	362
South Eastern	358
Southern	350
Western	104
Total	1863

- (iii) The criterion for qualification to receive Herceptin is HER2 positive breast cancer.

Downpatrick Fire Station

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether Downpatrick Fire Station will retain its two fire tenders.

(AQW 3061/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has no plans to change the emergency operational response arrangements provided by Downpatrick Fire Station.

Direct Payments

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the amount of monies paid out in Direct Payments by each Health and Social Care Trust during (a) 2008/ 2009; and (b) 2009/2010; and (ii) any cap on Direct Payments in each Trust during those periods.

(AQW 3063/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on Direct Payments expenditure by HSC Trust is published on the Departments website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-cib-guide/statistics_and_research-cib-direct-payment.htm

My Department's current policy is to encourage the use of Direct Payments as they offer greater flexibility, independence and choice in how and when services are provided to individuals who are assessed as eligible for social care support. Therefore, during the periods requested, there were no caps on Direct Payments in Trusts.

Direct Payments

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there is a specific budget for Direct Payments in each Health and Social Care Trust; and to detail the Direct Payment budget in each Trust for 2009/10.

(AQW 3066/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Direct Payments are made across a number of programmes of care to meet differing client needs across a range of social care services. Direct Payments are one of a number of alternative means of meeting the social care needs of the population. They are funded out of overall social care budgets and as such there are no Trust budgets specifically in respect of Direct Payments.

Direct Payments

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether Direct Payments can be used to purchase Day Time Activity Services such as (i) befriending services; (ii) supported employment opportunities; (iii) training places; (iv) advocacy services; and (v) driving lessons.

(AQW 3067/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Direct Payments are cash payments, made in lieu of traditional social service provisions, to individuals who have been assessed as needing personal social services and for whom a Trust has decided to provide those services. If, following an assessment, a client need is identified and the Trust proposes to provide a service to meet this need, the client can request to receive a Direct Payment with which to purchase services personally. Such services may include those listed in the question.

When arranging a Direct Payment, the Trust will discuss how the potential recipient intends to secure the services he or she has been assessed as requiring. Trusts are encouraged to explore innovative and creative options to meeting a client's needs; however, the Trust must be satisfied that the person's assessed needs will indeed be met, and that the money is being spent appropriately.

Direct Payments

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any campaigns undertaken by his Department or the Health and Social Care Trusts since 2007 to encourage the uptake of Direct Payments; and how successful these campaigns have been.

(AQW 3068/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: No campaigns have been launched by my Department to encourage the uptake of Direct Payments. Instead I introduced a new target under Priorities for Action which states that by March 2011, the Health and Social Care Board and Trusts should increase the number of Direct Payment cases to 1,750. Due to the strong performance of the Board and Trusts, this target number has been reached, and is on track to be well exceeded.

Urological Cancer

Mr T Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients suspected of having urological cancer are currently awaiting a review appointment in each Health and Social Care Trust.

(AQW 3081/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Waiting times for (a) a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist; (b) treatment following a decision to treat being taken; and (c) treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, during the months of April, May and June 2010, the most recent months for which information is available, can be found at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats_2/waiting_times_main/waiting_times-4.htm

Specialist Neurological Beds at the Royal Victoria Hospital

Mr T Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact on patient waiting times across Northern Ireland of the recent closure resulting from specialist neurological beds at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

(AQW 3082/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have been assured by the Belfast Trust that the recent reduction in the number of neurology inpatient beds will not have an impact on waiting times for elective admission to the ward.

The Trust can utilise beds in a flexible manner and if there is a need for more inpatient neurology beds these will be provided.

I have visited the neurology ward in the RVH and met with the Belfast Trust and the neurologists providing the specialist service across Northern Ireland. I am absolutely assured of their commitment to providing ongoing care for neurology patients and to ensuring that such care is of high quality, effective and timely.

Red Flag Referral Cancer Patients

Mr T Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many red flag referral cancer patients are currently awaiting a review appointment; and what is the average waiting time for cancer patients to receive a review appointment following diagnosis.

(AQW 3083/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Waiting times for (a) a first assessment with a breast cancer specialist; (b) treatment following a decision to treat being taken; and (c) treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, during the months of April, May and June 2010, the most recent months for which information is available, can be found at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats_2/waiting_times_main/waiting_times-4.htm

Direct Payments

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the eligibility criteria for Direct Payments; and (ii) any sub-eligibility criteria for Learning Disability Services in relation to Direct Payments.

(AQW 3084/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Direct Payments are cash payments, made in lieu of traditional social service provisions, to individuals who have been assessed as needing personal social services and for whom a Trust has decided to provide those services. They are available to:

- Disabled people over 16;
- Older people who receive services from the Trust;
- Disabled parents;
- Parents of disabled children;
- Carers over 16 for services to meet their own needs; and
- People affected by mental illness.

There are no specific sub-eligibility criteria for Learning Disability Services, but a Trust can only offer Direct Payments if it is satisfied that the recipient is willing and able to manage Direct Payments, with help if required.

Waterways Rescue and Recovery Training

Mr J O'Dowd asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what waterways rescue and recovery training Fire and Rescue Service personnel in the Craigavon area stations have received; and what equipment is available for those personnel to conduct water-based rescues and recovery. **(AQW 3085/11)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: All Fire and Rescue Service firefighters, including those based in the Craigavon area, have received a water awareness course covering working in the vicinity of and in and around water.

All NIFRS frontline fire appliances carry water rescue kits with four life jackets and two throw lines; in addition, the lead appliance carries a hose inflation kit.

Agenda for Change Payments

Mr J O'Dowd asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many Agenda for Change payments are outstanding for staff of the former Craigavon and Banbridge Health and Social Services Trust; and what is the estimated timeframe for the payment of all the outstanding claims. **(AQW 3086/11)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Southern Health and Social Care Trust, which covers the former Craigavon and Banbridge Health and Social Services Trust, has paid Agenda for Change arrears to all its current staff.

Care Matters Strategy

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the implementation of the Care Matters Strategy. **(AQW 3090/11)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Care Matters in Northern Ireland was developed in conjunction with other Government Departments and voluntary sector partners. My Department is currently progressing a number of initiatives under Care Matters in Northern Ireland that fall within the remit of my Department in order to improve the lives of children and young people on the edge of care, in care and leaving care.

Child Protection Internet Safety Initiatives and Projects

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the child protection internet safety initiatives and projects that have been developed by his Department. **(AQW 3092/11)**

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My officials liaise closely with UK counterparts as part of the UK Council on Child Internet Safety. During February 2010, to coincide with Safer Internet

Day, my Department funded a media and press awareness raising campaign within Northern Ireland to highlight the issue of internet safety and the benefits of the 'Click Clever Click Safe' campaign which promotes a 'One-Stop-Shop' where parents/carers/children can obtain advice and report instances of concerns in relation to internet safety.

Responsibilities for Internet safety issues fall to a number of NI Departments. My Department works with relevant Departments and other Agencies as part of the Safeguarding sub-group of the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People to promote issues around Internet safety etc. In addition, under the auspices of the North South Ministerial Council my Department is involved in a cross-border group of officials which oversee areas for co-operation on child protection, including internet safety. This group continues to keep each other apprised of ongoing developments within respective jurisdictions.

My Department is also currently bringing forward legislation to establish a Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) next year. This Board will play a key role in addressing issues relating to internet safety.

The UK Government is currently considering how best to proceed in the area of internet safety. When decisions have been taken on the way ahead we, along with other relevant NI Departments, will consider what the implications are for Northern Ireland.

Accident and Emergency Department at the Causeway Hospital

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many times the accident and emergency unit in the Causeway Hospital has failed to provide complete emergency cover in the last three months; and what changes to this facility are planned for the future.

(AQW 3099/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The delivery of services at the Causeway Hospital remains a matter for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust as the service provider, However, I am advised by the Trust that at no time in the last three months has the Accident and Emergency Department at Causeway Hospital failed to provide complete emergency cover and, as responded to previously, there are currently no plans to make changes to this department

Accident and Emergency Department at the Causeway Hospital

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there are any plans to close the accident and emergency unit at the Causeway Hospital.

(AQW 3100/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: While the delivery of services at the Causeway Hospital is a matter for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust as the service provider, I can advise that the Trust has no plans to change accident and emergency services at Causeway Hospital and has recently implemented a number of initiatives in order to sustain services on a 24 hour 7 day week basis.

Desertcreat College Development

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in light of the budget announcement of 15 December 2010, what financial commitment his Department has made to the Desertcreat college development; and to outline the expected timescale for the project.

(AQW 3101/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: To date, my Department's expenditure in respect of this project is nil.

The draft budget announcement on 15 December indicated that the Executive has committed the full funding for the project through the Department of Justice budget. Timescales for the project will be

confirmed by the Department of Justice once business case approval is obtained and the draft budget is finalised.

Attempted Suicide

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people presented to the Ulster Hospital in the last six months as a result of attempted suicide.

(AQW 3111/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Social Care Workers

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether existing social care workers are required to be registered as such or will the introduction of compulsory registration of social care workers only apply to newly appointed staff.

(AQW 3128/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Existing social care workers, including all newly appointed staff, within specified groups will be required to register with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

Fire and Ambulance Unit in Downpatrick

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the recent proposals by the NI Ambulance Service about a Fire and Ambulance Unit in Downpatrick.

(AQW 3137/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: To date, no formal proposals for a Fire & Ambulance Unit in Downpatrick have been submitted to my Department.

All proposals for the provision of fire and ambulance services in the Downpatrick area will be assessed with a view to ensuring updated fire and ambulance provision in Downpatrick as quickly as funding constraints permit.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental savings measures and their anticipated impact.

(AQW 3142/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I will not be in a position to publish draft savings delivery plans for my Department within one week of publication of the draft budget. The proposed allocation for my Department is some £800 million (15%) below the funding required to maintain services in line with increased demand by 2014-15.

The priority of my Department must be to deliver services that are safe, sustainable and meet people's needs. We must meet the increased demand arising from a growing elderly population and from having the youngest population in the UK. People will also rightly expect that as new technology, new treatment solutions and innovative models of service delivery become available throughout the UK that patients here can avail of them to prolong their lives and improve their health.

I will therefore not be able to publish Savings Delivery Plans until I have had time to fully consider the implications of the proposed allocations

Reduction in Cancer Beds in the South Eastern and Belfast Trust area

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the impact that the reduction in cancer beds in the South Eastern and Belfast Trust areas has had on waiting lists for treatment or surgery.

(AQW 3144/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are no dedicated cancer beds in the South Eastern Trust and therefore no beds have been closed.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has advised me that a recent LEAN project has enabled the Trust to improve services and increase efficiency within Oncology in the Cancer Centre, while reducing the number of beds by 3.

This project has resulted in better access times for day case chemotherapy treatment and has avoided patients having to stay overnight.

Regional Fertility Clinic

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the (i) target time; and (ii) actual time for appointments at the Regional Fertility Clinic, from the date when a referral is made by a GP

(AQW 3162/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: A target has been set that by March 2011, no one should wait longer than nine weeks for a first outpatient appointment.

Currently, the average length of wait for a first appointment is 17-21 weeks from receipt of referral; however, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is working towards achieving the nine week target by the end of March 2011.

IVF Treatment

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the (i) target time; and (ii) actual time for the commencement of IVF treatment, from the date when a referral is made by a GP

(AQW 3164/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In 2009, I announced additional recurrent funding of £1.5m to ensure that no-one who qualifies for publically funded fertility treatment will have a waiting time of longer than a year. It should be noted that this is measured from the time patients are added to the waiting list to receive treatment, not from the time that they are referred; this is in line with how other access targets are managed.

Current waiting time for treatment at the Regional Fertility Centre is 12-13 months; however, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is working towards reducing this to 12 months by the end of March 2011.

Child Residential Care

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many children have absconded or run away from residential care in each Health and Social Care Trust area, in each of the last ten years; (ii) how many of these children were returned to care; and (iii) how many remain unaccounted.

(AQW 3166/11)

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

Abortions

Mr W Irwin asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many women have travelled to Great Britain for abortions in 2010.

(AQW 3179/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is not currently available on the number of women who travelled to Great Britain for abortions in 2010.

Job Losses in the Health Service

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the statement made by the Regional Health and Social Care Board chief executive that 4000 jobs could be lost in the Health Service as a result of the recent budget announcement.

(AQW 3190/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The proposed budget settlement for Health means a real terms cut of 2% (almost £90 million) to the whole of the Health and Social Care current budget. As a consequence, there is insufficient funding to continue to deliver services at their current level. The proposed budget does not take account of meeting the ever increasing demand for services. Taking into account the increase in demand expected over the next four years, the budget shortfall by the end of that period is 15%. Of this, more than 6% is to be met in the next financial year; just over three months from now. If this budget is ratified it will mean longer waiting times for patients and clients for HSC services and it will have major implications for thousands of jobs; the current estimate is between 3,000 and 4,000 jobs in the 2011/12 year.

Our Health and Social Care budget needs investment – not cuts.

Stationery

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much his Department and its arm's-length bodies have spent on stationery in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3191/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Social Care Workers

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether any Health Service organisation insisted upon its social care workers being registered prior to his announcement to introduce compulsory registration for social care workers; and whether they were within their rights to do so.

(AQW 3213/11)

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

It is for Individual Health Service organisations to advise whether they insisted upon social care workers being registered prior to the announcement of the introduction of compulsory registration of specified groups of social care workers on 14 December 2010.

Department of Justice

CCTV Cameras

Mr M Storey asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of CCTV cameras in each local council area; and (ii) who is responsible for the running costs of each system.

(AQW 2652/11)

Minister of Justice (Mr D Ford): This response deals only with town centre CCTV cameras which the NIO installed under the 'Looking out for You' CCTV Challenge Fund Competition and which are now DOJ's responsibility. It does not take account of the many other privately operated schemes which may be operating across Northern Ireland and for which DoJ has no responsibility.

CCTV cameras funded under the DoJ 'Looking Out for You' Challenge Fund Competition

Council Area	Responsibility for running costs	No. of Cameras
Ards Borough Council	Ards Borough Council	6
Ballymena Borough Council	Ballymena Borough Council	7
Belfast City Council	North Belfast District Command Unit PSNI	2
Coleraine Borough Council	Safer Coleraine Ltd	12
Craigavon Borough Council	Craigavon Borough Council	4
Down District Council	Down District Council	12
Fermanagh District Council	Fermanagh District Council	7
Lisburn City Council	Lisburn Commerce Against Crime Ltd	3
Newtownabbey Borough Council	Newtownabbey Borough Council	3
Newry and Mourne District Council	Newry City Centre Management	20
North Down Borough Council	North Down Borough Council	4
*Omagh District Council	Omagh Safer Streets	7
		87

* Installation works nearing completion

Gang Culture

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Justice what steps he intends to take to curb the gang culture.
(AQW 2667/11)

Minister of Justice: Northern Ireland does not have a gang culture comparable with other areas of the British Isles. Where it may manifest itself is in the form of paramilitary activity and serious organised crime.

I chair the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF), which acts as a forum to allow Government, law enforcement agencies and the business community to develop strategies for dealing with organised crime in Northern Ireland. One of the OCTF's key objectives is to disrupt gangs and take the profit out of organised crime and remove their criminal assets through criminal and civil proceedings.

Prisoners

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last five years, what proportion of adults in the prison system entered prison for the first time.

(AQW 2680/11)

Minister of Justice: The information requested is not collated by the Northern Ireland Prison Service and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Courses for Prisoners

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Justice how many prisoners are currently enrolled in courses for (i) GCSEs; (ii) A-levels; (iii) degrees; and (iv) other higher education qualifications; and what proportion of the prison population these figures represent.

(AQW 2681/11)

Minister of Justice: The current education enrolment figures for prisoners within NIPS establishments, at December 2010 are set out in the table below:

TABLE A: EDUCATION STATISTICS

Courses	Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank Wood	Total
GCSE's or *Equivalent Qualifications	16 71	14 11	10 0	40 82
A levels or *Equivalent Qualifications	4 28	0 7	0 0	4 35
Degrees or *Equivalent Qualifications	7 1	16 0	4 0	27 1
Other Higher Ed.	0	18	0	18

The total number of prisoners enrolled in these courses is 207, which equates to 14% of the overall prison population.

*Equivalent qualifications include for example:

- **GCSE'S** Essential skills level 2: Level 2 award/cert/dip for IT users:
- **ECDL** (level 2).
- **A-levels** AutoCAD: Openings: Undergraduates.
- **Degrees** Bible Study: Post graduate.

Arrests at Sport Stadiums

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of arrests made by the PSNI for offences committed within a sports stadium in each of the past three years; (ii) the number of these arrests which resulted in a conviction; and (iii) the sentences that resulted from these convictions.

(AQW 2703/11)

Minister of Justice: The information requested is not available in the format requested, however the following table details incidents at and related to sporting events in recent years.

SPORTS INCIDENTS**FOOTBALL**

Date	Location	Incident	Type Of Offence
06/11/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville supporters causing disturbance in local bar. PSNI officers attacked. After match stones thrown at police car and Cliftonville supporters bus.	5 arrests public order and assault on police.
16/10/2010	Solitude (Cliftonville v Glentoran)	Alcohol removed from Glentoran supporters as they arrived on bus.	Alcohol on buses
09/10/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Linfield)	Male shouting obscenities at Linfield team bus following game.	Chanting abuse
25/9/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Ballymena)	Youths ('Coleraine casuals') gathered after second half of match. Banger thrown at police car. Youths continued to cause annoyance, throwing bangers at each other and passers by.	
28/08/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Glentoran)	Glentoran supporters entered sterile zone, failed to leave when requested.	Pitch incursion
May 2010	Windsor Park	Sectarian chanting at Irish Cup Final	Chanting abuse
31/10/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Cliftonville)	Altercation between a DC supporter and a Cliftonville supporter	
15/09/2010	Strangmore Park, Dungannon FC	Racial abuse towards Dungannon FC player	Chanting abuse
15/08/2009	Shamrock Park, Portadown FC (Portadown v Glentoran)	Supporter ran onto pitch and attacked Glentoran player.	Pitch incursion
28/03/2009	Windsor Park (NI v Poland)	Violence inside and outside ground before, during and after match. Assistant referee struck by coin. Fans attack police with fireworks	Fireworks
13/01/2009	Windsor Park (Linfield v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville official hit by plastic bottle	Missiles
26/12/2008	Windsor Park (Linfield v Glentoran)	Trouble causing play to be suspended	

Date	Location	Incident	Type Of Offence
04/11/2008	Windsor Park	Linfield players hit by a firework	Fireworks
Oct 2008	The Brandywell (Derry City FC)	Sectarian language towards stewards	Chanting/abuse
22/03/2008	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Lisburn Distillery)	Missiles thrown onto pitch during match	Missiles
Oct 2007	Windsor Park	Baseball thrown onto pitch and flag burned in the wooden stand	Missile
11/08/2007	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Linfield)	Sectarian chanting	Chanting/abuse
May 2006	Mourneview Park, Glenavon FC	Crowd trouble after Irish Cup semi final	
23/04/05	The Oval, (Linfield v Glentoran)	Major trouble at match. Hundreds of fans on pitch fighting and throwing missiles	Pitch incursion, missiles
22/02/2005	Brandywell, Derry City FC	Buses attacked as they leave the Brandywell	
02/05/2004	Windsor Park	2 men stabbed at Irish Cup Final	
May 1998	Windsor Park	Crowd trouble at end of Irish Cup Final. Stewards attacked.	
GAA			
18/10/2009	Healy Park, Omagh	Referee assaulted at Tyrone County Football Final	Pitch incursion
23/03/2008	Edendork GAC, Tyrone	Crowd congestion causes match to be delayed	
20/11/2004	Casement Park	Referee attacked at Ulster Cup semi final	Pitch incursion
Rugby			
Ongoing	Ravenhill	Isolated incidents of urinating in private gardens when returning to vehicles, complaints received in relation to parking	Being drunk
Safety incidents			
17/01/2009	Ravenhill	Stand evacuated due to adverse weather conditions	

Date	Location	Incident	Type Of Offence
17/01/2009	The Oval, Glentoran	Match abandoned due to floodlights becoming loose due to adverse weather conditions	

Offences Related to Sport

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether his Department holds any information on any person, currently living in Northern Ireland but originally from outside the UK, who has been convicted, in another part of the European Union, of an offence related to sport.

(AQW 2704/11)

Minister of Justice: The information requested is not available in the format requested, however the following table details incidents at and related to sporting events in recent years.

SPORTS INCIDENTS

FOOTBALL

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
06/11/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville supporters causing disturbance in local bar. PSNI officers attacked. After match stones thrown at police car and Cliftonville supporters bus.	5 arrests public order and assault on police.
16/10/2010	Solitude (Cliftonville v Glentoran)	Alcohol removed from Glentoran supporters as they arrived on bus.	Alcohol on buses
09/10/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Linfield)	Male shouting obscenities at Linfield team bus following game.	Chanting abuse
25/9/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Ballymena)	Youths ('Coleraine casuals') gathered after second half of match. Banger thrown at police car. Youths continued to cause annoyance, throwing bangers at each other and passers by.	
28/08/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Glentoran)	Glentoran supporters entered sterile zone, failed to leave when requested.	Pitch incursion
May 2010	Windsor Park	Sectarian chanting at Irish Cup Final	Chanting abuse
31/10/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Cliftonville)	Altercation between a DC supporter and a Cliftonville supporter	
15/09/2010	Strangmore Park, Dungannon FC	Racial abuse towards Dungannon FC player	Chanting abuse

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
15/08/2009	Shamrock Park, Portadown FC (Portadown v Glentoran)	Supporter ran onto pitch and attacked Glentoran player.	Pitch incursion
28/03/2009	Windsor Park (NI v Poland)	Violence inside and outside ground before, during and after match. Assistant referee struck by coin. Fans attack police with fireworks	Fireworks
13/01/2009	Windsor Park (Linfield v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville official hit by plastic bottle	Missiles
26/12/2008	Windsor Park (Linfield v Glentoran)	Trouble causing play to be suspended	
04/11/2008	Windsor Park	Linfield players hit by a firework	Fireworks
Oct 2008	The Brandywell (Derry City FC)	Sectarian language towards stewards	Chanting/abuse
22/03/2008	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Lisburn Distillery)	Missiles thrown onto pitch during match	Missiles
Oct 2007	Windsor Park	Baseball thrown onto pitch and flag burned in the wooden stand	Missile
11/08/2007	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Linfield)	Sectarian chanting	Chanting/abuse
May 2006	Mourneview Park, Glenavon FC	Crowd trouble after Irish Cup semi final	
23/04/05	The Oval, (Linfield v Glentoran)	Major trouble at match. Hundreds of fans on pitch fighting and throwing missiles	Pitch incursion, missiles
22/02/2005	Brandywell, Derry City FC	Buses attacked as they leave the Brandywell	
02/05/2004	Windsor Park	2 men stabbed at Irish Cup Final	
May 1998	Windsor Park	Crowd trouble at end of Irish Cup Final. Stewards attacked.	

GAA

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
18/10/2009	Healy Park, Omagh	Referee assaulted at Tyrone County Football Final	Pitch incursion

23/03/2008	Edendork GAC, Tyrone	Crowd congestion causes match to be delayed	
20/11/2004	Casement Park	Referee attacked at Ulster Cup semi final	Pitch incursion

RUGBY

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
Ongoing	Ravenhill	Isolated incidents of urinating in private gardens when returning to vehicles, complaints received in relation to parking	Being drunk

Safety incidents

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
17/01/2009	Ravenhill	Stand evacuated due to adverse weather conditions	
17/01/2009	The Oval, Glentoran	Match abandoned due to floodlights becoming loose due to adverse weather conditions	

Offences Related to Sport

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been convicted of offences committed (i) before; (ii) during; and (iii) after the Northern Ireland vs Poland football international on 28 March 2009; and to outline the sentences handed down as a result of these convictions.

(AQW 2707/11)

Minister of Justice: The information requested is not available in the format requested, however the following table details incidents at and related to sporting events in recent years.

SPORTS INCIDENTS**FOOTBALL**

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
06/11/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville supporters causing disturbance in local bar. PSNI officers attacked. After match stones thrown at police car and Cliftonville supporters bus.	5 arrests public order and assault on police.
16/10/2010	Solitude (Cliftonville v Glentoran)	Alcohol removed from Glentoran supporters as they arrived on bus.	Alcohol on buses
09/10/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Linfield)	Male shouting obscenities at Linfield team bus following game.	Chanting abuse

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
25/9/2010	Coleraine Showgrounds (Coleraine v Ballymena)	Youths ('Coleraine casuals') gathered after second half of match. Banger thrown at police car. Youths continued to cause annoyance, throwing bangers at each other and passers by.	
28/08/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Glentoran)	Glentoran supporters entered sterile zone, failed to leave when requested.	Pitch incursion
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31/10/2010	Donegal Celtic Suffolk Road (Donegal Celtic v Cliftonville)	Altercation between a DC supporter and a Cliftonville supporter	
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15/08/2009	Shamrock Park, Portadown FC (Portadown v Glentoran)	Supporter ran onto pitch and attacked Glentoran player.	Pitch incursion
28/03/2009	Windsor Park (NI v Poland)	Violence inside and outside ground before, during and after match. Assistant referee struck by coin. Fans attack police with fireworks	Fireworks
13/01/2009	Windsor Park (Linfield v Cliftonville)	Cliftonville official hit by plastic bottle	Missiles
26/12/2008	Windsor Park (Linfield v Glentoran)	Trouble causing play to be suspended	
04/11/2008	Windsor Park	Linfield players hit by a firework	Fireworks
Oct 2008	The Brandywell (Derry City FC)	Sectarian language towards stewards	Chanting/abuse
22/03/2008	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Lisburn Distillery)	Missiles thrown onto pitch during match	Missiles
Oct 2007	Windsor Park	Baseball thrown onto pitch and flag burned in the wooden stand	Missile
11/08/2007	Ballymena Showgrounds (Ballymena v Linfield)	Sectarian chanting	Chanting/abuse

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
May 2006	Mourneview Park, Glenavon FC	Crowd trouble after Irish Cup semi final	
23/04/05	The Oval, (Linfield v Glentoran)	Major trouble at match. Hundreds of fans on pitch fighting and throwing missiles	Pitch incursion, missiles
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02/05/2004	Windsor Park	2 men stabbed at Irish Cup Final	
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20/11/2004	Casement Park	Referee attacked at Ulster Cup semi final	Pitch incursion

RUGBY

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
Ongoing	Ravenhill	Isolated incidents of urinating in private gardens when returning to vehicles, complaints received in relation to parking	Being drunk

Safety incidents

Date	Location	Incident	Type of Offence
17/01/2009	Ravenhill	Stand evacuated due to adverse weather conditions	
17/01/2009	The Oval, Glentoran	Match abandoned due to floodlights becoming loose due to adverse weather conditions	

BMF Business Services

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Justice how much his Department, and its arms-length bodies, have spent on BMF Business Services since May 2007.

(AQW 2727/11)

Minister of Justice: The Department of Justice came into existence on 12th April 2010. Details of expenditure relating to BMF Business Services before that date are a matter for the previous department.

Expenditure incurred by the Department of Justice and its arms-length bodies is shown in the table below:

Body	Amount
DoJ Core	£888
Northern Ireland Prison Service	£74
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	£39
Youth Justice Agency	£654
Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service	£1,116
Police Service Northern Ireland	£4,438
Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission	£1,146
Probation Board Northern Ireland	£2,744
Prisoner Ombudsman	£350
Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland	£411
Northern Ireland Law Commission	£195
Office of the Police Ombudsman Northern Ireland	£1,948
Northern Ireland Policing Board	£6,303
Policing Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust	£928
Total	£21,234

The expenditure shown above is from 1st April 2010 to 30th November 2010 as, under Machinery of Government rules, the DOJ will account for expenditure from 1st April 2010.

Convictions for Carrying a Weapon

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Justice how many people under the age of 18 have been convicted for carrying a weapon in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2737/11)

Minister of Justice: The table below gives the number under 18 years old convicted for an offence related to the illegal possession of a weapon.

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 UNDER THE AGE OF 18 CONVICTED FOR AN OFFENCE RELATED TO THE ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON 2002-2006

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number convicted	32	30	36	18	34

1 Includes the offences 'armed with offensive weapon with intent to commit offence', 'possessing offensive weapon in a public place', 'possessing article with blade or point in a public place', 'possessing article

with blade or point on school premises', 'possessing offensive weapon on school premises', 'possessing handgun without certificate', 'possessing firearm with intent', 'possession of firearms by a minor', 'possession of firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence'.

Proceeds of Crime Legislation

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Justice how much money has been recouped under proceeds of crime legislation in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2741/11)

Minister of Justice: I am unable to advise how much money was recouped before 2008/09, because prior to this period the Home Office, who administered the recovery scheme across the UK, did not keep a separate record of the net value of criminal assets recovered in Northern Ireland.

This practice changed following the publication of a Home Office assets recovery action plan in May 2007, which set a target for the recovery of criminal assets across the UK. Stemming from this a Northern Ireland Assets Recovery Action Plan was published in July 2008 setting targets for Northern Ireland in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

From 2008/09 to the end of November 2010 the net value of criminal assets recovered in Northern Ireland is as follows:

Year	Amount
2008/09	£7,315,629 (criminal and civil)
2009/10	£4,207,852 (criminal and civil).
2010/11 from 1 April to 30 November	£2,305,357 (criminal only).

Reoffending Rates

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice to detail the reoffending rates of prisoners compared with the rest of the UK and the Republic of Ireland, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2775/11)

Minister of Justice: Figures for Northern Ireland are only available for the years 2004 – 2007. The following table details the proportion of those adults discharged from custody who were convicted within 18 months:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007
% Reoffending	32.0%	37.1%	37.7%	36.6%

I have commissioned important work to develop a new, comprehensive Reducing Offending Strategy. The strategy aims to reshape fundamentally our approach to tackling the factors leading people into the criminal justice system and the obstacles which hinder them from getting back out of it.

Crime statistics for England and Wales are available on the Ministry of Justice and Home Office websites (www.justice.gov.uk, www.homeoffice.gov.uk), for Scotland on the Scottish Government Statistics website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics>) and for the Republic of Ireland on the Central Statistics Office Ireland website (<http://www.cso.ie>).

Prison Population

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice to detail the prison population in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 2776/11)

Minister of Justice: The figures are shown in the table below:

Financial Year	Average population
2000/01	1010
2001/02	926
2002/03	1050
2003/04	1176
2004/05	1277
2005/06	1328
2006/07	1495
2007/08	1473
2008/09	1492
2009/10	1449

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2814/11)

Minister of Justice: There are no officials within my Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions.

One official currently works within the Department's European Unit, which was established in April 2010 to manage the implications of EU policy, legislation and structural initiatives for the criminal justice system.

To date, the Department of Justice has not accessed European funding. The European Unit is currently examining EU funding programmes for Criminal and Civil Justice to identify areas where the Department could apply for funds in 2011.

Erroneous Release of Sean Gerard Cahill from Maghaberry Prison

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice for his assessment of the level of risk posed to the public as a result of the erroneous release of Sean Gerard Cahill from Maghaberry Prison.

(AQW 2816/11)

Minister of Justice: I am advised by PSNI that Sean Gerard Cahill is not considered to be a high risk individual and that he poses no particular risk to the public. PSNI is mounting an operational effort to re-apprehend Mr Cahill.

Causeway IT System

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) whether a recent IT system error contributed to the erroneous release of prisoners; (ii) if this IT system error involved the recently installed Causeway IT System; and (iii) whether this system is linked with the Prison Service system, and if not, whether he intends to establish a link as a matter of urgency.

(AQW 2820/11)

Minister of Justice:

- (i) There is no evidence to suggest that an IT system error contributed to the erroneous release of either Devidas Paliutis or Connelly James Cummins.

An inquiry to establish the circumstances which led to the erroneous release of Sean Gerard Cahill is still ongoing. However at this stage it is clear that the incident almost certainly involved an element of IT system error.

- (ii) The nature of the IT system error involved has not yet been fully established but there is no reason to believe that Causeway is involved.
- (iii) The Causeway IT system is already linked with the Prison Service IT system, PRISM.

28-Day Charge Sheets in Domestic Violence Cases

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice whether he intends to review the practice of 28-day charge sheets in domestic violence cases and instead, when there is sufficient evidence, to introduce an overnight remand and appearance at the first available Magistrates Court.

(AQW 2821/11)

Minister of Justice: The practice of using 28-day charge sheets in cases involving domestic violence is a prosecutorial policy matter for the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Public Prosecution Service.

The Chief Constable is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable. As my Department is not responsible for the PPS you may therefore wish to direct your question to the PPS and PSNI.

Legislative Proposals in the European Commission

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice whether there is a specific individual or section within his Department to identify, at an early stage, legislative proposals in the European Commission and the potential impact on Northern Ireland.

(AQW 2834/11)

Minister of Justice: In April 2010, the Department established a European Unit to manage the implications of EU policy, legislation and structural initiatives for the criminal justice system within Northern Ireland.

Executive Office in Brussels

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Justice to detail any communication his Department has had with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels in each of the last 24 months.

(AQW 2835/11)

Minister of Justice: Details of communication between the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels since the Department's inception are set out in Table A below.

Table A

Month	Purpose of Contact
June 2010	Exchange of emails providing details of respective roles and responsibilities
Sept 2010	Email from NI Executive office alerting officials about seminar on role of European Court of Human Rights in area of Criminal Law
Sept 2010	Email from NI Executive office alerting officials to possible EU operating grants within area of Civil Justice
Sept 2010	Exchange of correspondence exploring possible Ministerial visit to Brussels for attendance at Justice Home Affairs Council meeting.
Oct 2010	Request from NI Executive office for advice on property fraud within EU.

Month	Purpose of Contact
Nov 2010	Exchange of correspondence confirming programme for visit by DOJ officials to Brussels office
Nov 2010	Meeting to:- Agree arrangements for NI Executive office to promote DOJ interests in Brussels; Explore how NI Executive office will support justice related applications for EU funds: and Explore how NI Executive office will support Ministerial attendance at Justice Home Affairs Council meetings.

Attacks Against Orange Halls

Mr W Humphrey asked the Minister of Justice how many of the convictions for attacks against Orange Halls in each of the last five years were subject to the enhanced sentencing criteria for hate crime. **(AQW 2848/11)**

Minister of Justice: It is not possible to provide figures for the period requested. However, I can advise that the Northern Ireland Court Service carried out a manual trawl of enhanced sentencing records for the 2007 to 2009 period and none of these related to attacks on Orange Halls. This may be due to the fact that the criteria relating to enhanced sentencing for hate crime is aimed at protecting individuals as opposed to buildings.

Attacks Against Orange Halls

Mr W Humphrey asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the number of recorded attacks against Orange Halls in each of the last five years; and (ii) of these how many (a) have been cleared; (b) resulted in prosecutions; and (c) resulted in convictions.

(AQW 2850/11)

Minister of Justice: The PSNI is unable to provide statistics for the time period specified, however they have provided the following figures in relation to recorded attacks against Orange Halls and subsequent clearances:-

Year	Offences recorded	Offences cleared
2007/08	59	4
2008/09	59	2
2009/10	68	0

Source: PSNI Central Statistics Unit

Over the last three years, three cases have been referred to the Public Prosecution Service and proceedings have been taken against four persons, all of whom have been convicted for offences relating to criminal damage.

Jury Service

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last five years, to detail (i) the number of people called for jury service; (ii) the number of people who took up a place on a jury; (iii) a breakdown of the total amount of expenses paid out; and (iv) any expense claims for items of £100 or more. **(AQW 2857/11)**

Minister of Justice: Information on jurors was not centrally collated prior to the introduction of a new IT system in October 2006. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the requested information prior

to 2007 without incurring disproportionate cost. Nor is it possible to answer part (iv) without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1 below sets out the number of jurors summoned to attend for jury service and the number who were sworn on to a jury. Jurors are usually summoned to attend court between September and June each year.

TABLE 1

Year (Sept-June)	Number Summoned	Number Sworn*
2007/8	12009	3432
2008/9	12644	3546
2009/10	15271	4121

Table 2 below details the expenses paid to jurors at this stage.

TABLE 2

Year (Sept-June)	2007/8 £	2008/9 £	2009/10 £
Loss of Earnings	603,631	577,491	594,029
Travel	203,551	193,116	213,182
Subsistence	73,910	68,871	68,595
Other	21,678	20,272	18,158
Total	902,770	859,750	893,964

Male Victims of Domestic Violence

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Justice to detail, for the last full year for which figures are available, how many applications for (i) contact orders; (ii) non-molestation orders; and (iii) occupation orders were granted to male victims of domestic violence.

(AQW 2876/11)

Minister of Justice: In 2009, 9,627 interim and final contact orders were made. However, information on the gender of applicants is not collected and not all contact orders applications relate to domestic violence.

Information on the gender of applicants and respondents in non molestation and occupation orders is not routinely collected and complete information is not available. However, figures on applications granted against female respondents, where gender information has been recorded, are available. These figures may include some interim and final orders where both the applicant and the respondent were female.

The table below details the number of orders made where information on gender has been recorded and where the respondent was female.

TABLE: INTERIM AND FINAL NON MOLESTATION AND OCCUPATION ORDERS MADE IN 2009 AGAINST FEMALE RESPONDENTS

Non-Molestation	Occupation
530	151

Foreign Nationals Serving Prison Sentences

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to detail the number of foreign nationals who have been jailed in each of the last five years broken down by (i) nationality; and (ii) type of offence.

(AQW 2885/11)

Minister of Justice: The Northern Ireland Prison Service started to collate statistics on the committal and discharge of foreign national prisoners in July 2006 and as a result of this it is only possible to give complete year figures from 2007.

These figures and those in the attached report are based on committals. Some will have been as a result of fine warrants. Where this is the case not all of the charges laid will have resulted in a continuing custodial sentence.

The figures quoted are correct at 16 December 2010.

- (i) The breakdown of foreign national prisoners who have been committed in the last four years by nationality is:

TABLE A: BREAKDOWN BY NATIONALITY

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Afghanistan	1	0	0	0	1
Albania	2	2	1	1	6
Algeria	5	3	3	2	13
Angola	0	1	0	0	1
Argentina	1	0	0	0	1
Armenia	0	0	0	1	1
Australia	4	1	1	1	7
Azerbaijan	0	0	2	0	2
Bangladesh	2	2	1	4	9
Belarus	1	0	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	0	1	1
Benin	0	1	0	0	1
Bolivia	0	1	1	0	2
Brazil	4	4	4	2	14
Bulgaria	1	3	0	6	10
Cameroon	0	1	1	1	3
Canada	2	1	1	0	4
Cape Verde	0	0	0	1	1
China	7	102	27	21	157
Congo	1	3	1	0	5
Czech Republic	2	3	4	2	11
Denmark	1	0	0	0	1

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Djibouti	0	0	0	1	1
East Timor	0	3	0	2	5
Egypt	1	1	2	1	5
Estonia	0	0	1	1	2
France	0	1	0	0	1
Georgia	1	0	2	1	4
Germany	3	1	0	2	6
Ghana	0	2	0	0	2
Grenada	0	0	1	0	1
GuineaBissau	0	1	2	0	3
Guyana	1	0	0	0	1
Hong Kong	0	0	0	1	1
Hungary	1	3	2	1	7
India	1	1	2	0	4
Iran	2	2	0	1	5
Iraq	0	1	5	3	9
Italy	0	1	2	1	4
Ivory Coast	0	1	1	0	2
Korea	0	1	0	0	1
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	0	0	1
Latvia	22	16	22	22	82
Liberia	1	0	0	0	1
Lithuania	49	63	112	114	338
Malaysia	0	2	0	1	3
Mali	0	0	1	0	1
Moldova	3	2	0	0	5
Netherlands	1	8	0	1	10
Nigeria	13	21	13	17	64
North Korea	0	1	0	0	1
Other	2	5	6	0	13
Pakistan	0	2	2	2	6
Palestine	1	1	2	0	4
Philippines	0	0	1	0	1
Poland	24	70	72	67	233

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Portugal	19	18	30	30	97
Romania	6	9	12	19	46
Russia	3	1	3	2	9
Rwanda	1	0	0	0	1
Sierra Leone	1	1	1	0	3
Slovakia	1	4	8	5	18
Slovenia	0	1	0	0	1
Somalia	0	2	4	1	7
South Africa	5	4	1	3	13
Spain	1	1	0	2	4
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	1	1
Sudan	1	5	4	0	10
Surinam	1	0	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	0	1
Thailand	0	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	0	0	2	1	3
Turkey	1	0	2	0	3
Uganda	1	0	2	0	3
Ukraine	1	2	2	3	8
USA	1	1	3	2	7
Vietnam	0	3	0	1	4
Zimbabwe	4	4	2	3	13
Total	208	396	374	355	1333

- (ii) A detailed report for each year which sets out the types of offences and the numbers charged with each offence is at Annex A

ANNEX A

ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS BY OFFENCE

2007

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Abandoning Child Under 16
1	Affray
2	Aggravated Assault on a Female or Boy Under 14 Years
1	Armed Robbery

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Armed with Offensive Weapon with Intent to Commit Offence
8	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
8	Assault on Police (Offences Prior to 9 February 1999 Only)
1	Assault With Intent To Rape
1	Attempted Burglary With Intent to Steal - Non-Dwelling
1	Attempted Forgery
2	Attempted Fraud by False Representation
1	Attempted Harassment
2	Attempted Murder
1	Attempted Tampering with Motor Vehicle
2	Attempted Theft
1	Attempted Theft from Dwelling
2	Attempting to take a Motor Vehicle without Authority
1	Attempt to Commit Grievous Bodily Harm
1	Behaving in a Disorderly Manner on Board an Aircraft
5	Breach of Bail
1	Breach of Conditional Discharge
4	Breach of Non-Molestation Order
2	Breach of Recognizance Entered into as a Surety
1	Breach of Suspended Sentence
1	Breach of Traffic Sign
2	Burglary
1	Burglary and Theft - Dwelling
1	Burglary And Theft - Non Dwelling
1	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Non Dwelling
2	Careless Driving
1	Causing Death by Dangerous Driving
1	Causing Grievous Bodily Injury by Dangerous Driving
10	Common Assault
2	Common Assault On Child Or Young Person
1	Concealing Criminal Property
1	Conspiracy To Rob
2	Consume Liquor In Public Place - Lga

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Consuming Intoxicating Liquor Outside Hours
1	Counterfeiting With Intent To Use
16	Criminal Damage
1	Cultivating Cannabis
6	Dangerous Driving
4	Deception
1	Dishonestly Causing Electricity To Be Diverted
8	Disorderly Behaviour
21	Driving When Unfit Through Drink Or Drug
14	Driving While Disqualified (Offence Prior To 1 October 1997)
4	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Blood
12	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Breath
4	Driving Without Due Care And Attention
1	Endangering Aircraft
1	Entering Aircraft When Drunk
1	Escaping From Lawful Custody
2	Excess Speed
4	Extradition
3	Failing To Answer To Bail
2	Failing To Give Correct Name And Address
1	Failing To Give Particulars - Injury Accident
9	Failing To Provide Specimen When Driving
5	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Injury
2	Failing To Report An Accident Whereby Injury Was Caused
4	Failing To Report Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
5	Failing To Stop For Police
1	Failing To Stop - Injury Accident (Article 176)
3	Failing To Stop Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Wear Seat Belt
1	False Imprisonment
1	Fixed Penalty Notice
1	Forgery

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Forging A Licence
3	Forging A Registration Document
1	Found On Premises For Unlawful Purpose
2	Fraud By False Representation
2	Fraudulently Importing Class A Controlled Drug
3	Going Equipped For Burglary
6	Going Equipped For Theft
2	Grievous Bodily Harm
1	Grievous Bodily Harm With Intent
1	Harassment
1	Illegal Entry To United Kingdom
2	Importing A Controlled Drug
4	Inciting Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
8	Indecent Assault On Female
1	Indecent Assault On Female Child
1	Indecent Exposure
1	Jaywalking
1	Keeper Of An Unlicensed Vehicle
2	Kidnapping
1	Making False Statement In Connection With Identity Documents
1	Making Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children
1	Malicious Wounding
1	Manslaughter
2	Murder
27	No Driving Licence
3	No Goods Vehicle Test Certificate
2	No L Plates Displayed (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
4	No Tv Licence
1	No Vehicle Excise Disc
16	No Vehicle Test Certificate
1	Obstructing Immigration Officer
1	Obstructing Police
6	Obstructing Police (For Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 Only)

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Obstructing An Authorised Person (P.O.T. 2005)
1	Obtaining A Money Transfer By Deception
7	Possessing Altered Documents Under The Immigration Act
4	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug
7	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
8	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug
8	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
1	Possessing Criminal Property
1	Possessing Firearm In Suspicious Circumstances
1	Possessing Forging Equipment
1	Possessing Listed False Instrument
1	Possessing Listed False Instrument With Intent To Use
7	Possessing Offensive Weapon In Public Place
4	Possession Etc Of Articles For Use In Frauds
4	Possession Of A False Identity Document With Intent
1	Possession Of Anything For Purpose Of Dishonestly Obtaining Service
1	Possession Of Documents With Intent To Commit Personation
12	Possession Of False Identity Document
1	Possess Of Firearm/Imitation Firearm With Intent To Cause Fear Of Viol
1	Possess Of Firearm With Intent
1	Poss Firearm Or Imitation F/A With Intent To Cause Fear Of Violence
2	Preventing Meter From Registering Electricity Supplied
8	Rape (Common Law)
14	Receiving Stolen Goods
1	Resisting Police
9	Resisting Police (For Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 ONLY)
1	Rider Of Motor Cycle Failing To Wear Protective Headgear (1999 Regs)
1	Robbery
1	Supplying Class A Controlled Drug
2	Taking A Motor Vehicle Without Authority
17	Theft
11	Theft - Shoplifting
1	Threats To Damage Property

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Threats To Harm
11	Threats To Kill
4	Trespassing
1	Unaccompanied L Driver (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
2	Using A False Instrument With Intent To
49	Using A Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
1	Using False Instrument With Intent

2008

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Affray
3	Aggravated Assault On A Female Or Boy Under 14 Years
1	Allowing Self To Be Carried On Conveyance Taken Without Authority
1	Armed With Offensive Weapon With Intent To Commit Offence
6	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
14	Assault On Police (Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 Only)
1	Attempted Assault On Police (Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 Only)
1	Attempted Burglary And Theft - Non Dwelling
1	Attempted Burglary With Intent To Steal - Non-Dwelling
1	Attempted Criminal Damage
1	Attempted Grievous Bodily Harm With Intent
2	Attempted Murder
2	Attempted Rape
1	Attempted Robbery
5	Attempted Theft
1	Attempted Theft Of Mail In Transmission
1	Attempt To Produce Controlled Drug
1	Bail Revocation
1	Begging
12	Being Concerned In Production Of Class C Controlled Drug
1	Being Concerned In Supply Of Class A Controlled Drug
1	Being Concerned In Supply Of Class B Controlled Drug
4	Blackmail

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
2	Breach Of Bail
1	Breach Of Probation Order
3	Breach Of Suspended Sentence
3	Breach Of The Immigration Act
2	Brothel Keeping
4	Burglary
1	Burglary And Attempted Theft - Dwelling
1	Burglary And Attempted Theft - Non Dwelling
3	Burglary And Theft - Dwelling
1	Burglary And Theft - Non Dwelling
1	Burglary With Intent To Commit Rape
1	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Dwelling
2	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Non Dwelling
3	Careless Driving
1	Carrying Child Under 14 Years Without Se
1	Carrying Imitation Firearm With Intent
1	Causing Death By Dangerous Driving
2	Causing Grievous Bodily Injury By Dangerous Driving
1	Causing Or Inciting Prostitution For Gain
13	Common Assault
1	Common Assault (Indictable)
2	Concealing Criminal Property
1	Conspiracy To Commit Forgery
7	Conspiracy To Produce Class C Drugs
1	Consume Liquor In Public Place - Lga
1	Consuming Intoxicating Liquor In Public
1	Counterfeiting With Intent To Use
14	Criminal Damage
47	Cultivating Cannabis
7	Dangerous Driving
6	Deception
2	Defective Tyre - General
4	Dishonestly Causing Electricity To Be Diverted

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
3	Dishonestly Using Electricity
9	Disorderly Behaviour
29	Driving When Unfit Through Drink Or Drug
18	Driving While Disqualified (Offence Prior To 1 October 1997)
1	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Blood
13	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Breath
6	Driving Without Due Care And Attention
1	Endangering Aircraft
1	Entering United Kingdom Without Passport Etc.
4	Excess Speed
4	Extradition
1	Extradition Category 1
3	Failing To Answer To Bail
2	Failing To Give Correct Name And Address
2	Failing To Produce Documents As Required By Immigration Act
2	Failing To Produce Driving Licence
7	Failing To Provide Specimen When Driving
4	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Injury
1	Failing To Report Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Stop For Police
1	Failing To Stop Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	False Accounting
1	False Declaration To Obtain Licence
1	False Imprisonment
1	False Representation To Creditors
3	Fixed Penalty Notice
2	Forgery
2	Forging A Licence
4	Fraud By False Representation
2	Fraudulent Evasion Of Customs Prohibition On Importation Of Goods
1	Fraudulently Claiming Tax Credit
4	Fraudulently Importing Class A Controlled Drug

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Fraudulently Using A Certificate Of Insurance
1	Fraudulently Using A Licence
4	Going Equipped For Burglary
6	Going Equipped For Theft
1	Going Equipped To Cheat
5	Grievous Bodily Harm
6	Grievous Bodily Harm With Intent
1	Gross Indecency With Child
2	Handling Stolen Goods (By Dealing)
1	Harassment
15	Illegal Entry To United Kingdom
7	Importing A Controlled Drug
2	Inciting Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
3	Indecent Assault On Female
1	Indecent Assault On Female Child
3	Indecent Behaviour
2	Indecent Exposure
1	Interference With Vehicles
1	Interfering With A Motor Vehicle Causing Danger
1	Jaywalking
1	Making False Statement In Connection With Identity Documents
1	Making False Statement To Procure Passport
2	Malicious Wounding
1	Manslaughter
3	Murder
35	No Driving Licence
2	No L Plates Displayed (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
4	No Tv Licence
1	No Vehicle Excise Disc
23	No Vehicle Test Certificate
1	Obstructing Police
14	Obstructing Police (For Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 Only)
1	Obtaining Property By Deception

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
2	Obtaining Services By Deception
1	Passenger Being Drunk On Board An Aircraft
2	Perverting The Course Of Justice
12	Possessing Altered Documents Under The Immigration Act
1	Possessing Article With Blade Or Point In Public Place
9	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug
4	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
1	Possessing Class B Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
41	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug
41	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
1	Possessing Counterfeit Currency
11	Possessing Criminal Property
1	Possessing Firearm In Suspicious Circumstances
9	Possessing Offensive Weapon In Public Place
8	Possession Etc Of Articles For Use In Frauds
1	Possession Of A Class B Controlled Drug
10	Possession Of A False Identity Document With Intent
3	Possession Of Counterfeit Goods
38	Possession Of False Identity Document
1	Preventing Meter From Registering Electricity Supplied
26	Producing Class C Controlled Drug
1	Producing Controlled Drug
9	Rape (Common Law)
5	Receiving Stolen Goods
13	Resisting Police (For Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 ONLY)
1	Supplying Class A Controlled Drug
1	Supplying Class B Controlled Drug
1	Supplying Class C Controlled Drug
4	Taking A Motor Vehicle Without Authority
29	Theft
15	Theft - Shoplifting
17	Threats To Kill
4	Trespassing

No. of Individuals	Offence Description
2	Unaccompanied L Driver (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
1	Unlawful Charitable Collection
5	Using A False Instrument With Intent To
75	Using A Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
1	Using Criminal Property
3	Using False Instrument With Intent

2009

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
8	Affray
14	Aggravated Assault On A Female Or Boy Under 14 Years
1	Aggravated Burglary
2	Aggravated Burglary And Attempt To Inflict Gbh(Scheduled)
3	Aggravated Burglary And Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm
1	Aggravated Burglary And Stealing
1	Aggravated Burglary With Intent To Commit Grievous Bodily Harm
1	Aggravated Vehicle Taking Causing Damage
2	Aggravated Vehicle Taking In Which Vehic
1	Aiding And Abetting Indecent Assault On Female Child
1	Alcohol Related Offences
2	Allowing Self To Be Carried
2	Altering Documents Under The Immigration Act
1	Altering Tachograph Entry
1	Angled For Fish In Prohibited Area
15	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
4	Assault On Police
10	Assault On Police (Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 Only)
1	Assisting Offenders
1	Assisting Unlawful Immigration To Member State (Facilitation)
2	Attempted Burglary And Theft - Dwelling
2	Attempted Burglary With Intent To Steal - Dwelling
3	Attempted Criminal Damage
1	Attempted Forgery

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Attempted Fraud By False Representation
1	Attempted Going Equipped For Theft
1	Attempted Grievous Bodily Harm With Intent
1	Attempted Incitement To Murder
2	Attempted Murder
3	Attempted Rape
9	Attempted Theft
1	Attempted Theft - Shoplifting
1	Attempting To Obtain A Money Transfer By Deception
1	Attempting To Procure Girl Under 21 Years To Become Prostitute
1	Attempt To Pervert The Course Of Justice
1	Attempt To Produce Controlled Drug
3	Being Concerned In Production Of Class C Controlled Drug
2	Being Concerned In Supply Of Class A Controlled Drug
6	Blackmail
9	Breach Of Bail
1	Breach Of Bail Art 6(3)
1	Breach Of Bye Laws
1	Breach Of Combination Order
1	Breach Of Community Based Order - Adult
4	Breach Of Community Service Order
1	Breach Of Conditional Discharge
1	Breach Of Custody Probation Order
8	Breach Of Non-Molestation Order
1	Breach Of Occupation Order
2	Breach Of Recognizance Entered Into As A Surety
2	Breach Of Suspended Sentence
2	Breach Of Suspended Sentence- In Ct Comp
1	Breach Of Temporary Traffic Regulation (Speeding)
1	Breach Of The Immigration Act
3	Burglary
4	Burglary And Attempted Theft - Dwelling
7	Burglary And Theft - Dwelling

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
2	Burglary And Theft - Non Dwelling
1	Burglary With Intent To Commit Rape
5	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Dwelling
1	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Non Dwelling
1	Carrying A Firearm In A Public Place (An Imitation Firearm)
1	Carrying Firearm In A Public Place
1	Carrying Firearm With Criminal Intent
3	Causing Death By Dangerous Driving
1	Causing Death By Driving Carelessly With Excess Alcohol
3	Causing Grievous Bodily Injury By Dangerous Driving
3	Causing Grievous Bodily Injury By Drivin
1	Causing Grievous Bodily Injury By Incons
1	Causing Or Inciting Prostitution For Gain
1	Causing Or Procuring Cruelty To Children
1	Child Abduction (By Other Person)
32	Common Assault
9	Common Assault (Indictable)
1	Concealing Criminal Property
1	Conspiracy To Murder
1	Conspiracy To Pervert The Course Of Justice
1	Conspiracy To Produce Class C Drugs
2	Consume Liquor In Public Place - Lga
1	Contempt Of Court
1	Contravened A Traffic Sign
1	Contravention Of Traffic Sign
1	Controlling Prostitution For Gain
32	Criminal Damage
1	Cruelty To Children
10	Cultivating Cannabis
9	Dangerous Driving
2	Deception
1	Defective Light
1	Defective Lighting Device

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
2	Defective Tyre - General
1	Dishonestly Using Electricity
1	Dishonestly Using Telecommunications System
13	Disorderly Behaviour
2	Doing An Act With Intent To Pervert The Course Of Justice
2	Driving Etc While Disqualified (Offences Between 15 November 2007 And
5	Driving Unfit Vehicle
20	Driving When Unfit Through Drink Or Drug
1	Driving While Disqualified
7	Driving While Disqualified (Offence Between 1 October 1997 And 15 Nove
26	Driving While Disqualified (Offence Prior To 1 October 1997)
8	Driving While Disqualified (Offences On Or After 16 July 2008)
1	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Blood
23	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Breath
3	Driving Without Due Care And Attention
1	Entering Into An Arrangement To Acquire
2	Entering United Kingdom Without Passport Etc.
1	Estreat Bail - Principal Party
3	Excess Speed
3	Extradition
9	Failing To Answer To Bail
7	Failing To Answer To Bail As Soon As Reasonably Practicable
1	Failing To Carry Psv Driving Licence
1	Failing To Display Taxi Plates
1	Failing To Notify Doe Of Ownership Of Vehicle (New Owner)
2	Failing To Produce Documents As Required By Immigration Act
2	Failing To Produce Driving Licence
6	Failing To Provide Specimen When Driving
2	Failing To Provide Specimen When In Charge Unfit
1	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Injury
1	Failing To Report An Accident Whereby Injury Was Caused
1	Failing To Report Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
3	Failing To Stop For Police
1	Failing To Stop - Injury Accident (Article 176)
1	Failing To Stop Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Surrender To Bail (Application To Estreat Recognizance)
1	Failing To Take Daily Rest Period From Driving
6	Failing To Wear Seat Belt
4	Failing To Wear Seat Belt (Driver)
1	Fail To Comply With Requirement By Authorised Examiner
1	Fail To Ensure Safety Of Passenger On Psv
1	Fail To Surrender To Police Bail (Application To Estreat Recognizance)
1	Fail To Use Recording Equipment (Dvta)
1	False Application Under Financial Services Act
1	False Declaration When Registering Vehicle
8	False Imprisonment
1	Fixed Penalty Notice
3	Forgery
1	Forging A Licence
1	Forging A Registration Document
9	Fraud By False Representation
2	Fraudulently Importing Class A Controlled Drug
1	Fraudulently Using A Licence
1	Fraudulently Using Trade Mark When Exposing Goods For Sale
7	Going Equipped For Burglary
16	Going Equipped For Theft
3	Grievous Bodily Harm
5	Grievous Bodily Harm With Intent
1	Gross Indecency
2	Gross Indecency With Child
2	Handling Property Stolen In The Republic Of Ireland
1	Handling Stolen Goods (By Dealing)
3	Harassment
2	Illegal Entry To United Kingdom
1	Importing A Controlled Drug

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Improper Use Of Public Communications Network
3	In Charge When Unfit Through Drink Or Dr
1	In Charge With Excess Alcohol In Breath
1	Incitement To Murder
1	Incite To Assault
1	Inciting Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm
2	Indecent Assault On Female
3	Indecent Assault On Female Child
1	Indecent Assault On Male Child
1	Indecent Behaviour
1	Indecent Exposure
1	Interference With Vehicles
1	Interfering With A Motor Vehicle Causing Danger
1	Intimidating A Witness
2	Intimidation - Witness
1	Keeper Of An Unlicensed Vehicle
4	Kidnapping
1	Make False Statement To Induce Deposit
2	Making A False Declaration To Obtain Certificate Of Insurance
1	Making False Represent. To Obtain Benefit From Nat Ins Fund
1	Making Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children
1	Malicious Damage
1	Malicious Wounding
1	Manslaughter
1	Meeting A Child Following Sexual Groomin
2	Motoring Offences
2	Murder
1	No Category B Driving Licence (Dva)
37	No Driving Licence
2	No Goods Vehicle Test Certificate
11	No Insurance (Dvta)
2	No L Plates Displayed (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
1	No Psv Licence (Dvta)

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
2	No Taxi Drivers Licence
1	No Taxi Roof Sign
4	No Tv Licence
5	No Vehicle Excise Disc
1	No Vehicle Test Certificate
23	No Vehicle Test Certificate
2	Obstructing A Constable - Road Traffic Order
10	Obstructing Police
12	Obstructing Police (For Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 Only)
1	Obtaining Services By Deception
1	Obtaining Services Dishonestly
1	Pedestrian On Motorway
1	Permitting Using A Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
1	Persistent Improper Use Of Electronic Communications To Cause Anxiety
1	Perverting The Course Of Justice
1	Possessing A Document Or Mark With Intent To Deceive
7	Possessing Altered Documents Under The Immigration Act
1	Possessing Ammunition Without Certificate
1	Possessing An Indecent Photograph Or Pse
5	Possessing Article With Blade Or Point In Public Place
9	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug
4	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
7	Possessing Class B Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
13	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug
6	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
2	Possessing Criminal Property
2	Possessing Firearm In Suspicious Circumstances
1	Possessing Firearm With Intent
18	Possessing Offensive Weapon In Public Place
1	Possession Etc Of A Prohibited Weapon (Discharge Of Electricity Or Noxi
6	Possession Etc Of Articles For Use In Frauds
11	Possession Of A Class B Controlled Drug
14	Possession Of A False Identity Document With Intent

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
2	Possession Of A Firearm Or Ammunition In Suspicious Circumstances
1	Possession Of Counterfeit Goods
22	Possession Of False Identity Document
1	Possession Of Firearm Or Ammunition With Intent To Endanger Life Or P
6	Possession Of Identity Document Relating To Another
2	Possession Of Improperly Obtained Identity Documents With Intent
1	Possession Of Improperly Obtained Identity Documents Without Reasonabl
1	Possession Of Loaded Firearm Whilst Drunk Or Under Influence Of Drugs
1	Possession Of Photograph Or Pseudo-Photograph(S) Of A Child (From 1.2
1	Possession Of Weapon Designed To Discharge Noxious Liquid Etc
2	Possess Of Firearm/Imitation Firearm With Intent To Cause Fear Of Viol
1	Producing Class A Controlled Drug
1	Producing Class C Controlled Drug
1	Rape (Child)
6	Rape (Common Law)
5	Receiving Stolen Goods
5	Resisting Police
9	Resisting Police (For Offences Prior To 9 February 1999 ONLY)
3	Robbery
1	Sending A Message By Public Telecommunication System To Cause Annoyanc
1	Soliciting Bribe
1	Supplying Class C Controlled Drug
6	Taking A Motor Vehicle Without Authority
1	Taking, Permitting To Be Taken Or Making An Indecent Photograph Or Pse
39	Theft
1	Theft From Dwelling
1	Theft From Person
27	Theft - Shoplifting
1	Threatening To Harm A Witness
5	Threats To Damage Property
1	Threats To Damage Property And So Endanger Life
28	Threats To Kill
2	Trading In Counterfeit Products

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Trading In Prostitution
1	Trafficking Within The Uk For Purposes O
1	Transferring Criminal Property
1	Trespassing
1	Unaccompanied L Driver (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
1	Unlicensed Angling (Othewise Lawful)
1	Use/Keep Vehicle Without Road Tax (1994)
4	Using A False Instrument With Intent To
4	Using A Mobile Phone Whilst Driving (Pre 27 June 07)
82	Using A Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
4	Using False Instrument With Intent
1	Using Vehicle Without Vehicle Excise Licence
1	Wounding
1	Wounding With Intent To Do Grievous Bodily Harm

2010

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Acquiring Criminal Property
1	Acquiring Possession Of Prohibited Goods
51	Aggravated Assault On A Female Or Boy Under 14 Years
1	Aggravated Burglary And Attempting To Inflict Gbh
1	Aggravated Burglary And Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm
2	Aggravated Burglary And Stealing
2	Aggravated Burglary With Intent To Commit Grievous Bodily Harm
1	Aggravated Burglary With Intent To Steal
4	Aggravated Vehicle Taking Causing Damage
2	Aggravated Vehicle Taking In Which Vehic
2	Aiding And Abetting Fraud By False Representation
1	Aiding And Abetting Rape (Offences After 1.2.2009)
1	Aiding And Abetting Using False Instrument With Intent
4	Armed With Offensive Weapon With Intent To Commit Offence
3	Assault At Common Law And S47 Of The Offences Against The Person Act 1
24	Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
16	Assault On Police
1	Assisting Illegal Entry Into Uk
2	Assisting Unlawful Immigration To Member State (Facilitation)
2	Attempted Burglary With Intent To Steal - Dwelling
2	Attempted Criminal Damage
6	Attempted Fraud By False Representation
2	Attempted Murder
1	Attempted Rape (Offences After 01/02/09)
6	Attempted Theft
5	Attempted Theft - Shoplifting
1	Attempted Wounding
1	Attempt To Pervert The Course Of Justice
9	Being Concerned In Production Of Class B Controlled Drug
1	Being Concerned In Supply Of Class A Controlled Drug
9	Being Concerned In Supply Of Class B Controlled Drug
5	Blackmail
1	Bound Over Person In Court
1	Breach Custody Probation Order
12	Breach Of Bail
1	Breach Of Bail Art 6(3)
2	Breach Of Community Based Order - Adult
9	Breach Of Non-Molestation Order
1	Breach Of Occupation Order
1	Breach Of Sexual Offences Prevention Order
25	Breach Of Suspended Sentence- In Ct Comp
1	Breach Of Traffic Sign (Specified By Traffic Sign Regs Sr1997/386)
1	Burglary And Attempted Theft - Dwelling
11	Burglary And Theft - Dwelling
8	Burglary And Theft - Non Dwelling
4	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Dwelling
3	Burglary With Intent To Steal - Non Dwelling
1	Carrying A Firearm In A Public Place (An Imitation Firearm)
2	Cheating The Public Revenue

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Child Abduction (By Other Person)
1	Child Stealing
16	Common Assault
4	Common Assault (Indictable)
1	Common Assault On Child Or Young Person
3	Concealing Criminal Property
2	Conspiracy To Conceal Criminal Property
1	Conspiracy To Cultivate Cannabis
1	Conspiracy To Supply Class A Controlled Drug
1	Conspiring To Supply Class B Controlled Drug
1	Contempt Of Court
3	Converting Criminal Property
40	Criminal Damage
17	Cultivating Cannabis
6	Dangerous Driving
1	Deception
2	Defective Light
1	Defective Lighting Device
2	Defective Tyre - General
1	Dishonestly Causing Electricity To Be Diverted
10	Dishonestly Using Electricity
15	Disorderly Behaviour
1	Doing An Act With Intent To Pervert The Course Of Justice
1	Driving Etc While Disqualified (Offences Between 15 November 2007 And
17	Driving When Unfit Through Drink Or Drug
2	Driving While Disqualified
8	Driving While Disqualified (Offence Between 1 October 1997 And 15 Nove
1	Driving While Disqualified (Offence Prior To 1 October 1997)
37	Driving While Disqualified (Offences On Or After 16 July 2008)
4	Driving Whilst Disqualified Until Tested (Only Offences Before 15 Nov
4	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Blood
37	Driving With Excess Alcohol In Breath
6	Driving Without Due Care And Attention

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Drunk-In-Charge Of A Child Under 7 Years In A Public Place
2	Entering Into An Arrangement To Acquire
1	Entry Into United Kingdom In Breach Of Deportation Order
1	Estreat Bail - Principal Party
8	Excess Speed
1	Exposure (Offences After 01/02/09)
10	Extradition
1	Extradition Category 1
14	Failing To Answer To Bail As Soon As Reasonably Practicable
1	Failing To Comply With Notification Requirements Re: Changes
1	Failing To Give Information Regarding Owner
1	Failing To Leave Public Building - Public Order
5	Failing To Produce Driving Licence
1	Failing To Produce Driving Licence To Court
5	Failing To Produce Insurance
1	Failing To Produce Vehicle Registration Book To Police
2	Failing To Provide Specimen Of Breath For Preliminary Test
4	Failing To Provide Specimen When Driving
1	Failing To Provide Specimen When In Charge Unfit
4	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
1	Failing To Remain Where Accident Occurred Causing Injury
1	Failing To Report An Accident Whereby Injury Was Caused
1	Failing To Report - Injury Accident (Article 176)
4	Failing To Report Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
4	Failing To Stop For Police
2	Failing To Stop - Injury Accident (Article 176)
4	Failing To Stop Where Accident Occurred Causing Damage
3	Failing To Wear Seat Belt (Driver)
3	Fail To Provide Specimen When Driving Wi
1	Fail To Provide Specimen When In Charge With Excess Alcohol
1	Failure To Illuminate Rear Number Plate
9	False Imprisonment
41	Fraud By False Representation

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	Fraudulent Evasion Of Customs Duty Chargeable On Goods
1	Fraudulently Importing Class A Controlled Drug
2	Fraudulently Using A Certificate Of Insurance
2	Going Equipped For Burglary
24	Going Equipped For Theft
1	Going Equipped To Cheat
4	Grievous Bodily Harm
5	Grievous Bodily Harm With Intent
3	Handling Property Stolen In The Republic Of Ireland
3	Handling Stolen Goods (By Dealing)
4	Harassment
1	Illegal Entry To United Kingdom
1	In Charge When Unfit Through Drink Or Dr
4	In Charge With Excess Alcohol In Breath
3	Indecent Assault On Female
4	Indecent Behaviour
1	Indecent Exposure With Intent To Insult A Female
1	Interference With Vehicles
1	Jaywalking
1	Kidnapping/False Imprisonment With Intent To Commit A Sexual Offence (
1	Knowingly Concerned In, Carrying,Removing, Keeping, Concealing Or Deal
4	Making A False Declaration To Obtain Certificate Of Insurance
1	Making False Statement On Matter Required By Statute
2	Making False Statement To Procure Passport
2	Making Off Without Paying
3	Making Or Supplying Articles For Use In
1	Murder
41	No Driving Licence
1	No L Plates Displayed (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
3	No L Plates Displayed (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
1	No L Plates (Large Goods/Passenger-Carrying Vehicle)
1	Non-Patrial Failing To Comply With Residential Instructions
6	No Tv Licence

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
1	No Vehicle Excise Disc
21	No Vehicle Test Certificate
3	Obstructing A Constable - Road Traffic Order
17	Obstructing Police
1	Obtaining A Money Transfer By Deception
1	Obtaining Leave To Enter/Remain By Deception In The United Kingdom
2	Obtaining Property By Deception
1	Obtaining Services By Deception
5	Obtaining Services Dishonestly
1	Permitting Premises To Be Used For Supply Of Class A Drugs
1	Permitting Premises To Be Used For Supply Of Class B Drugs
2	Permitting Using A Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
2	Possessing Altered Documents Under The Immigration Act
1	Possessing Ammunition In Suspicious Circumstances
1	Possessing Ammunition Without Certificate
6	Possessing Article With Blade Or Point In Public Place
6	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug
2	Possessing Class A Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
18	Possessing Class B Controlled Drug With Intent To Supply
3	Possessing Class C Controlled Drug
2	Possessing Counterfeit Currency
5	Possessing Criminal Property
1	Possessing Firearm In Suspicious Circumstances
1	Possessing Firearm Other Than Handgun Without Certificate
1	Possessing Handgun Without Certificate
1	Possessing Listed False Instrument
1	Possessing Listed False Instrument With Intent To Use
13	Possessing Offensive Weapon In Public Place
1	Possession Etc Of A Prohibited Ammunition
3	Possession Etc Of A Prohibited Weapon (Discharge Of Electricity Or Noxi
29	Possession Etc Of Articles For Use In Frauds
24	Possession Of A Class B Controlled Drug
20	Possession Of A False Identity Document With Intent

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
20	Possession Of False Identity Document
1	Possession Of Firearm Or Ammunition With Intent To Endanger Life Or P
1	Possession Of Firearm Or Imitation Firearm With Intent To Cause Fear O
1	Possession Of Improperly Obtained Identity Documents With Intent
1	Possession Of Improperly Obtained Identity Documents Without Reasonabl
2	Possess Of Firearm/Imitation Firearm With Intent To Cause Fear Of Viol
1	Possess Of Firearm With Intent
1	Producing Class B Controlled Drug
4	Rape (Common Law)
1	Rape (Common Law Prior To 28 July 2003)
7	Rape (Offences After 01/02/09)
8	Receiving Stolen Goods
1	Removing Criminal Property
17	Resisting Police
1	Riot
1	Robbery
1	Securing Avoidance Of Enforcement Action By Deceptive Means - Immigrat
3	Seeking Or Obtaining Leave To Enter Or Remain In Uk By Deceptive Means
1	Sending Indecent Matter By Post
2	Sex Offender Failing To Notify Police Of Change Of Address In Time
1	Sex Offender Failing To Notify Police Of Intention To Travel
1	Sex Offender Failing To Register With Police
3	Sexual Assault By Penetration (Offences After 01/02/09)
1	Sexual Assault Of Child Under 13 By Penetration (Offences After 01/02/
2	Sexual Assault (Offences After 01/02/09)
2	Simple Drunk
1	Supplying Class A Controlled Drug
1	Supplying Class B Controlled Drug
12	Taking A Motor Vehicle Without Authority
29	Theft
1	Theft From Dwelling
1	Theft Of Mail In Transmission
34	Theft - Shoplifting

No. Of Individuals	Offence Description
5	Threats To Damage Property
1	Threats To Damage Property And So Endanger Life
24	Threats To Kill
1	Trading In Counterfeit Products
3	Transferring Criminal Property
1	Trespass With Intent To Commit Rape Or Assault By Penetration (Offence
4	Unaccompanied L Driver (For Offences Committed After 15 Nov 2007)
1	Unaccompanied L Driver Large Goods/Passenger Vehicle
5	Use/Keep Vehicle Without Road Tax (1994)
5	Using A False Instrument With Intent To
4	Using A Mobile Phone Whilst Driving
96	Using A Motor Vehicle Without Insurance
1	Using Criminal Property
4	Using False Instrument With Intent
1	Using Public Telecommunication System To Send Menacing Message
2	Using Vehicle Without Vehicle Excise Licence
1	Withholding Information To Obtain Certificate Of Insurance
2	Wrongfully Entering Premises

Illegal Importation of Drugs

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how many reported crimes for the illegal importation of drugs have been recorded in the last ten years.

(AQW 2886/11)

Minister of Justice: The number of drug offences recorded is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Illegal Supply of Drugs

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how many reported crimes for the (i) supply; and (ii) possession with intent to supply of drugs have been recorded in the last ten years.

(AQW 2887/11)

Minister of Justice: The number of drug offences recorded is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Possession of Drugs

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how many reported crimes for the possession of drugs have been recorded in the last ten years.

(AQW 2889/11)

Minister of Justice: The number of drug offences recorded is a matter for the Chief Constable, who is accountable to the Northern Ireland Policing Board. I am committed to respecting the operational independence of the Chief Constable and the role of the Policing Board.

You may therefore wish to direct your question to the PSNI.

Convictions for Not Wearing a Seatbelt

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister of Justice how many people have been convicted more than once in the last three years for not wearing a seatbelt.

(AQW 2902/11)

Minister of Justice: The information is not available in the format requested. Court conviction data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence for which an offender is convicted is included. If an offender is therefore convicted for failing to wear a seat belt, but it is not the principal offence, it will not be reported as such in the conviction statistics.

It is possible only to give the number convicted for not wearing a seat belt as their principal offence in each of the calendar years 2004 to 2006 (the latest year for which figures are currently available).

TABLE 1: NUMBER CONVICTED FOR FAILING TO WEAR A SEAT BELT 2004-2006

Year	Number convicted
2004	71
2005	60
2006	56

1 Includes the offences 'failing to wear a seat belt', 'carrying child under 14 years without seat belt (front / rear)' and 'no driver's seat belt fitted'.

Composite Legal Aid Fees

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice what is the composite legal aid fee paid per defendant for a preliminary enquiry in a magistrates' court.

(AQW 2911/11)

Minister of Justice: The composite legal aid fee for a solicitor representing a defendant in a preliminary inquiry in the Magistrates' Court is £820.

Where a defendant is also represented by counsel in a preliminary inquiry - the composite fee for counsel is £800.

An analysis of legal aid claims indicates that counsel is assigned in just under 20% of proceedings of this nature

Football Banning Orders

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice how many people resident in Northern Ireland are currently subject to football banning orders issued elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

(AQW 2934/11)

Minister of Justice: I understand that only one person resident in Northern Ireland is currently subject to a football banning order issued in Great Britain.

Wrongful Release of Prisoners

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Justice what new measures he has introduced since taking up office to prevent the wrongful release of (i) convicted prisoners; and (ii) remand prisoners.

(AQW 2940/11)

Minister of Justice: Since taking up office three (3) prisoners have been erroneously released. I commissioned investigations into each of these cases. Following the investigation report on the first two cases a number of measures were introduced and applied as appropriate to both convicted and remand prisoners; these include:

- Where charges are dropped at Magistrates' Court but referred to Crown Court, the Northern Ireland Courts Service (NICTS) already issue a Statement of Complaint or Bill of Indictment. Either of these documents will now be regarded by NIPS as a holding document.
- Documentation between videolink and the General Office has been improved. The format has been changed to make the recording of court results stand out more clearly.
- The videolink clerk in the General Office has been replaced by an officer with more experience in that specific role.
- Videolink forms are now retained on the custody file.
- The "expected warrants list" is checked against the videolink forms received to ensure that none are missing. Any missing forms can be tracked or the court result verified by other means thus reducing the risk of error.
- The officer responsible for the second level check has access to the NICTS Computer System (ICOS) and can phone the courts to resolve any anomalies that arise. (ICOS is available and is used in all three NI prisons). All checks including the third and final check are now done using live screens and the most up to date information.
- All Prisoner Custody Officers have been instructed to return prisoners due for release to the court holding area to allow final checks to be completed in consultation with prison General Offices.
- For convicted prisoners sentence calculation checks are done on initial calculation, at the halfway point and immediately prior to final discharge.

The Investigation report into the third erroneous release confirmed that none of these measures would have prevented that incident which was primarily due to technical systems issues. However, the following additional measures have been introduced:

- The ICOS checks are no longer limited to resolving anomalies but are now undertaken in all cases; and
- The PRISM system has been modified to indicate an error message where cases do not load fully on to the system.

Selling Alcohol to People who are Underage

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Justice what analysis his Department has carried out on the prevalence of hotels, nightclubs or discos selling alcohol to people who are underage.

(AQW 2941/11)

Minister of Justice: The Department of Justice has not conducted any formal analysis on the prevalence of hotels, nightclubs or discos selling alcohol to people who are underage.

However, there are a range of independently produced Surveys that ask questions of young people about the issue raised. The most recent Survey was conducted on behalf of DHSSPS by NISRA and is entitled Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2007.

Full details can be found at www.csu.nisra.gov.uk/survey.

Hot Pursuits

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister of Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that the An Garda Síochána and PSNI are able to conduct hot pursuits in border areas.

(AQW 3037/11)

Minister of Justice: Article 41 of the Schengen Convention provides for cross border hot pursuit by police from one state into another. This is an excepted matter and remains the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. There are no plans to adopt Schengen by either the UK or Irish Governments

Both Dermot Ahern and I have stated previously that we are committed to doing all we can to enhance the already excellent cooperation between the PSNI and An Garda Síochána. This includes considering any proposal from both police services which would further increase their ability to prevent and detect crime.

Victims of Domestic Violence

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Justice what consideration he has given to providing victims of domestic violence with greater protection through the reform of the legal aid process and the allocation of funding for legal aid.

(AQW 3056/11)

Minister of Justice: As part of its programme to reform civil legal aid, the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission will consider the introduction of a waiver on the financial eligibility limits for those suffering from domestic violence. A waiver was introduced in England and Wales in 2005, the effect of which is that applicants have access to funded legal services subject to varying levels of contribution toward the cost of their case, depending on their financial position at the time of application.

In advance of these reforms I have been considering what interim assistance can be provided, and I have recently announced changes which will make it easier for victims of domestic violence to obtain access to legal aid.

People applying for legal aid for non-molestation orders in the magistrates' court are required to pass a means test before funding can be considered. The change I have announced removes the upper income and capital limit for these orders, above which legal aid would normally have been refused. This means that those who would have previously not been entitled to funding because of their financial status can now access legal aid to obtain these orders.

A contribution towards costs will be required, but this will be a fixed amount, dependant on an individual's financial circumstances at the time of the application. The waiver will only apply to persons applying for non-molestation orders (including any subsequent application to vary or contest an order) and will not be available for any other proceedings.

Segregation and Ticketing Arrangements at Sporting Events

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice whether he has had any discussions with Councils' health and safety departments in relation to segregation and ticketing arrangements at sporting events.

(AQW 3074/11)

Minister of Justice: Proposals for sports spectator law, which included those around ticket touting, were consulted upon publicly on two separate occasions: from July to November 2009 as a set of policy proposals, and from August to November this year as part of the Justice Bill's equality impact assessment. Every district council was invited to respond to both these consultations. Both of the councils that responded welcomed the package of proposals.

I continue to take views from interested parties so that the provisions will best help organisers to manage events and ensure the safety of spectators.

Justice Bill (NI) 2010

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice why his Department's equality screening forms for the proposed Justice Bill (NI) 2010 state that 'no substantive equality issues were raised' from the 13 responses to the sports law and spectator controls responses, when a response was submitted which contained a substantial section entitled 'equality issues'.

(AQW 3075/11)

Minister of Justice: My Department's document, "Consultation on proposals for new sports law and spectator controls – Report on responses and way forward" (August 2010), did report on the equality issues raised by respondents. This included reference to two responses which suggested that the proposals unfairly impact on Protestant working class males. Another stressed the need to embed equality of opportunity and good relations.

Crucially, however, the proposals will only impact on those who offend at or around sporting events. They are designed to prevent, control and tackle bad behaviour by spectators, and they will therefore have a beneficial, rather than a harmful, effect on all section 75 groups. They will also help to promote good relations by tackling certain forms of behaviour which can both arise from and lead to poor community relations, for example racist or sectarian chanting at matches will become a criminal offence.

Desertcreat College Development

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Justice, in light of the budget announcement of 15 December 2010, what financial commitment his Department has made to the Desertcreat college development; and to outline the expected timescale for the project.

(AQW 3112/11)

Minister of Justice: Following the publication of the Draft Budget, details of my Department's budget allocations will be published as soon as possible. This will include the financial commitment for the Desertcreat college development.

Subject to DFP approval of the business case, the timeline for construction is as follows:

- Design completion and procurement prequalification - February 2011 to November 2011.
- Detailed procurement process leading to appointment of contractor – November 2011 to April 2012
- Construction of college – May 2012 to June 2014.

Prison Menus

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to detail the scheduled breakfast, lunch and dinner menu for each prison for (i) 24 December 2010; (ii) 25 December 2010; (iii) 31 December 2010; and (iv) 1 January 2011.

(AQW 3115/11)

Minister of Justice: The scheduled breakfast, lunch and dinner menus for each prison for the periods requested have been placed in the library of the Assembly. The menu at Maghaberry Prison has changed slightly year on year over the period 2006 – 2011. The menus at Magilligan Prison and Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre remained relatively consistent over the same period.

Prison Menus

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice to detail the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus for each prison for (i) 24 December; (ii) 25 December; (iii) 31 December in (a) 2006; (b) 2007; (c) 2008; and (d) 2009; and (iv) 1 January in (a) 2007; (b) 2008; (c) 2009; and (d) 2010.

(AQW 3116/11)

Minister of Justice: The scheduled breakfast, lunch and dinner menus for each prison for the periods requested have been placed in the library of the Assembly. The menu at Maghaberry Prison has changed slightly year on year over the period 2006 – 2011. The menus at Magilligan Prison and Hydebank Wood Young Offenders Centre remained relatively consistent over the same period.

Article in the Belfast Telegraph by Nuala McKeever

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice, in relation to the article in the Belfast Telegraph of 14 December 2010 by Nuala McKeever, to detail (i) the prisons in which Nuala McKeever has taught drama and for how long; (ii) how many classes she taught; (iii) whether she received a fee for these services; and if so (iv) how much she was paid per class and in total.

(AQW 3117/11)

Minister of Justice: From mid-November 2009, Nuala McKeever has worked as a self employed artist in residence with the Prison Arts Foundation (PAF) in Maghaberry prison and is contracted by PAF to provide, when available, two half-day drama sessions each week.

Nuala McKeever is paid by PAF for her services at the standard artist in residence rate of £30.00 per hour. During the period from mid-November 2009 to 14 December 2010, Nuala McKeever provided 85 half-day drama sessions and was paid a total of £5825.97.

She also provided a drama workshop with women prisoners at Hydebank Wood Prison and Young Offenders Centre on 30 July 2010 at no cost.

Human Trafficking Offences

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many victims of trafficking have been discovered by the PSNI; and (ii) how many people have been convicted for human trafficking offences, in the last 36 months.

(AQW 3147/11)

Minister of Justice: I would refer the Member to AQW 2229/11, which was answered on 3 December 2010 and is available in Hansard.

Justice Bill

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Justice, given that the sections of the Justice Bill which deal with football issues and spectators have not been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and may constitute an infringement of the rights of a Section 75 group, (i) whether he supports the inclusion of these sections in the Bill; (ii) what steps he will take to review the process that has led to this situation; and (iii) whether the decision not to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment was taken by his Department or inherited from the Northern Ireland Office.

(AQW 3149/11)

Minister of Justice: The policies reflected in the Justice Bill's sports provisions were the subject of a Section 75 screening exercise by the Northern Ireland Office, and this was publicly consulted upon in July to November 2009. The screening indicated that a small minority of males who attend sporting events might be impacted differentially by the proposals. Crucially, however, the proposals will only impact on those who offend at or around sporting events. They are designed to prevent, control and tackle bad behaviour by spectators, and they will therefore have a beneficial, rather than a harmful, effect on all section 75 groups. They will also help to promote good relations by tackling certain forms

of behaviour which can both arise from and lead to poor community relations, for example racist or sectarian chanting at matches will become a criminal offence.

Details of the proposals were also published by my Department for consultation in the Impact Assessment of the Justice Bill as a whole which closed on 24 November. I am currently analysing the responses received with a view to publishing a summary of responses shortly. However, while three respondents used the opportunity to comment on the sports law proposals, none raised concerns about equality impact.

I am satisfied that proper regard has been given and is being given to Section 75 issues linked to the Justice Bill.

Court Fines

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Justice how much money was raised through court fines in each of the last five years; and for what purposes this money was used.

(AQW 3158/11)

Minister of Justice: The table below sets out the amount received through payment of court imposed fines for each of the last five financial years. All such payments were passed to HM Treasury.

Financial Year	Court Imposed Fines Received
April 2005 - March 2006	£5,970,260
April 2006 - March 2007	£5,748,586
April 2007 - March 2008	£8,551,790
April 2008 - March 2009	£6,091,723
April 2009 - March 2010	£5,387,403

Criminal Justice Budget

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how much money and what proportion of the criminal justice budget has been spent on (i) victims; and (ii) witnesses in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3167/11)

Minister of Justice: The Department of Justice came into existence on 12th April 2010. Details of expenditure relating to victims and witnesses before that date are a matter for the previous department.

Legal Aid for Lawyers to Represent Asylum Seekers

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Justice how much has been spent on legal aid for lawyers to represent asylum seekers in each of the last ten years; and how many asylum seekers have been represented under this scheme.

(AQW 3170/11)

Minister of Justice: The Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission (NILSC) does not record asylum cases as a separate class of case. It has historically recorded immigration and asylum as one class of case. As such it is not possible to answer the question as it was tabled.

However the NILSC has provided information on the expenditure on advice, assistance and representation for immigration and asylum cases together with the instances of advice, assistance and representation for these cases. The services funded by the NILSC are delivered through independent solicitors and barristers and through a contract with the Law Centre (NI). The contract with the Law Centre (NI) commenced in 2005/06.

Table 1 sets out below the total paid for the provision of immigration and asylum cases over the last ten years. The figures include disbursements and VAT.

TABLE 1- LEGAL AID EXPENDITURE ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM

Financial Years	Total Expenditure £
2000 - 2001	4,888
2001 - 2002	1,833
2002 - 2003	7,653
2003 - 2004	26,627
2004 - 2005	201,773
2005 - 2006	68,895
2006 - 2007	64,085
2007 - 2008	227,542
2008 - 2009	429,852
2009 - 2010	342,000
April - November 10	334,051

The NILSC records the number of Legal Aid certificates granted rather than the number of people represented. One individual may receive more than one act of advice or representation.

Table 2 below outlines the acts of representation over the last 10 years together with the acts of advice and assistance. Please note that only from 2007/08 onwards do the number of acts of advice, assistance and representation include those from the Law Centre (NI) contract.

TABLE 2 – ACTS OF LEGAL ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION

	Legal Advice and Assistance Received	Number of Representations
2000 - 2001	8	Nil
2001 - 2002	42	Nil
2002 - 2003	30	1
2003 - 2004	78	160
2004 - 2005	83	96
2005 - 2006	104	137
2006 - 2007	145	91
2007 - 2008	2,755	253
2008 - 2009	3,043	516
2009 - 2010	2,602	366
Apr - Nov 10	1,674	243

Marriage Support Services

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice what funding he has allocated to organisations providing marriage support services since he came to office; and what funding he plans to allocate in the future. **(AQW 3196/11)**

Minister of Justice: Since taking up the office of Minister of Justice no funding has been allocated by my Department to organisations providing marriage support services. Currently there are no plans to allocate any funding to these services in the foreseeable future.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Justice if he can confirm that his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental saving measures and the potential impact of these measures. **(AQW 3215/11)**

Minister of Justice: Following the draft Budget announcement on 15 December 2010, the Department is currently considering how it will allocate its budget over the four year period. I plan to publish detailed allocations for each spending area by Thursday 23 December. However, detailed savings delivery plans and equality impact assessments can only now be completed for spending areas and these will be published as soon as possible in January 2011.

Prison Weddings

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice (i) how many weddings have taken place in prisons in each of the last three years; and (ii) how many of these weddings were for spouses who were both in custody.

(AQW 3224/11)

Minister of Justice:

Year	Number of weddings taken place in Northern Ireland prisons	Number of which where both spouses were in custody
2008	2	0
2009	0	0
2010 (to date)	4	1

Department for Regional Development

Dublin to Derry Bus Service

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of journeys on the Dublin to Derry bus service, in each of the last three years, by (i) Senior SmartPass holders; and (ii) concessionary pass holders residing in the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 2491/11)

Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy): I have been informed by Translink that the information is not readily available in the format requested.

Gritting of Footpaths

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he intends to review the winter gritting policy and schedule to include adopted footpaths and roads within housing estates.

(AQW 2752/11)

Minister for Regional Development: As the Member is aware, a review of the winter service policy and procedures, operated by my Department's Roads Service, was carried out in 2001, following severe snow falls. One of the key outcomes of the review, which was fully debated and accepted by the Assembly, was that the practice of targeting the limited resources available for this service on the busier main through routes should continue. Salting of footways was also considered, at that time, but the costs were considered prohibitive, and the basic logistics of introducing such a service, which is largely a manual task, made it impractical. We therefore offered an agreement of joint working with councils and I am pleased that the majority of councils are now working with Roads Service, to treat the busiest footways in their areas.

I fully understand and appreciate the concerns of those who use the remaining, more lightly trafficked, roads which are not on the salted network, and footways. However, with the likelihood that there will, in future years, be even greater pressures on the Roads Service budget, it is highly unlikely that additional funding will be made available to salt all roads and footways. There is a fine balance to be drawn between putting even more funds into salting or allocating funds towards the many other worthwhile demands on Roads Service, many of which are also safety related.

Whilst I currently have no plans to review the winter gritting policy and schedule, or to include adopted footpaths and roads within housing estates, it may be necessary to reassess the situation when future budgets are confirmed.

Gritting Roads

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the councils which currently have an agreement with the Roads Service in relation to gritting roads which Roads Service do not grit.

(AQW 2784/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that since last winter, Roads Service has been negotiating with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) and an amended model agreement developed to facilitate the salting of busy town centre footways and pedestrian areas by local Councils. However, it has not asked any of the Councils in the North to enter into an agreement to enable them to salt roads, which are not included in the Roads Service winter salting schedule.

While no Council has yet signed up to the formal agreement referred to above, the majority of Councils have either indicated their willingness to enter into an agreement with Roads Service, or are proposing to work with Roads Service to salt the main footpaths in their respective areas. Under the proposals put forward by Roads Service, Councils, or groups of traders acting on their behalf, will have the same indemnity benefits as Roads Service.

Roads Service will continue to engage with NILGA, and directly with Councils, through its local Divisions on the issue of gritting footpaths, to try to encourage as many of the remaining Councils, as possible, to come on board, to provide this valuable service to their local ratepayers.

Roads Service Resources

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the approximate tonnage of salt that was available to the Roads Service for the treatment of the roads network at (i) the beginning of November 2010; and (ii) the 5 December 2010.

(AQW 2787/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that there was approximately 63,000 tonnes of salt available to the Roads Service for the treatment of the roads network, at the beginning of November 2010.

On 5 December 2010, there was approximately 34,000 tonnes available.

Traffic Calming Schemes

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many traffic calming schemes have been implemented in the (a) Ards Borough Council; (b) Castlereagh Borough Council; and (c) Down District Council areas since May 2007; (ii) to detail the location of each scheme; and (iii) the total cost of these schemes.

(AQW 2798/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The table below shows the location and amount spent on traffic calming schemes in the Ards Borough Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	Movilla Street, Newtownards	£24,000
	Parsonage Road, Kircubbin	£3,500
	Balloo (Enhanced signage)	£4,000
	Lisbane (Enhanced signage)	£4,000
	Donaghadee	£80,000
	Killinchy	5,000
	Total 2007/08	£120,500
2008 - 2009	Strangford Heights, Newtownards	£12,500
	Old Ballygowan Road, Comber	£3,500
	Ballywalter Village	£11,000
	Lougheries Village	£11,000
	Abbey Road/MossRoad, Millisle	£14,000
	Total 2008/09	£52,000
2009 - 2010	Victoria Avenue, Newtownards	£18,000
	Rubane Village	£8,600
	Westwinds Estate, Newtownards	£17,600
	Total 2009/10	£44,200
2010 - 2011	East Street/West Street, Newtownards (proposed start date January 2011)	£40,000
	Total 2010/11	£40,000

The table below shows the location and amount spent on traffic calming schemes in the Castlereagh Borough Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	Lenaghan area	£10,250
	Stirling Avenue area	£28,500
	Ballyregan Road, Dundonald	£12,600
	Total 2007/08	£51,350
2008 - 2009	Lower Braniel Road	£29,900
	Wynchurch Road	£18,100
	Total 2008/09	£48,000
2009 - 2010	Cairnshill Park / Burnside Park	£21,000
	Beechill Road	£36,000
	Merok Crescent area	£18,000
	Newtownbreda Road (work ongoing)	£16,000
	Total 2009/10	£91,000
2010 - 2011	No schemes carried out.	
	Total 2010/11	

The table below shows the location and amount spent on traffic calming schemes in the Down District Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	Rathkeltair Road, Downpatrick	£16,000
	Crossgar Village	£11,300
	King Street, Newcastle	£16,000
	Castlewellan Road, Newcastle	£7,000
	Main Street, Central Promenade, Newcastle	£25,000
	Total 2007/08	£75,300
2008 - 2009	Loughinisland Village	£17,200
	Clough Village	£7,200
	Seaforde village	£6,700
	Killyleagh Village	£5,000
	Bryansford Road, Newcastle	£5,000
	Total 2008/09	£41,100
2009 - 2010	Saul Street/Saul Road, Downpatrick	£34,000

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
	Drumaness Village	£17,000
	Circular Road/Bunker's Hill, Castlewellan	£12,000
	Cumber Road, Drumaness	£14,000
	Ballynahinch Town	£4,000
	Strangford Road, Downpatrick	£8,000
	South Promenade, Newcastle	£14,200
	Total 2009/10	£103,200
2010 - 2011	No schemes carried out.	
	Total 2010/11	

Road Safety Schemes

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many road safety schemes have been implemented in the (a) Ards Borough Council; (b) Castlereagh Borough Council; and (c) Down District Council areas since May 2007; (ii) to detail the location of each scheme; and (iii) the total cost of these schemes.

(AQW 2799/11)

Minister for Regional Development: There were on road safety schemes implemented in the Ards Borough Council area between 2007 and 2010.

The table below shows the location and amount spent on road safety schemes in the Castlereagh Borough Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	Gransha Road/ Lisleen Road/ Lisleen Road South – enhanced signing	£4,500
	Total 2007/08	£4,500
2008 - 2009	No schemes	£0
	Total 2008/09	£0
2009 - 2010	Ballygowan Road, bend near Ryan Park – provision high friction surfacing and warning signs	£24,000
	Total 2009/10	£24,000
2010 - 2011	No schemes	£0
	Total 2010/11	£0

The table below shows the location and amount spent on road safety schemes in the Down District Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	A25 Dublin Road @ Burrenreagh	£8,000
	A24 Newcastle Road north of Tannaghmore	£7,200
	B177 Hillsborough Road at Magheraknock Road	£2,000
	Total 2007/08	£17,200
2008 - 2009	A50 Castlewellan Road at Church Hill	£2,300
	A25 Ballydugan Road/Ballykilbeg Road	£17,500
	A25 at Moneycarragh Bridge	£7,000
	Total 2008/09	£26,800
2009 - 2010	No schemes carried out.	
	Total 2009/10	
2010 - 2011	No schemes carried out.	
	Total 2010/11	

School Safety Signs

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many school safety signs have been erected in the (a) Ards Borough Council; (b) Castlereagh Borough Council; and (c) Down District Council areas since May 2007; (ii) to detail the location of each sign; and (iii) the total cost of erecting these signs.

(AQW 2802/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The table below shows the location and amount spent on school safety signs in the Ards Borough Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	No schemes	
	Total 2007/08	
2008 - 2009	No schemes	
	Total 2008/09	
2009 - 2010	Victoria Primary School, Ballyhalbert	£7,400
	Greyabbey Primary School	£5,300
	Total 2009/10	£12,700
2010 - 2011	Comber Primary School, Darragh Road	£6,500
	Total 2010/11	£6,500

The table below shows the location and amount spent on school safety signs in the Castlereagh Borough Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	Braniel Primary School, Braniel – Installation of flashing school warning signs	£6,000
	Total 2007/08	£6,000
2008 - 2009	Dundonald High School, Upper Newtownards Road – flashing school signs	£10,000
	Total 2008/09	£10,000
2009 - 2010	No schemes	£0
	Total 2009/10	£0
2010 - 2011	No schemes	£0
	Total 2010/11	£0

The table below shows the location and amount spent on school safety signs in the Down District Council area between 2007 and 2010.

Year of introduction	Location	Cost
2007 - 2008	No schemes	
	Total 2007/08	
2008 - 2009	St Mary's High School, Ardglass Road, Downpatrick	£4,900
	Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch	£6,000
	Killyleagh Primary School	£9,500
	Total 2008/09	£20,400
2009 - 2010	St Nicholas Primary School, Ardglass	£5,500
	Newcastle Primary School	£6,200
	Total 2009/10	£11,700
2010 - 2011	Castlewellan Primary School	£6,500
	Total 2010/11	£6,500

Gritting

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) if he has any plans to make it mandatory to grit residential areas, and other areas not deemed mandatory, in periods of cold weather; and (ii) whether he has had any discussions with the Roads Service and local councils in relation to this issue. **(AQW 2805/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: One of the key outcomes of the most recent review of my Department's Roads Service's Winter Service policy, which was fully debated and accepted by the Assembly, was that the practice of targeting the limited resources available for this service on the busier main through routes should continue. The application of this policy ensures that 28% of the

total road network, which carries around 80% of traffic, is salted, at an annual cost in a normal year of approximately £5 million. Any extension of the schedule to cover 90% or 100% of traffic volumes would increase the cost to approximately £10 million or £20 million per annum, respectively. Salting of footways was also considered at that time, but the costs were considered prohibitive, and the basic logistics of introducing such a service, which is largely a manual task, made it impractical.

While I can understand and appreciate the concerns of those who use the remaining more lightly trafficked roads which are not on the salted network, it simply is not practical to salt all roads and footways. However, with the likelihood that there will, in future years, be even greater pressures on the Roads Service budget, it is highly unlikely that additional funding will be made available to extend the salting schedule. There is a fine balance to be drawn between putting even more funds into salting or to the many other worthwhile demands on Roads Service, many of which are also safety related.

Therefore, I currently have no plans to review the winter gritting policy to make it mandatory to grit residential areas, and other areas not deemed mandatory, in periods of cold weather.

With regard to discussions between Roads Service and local councils in relation to this issue, I can advise that, in the same review, it was proposed that in periods of prolonged lying snow, the Department for Regional Development would seek to enlist the help of other agencies, such as district councils, to assist in clearing busy town centre footways and pedestrian areas.

In consultation with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), Roads Service drew up a draft legal agreement to try to facilitate this process. However, only a small number of councils signed up to this agreement at that time.

Following last year's spell of wintry weather, I asked the Chief Executive of Roads Service to revisit this issue.

Since that time, Roads Service has been negotiating with NILGA, and an amended model agreement has now been developed. The main change is that the indemnity offered in the original agreement to councils, can now be extended to private sector organisations acting as the councils' sub-contractor, or agent.

I recently met with NILGA representatives to discuss and clarify a number of issues relating to this agreement, and I am pleased that the majority of councils are now working with Roads Service, to treat the busiest footways in their areas.

Roads Service has confirmed that it continues to provide 3,500 salt boxes and 39,000 grit piles at strategic locations. These can be used by the general public on a self help basis, to help prevent the formation of snow and ice on footpaths and roads.

Road Safety Standards

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline how his Department monitors road safety standards, particularly in relation to road gritting on the new dual carriageway between Dungannon and Ballygawley.

(AQW 2807/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the new A4 dual carriageway between Dungannon and Ballygawley was designed and constructed to the most current standards. It is operated and maintained, on behalf of Roads Service, by Amey Lagan Roads Ltd under the Design Build Finance Operate (DBFO) Package 2 Contract. Amey Lagan Roads Ltd has taken responsibility for winter maintenance since the new scheme was made available to traffic on 17 November 2010.

Roads Service ensures that the DBFO Contractor has made satisfactory arrangements in advance of the winter maintenance season and monitors the performance of the DBFO Contractor, through a dedicated unit located at Roads Service Headquarters, to ensure that the contract provisions are delivered.

Whilst Roads Service and the DBFO Contractor take all reasonable measures to keep the road open at all times, like any other road authority, they cannot guarantee that the road remains completely free of ice or snow. The obligation remains with road users to drive with due care and at a speed appropriate to the prevailing conditions.

New Dual Carriageway between Dungannon and Ballygawley

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) who is responsible for the maintenance and gritting of the new dual carriageway between Dungannon and Ballygawley; and (ii) to detail the date and costs of any contracts that have been entered into in relation to the maintenance and gritting of this dual carriageway.

(AQW 2809/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the new A4 dual carriageway between Dungannon and Ballygawley is operated and maintained, on behalf of Roads Service, by Amey Lagan Roads Ltd under the Design Build Finance Operate (DBFO) Package 2 Contract. Amey Lagan Roads Ltd has taken responsibility for winter maintenance since the new scheme was made available to traffic on 17 November 2010.

The DBFO Package 2 Contract was awarded on 17 December 2007 to Amey Lagan Roads Ltd. Due to the packaged nature of the contract, which includes construction of the A1 Beechill - Cloghogue, the A4 Dungannon - Ballygawley, other capital works and the maintenance (including winter maintenance) of the M1 (Sprucefield–Dungannon), A1, A4 (Dungannon–Ballygawley) and A101, for a 30-year contract period, it is not possible to identify the individual costs for winter maintenance.

Gritting of Roads and Footpaths

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the co-ordination between his Department and local councils in relation to the gritting of roads and footpaths.

(AQW 2824/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The Member will be aware that one of the outcomes of a previous review of Roads Service's winter service policy and procedures was that it was proposed that in periods of prolonged lying snow, my Department would seek to enlist the help of other agencies, such as district councils, to assist in clearing busy town centre footways and pedestrian areas.

In consultation with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), Roads Service drew up a draft legal agreement to try and facilitate this process. A small number of councils signed up to the agreement at that time.

Following last year's spell of wintry weather, I asked Roads Service's Chief Executive to revisit this issue. Since that time, Roads Service has been negotiating with NILGA and an amended model agreement has been developed. The main change is that the indemnity offered to Councils, in the original agreement, can now be extended to private sector organisations acting as the Council's sub-contractor or agent.

I met with NILGA representatives on 6 December 2010 to discuss and clarify a number of issues relating to the amended agreement, and I am pleased that the majority of councils are now working with Roads Service, to treat the busiest footways in their areas.

Grittled Roads

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the percentage of roads that are currently gritted by the Roads Service.

(AQW 2829/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The member will be aware that one of the key outcomes of the most recent review of the winter service policy and procedures operated by my Department's Roads

Service, was that the practice of targeting the limited resources available for this service on the busier main through routes should continue.

Roads Service applies established criteria to assess roads for inclusion in the salted network. This ensures that those roads identified for salting are determined by fair and objective based criteria, based largely on traffic volumes. In general terms, this means that Roads Service salts the North's main through routes that carry more than 1,500 vehicles per day and, in exceptional circumstances, roads with difficult topography carrying between 1,000 and 1,500 vehicles per day. In total, some 28% of the total road network, which carries around 80% of all traffic, is salted, at an annual cost of approximately £5 million for a typical winter. I consider the approach currently adopted by Roads Service, which aims to strike an appropriate balance between the needs of road users and the need to optimize the use of finite resources, to be reasonable.

Gritter Lorries and Road Sweeping Vehicles

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the co-ordination between Roads Service gritter lorries and road sweeping vehicles.
(AQW 2832/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has informed me that there is no co-ordination of the work undertaken by its gritters and Road Sweeping Vehicles owned and operated by District Councils.

Gritting Resources

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the gritting resources available to each Section Office within Roads Service Southern Division.
(AQW 2879/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service allocates all Divisions, including Southern Division, with sufficient resources to ensure that all roads on the salted network are treated in accordance with the Roads Service's Winter Service procedures. Each Section Office within Southern Division maintains a schedule of roads which meet the criteria for inclusion on the salted network and ensures that these roads are treated during the Winter Service operation.

Gritting Resources

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there are enough gritting resources available within each Section Office of Roads Service Southern Division to cope with the current inclement weather conditions; and where Roads Service will procure the additional grit if needed.
(AQW 2880/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I am satisfied that each Section Office within Southern Division has sufficient resources to deal with the current inclement weather conditions.

Roads Service continues to replenish salt stocks through its supply contract with the locally based salt producer. In addition, Roads Service is actively seeking to procure additional supplies from various other sources outside Britain.

Concessionary Bus Passes

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development what action he has taken to achieve the recognition of Northern Ireland concessionary bus passes throughout the rest of the UK.
(AQW 2898/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Concessionary travel is a devolved matter for the respective regions, each having separate schemes for their own residents. Although the Concessionary Bus Travel

Act 2007 allows for reciprocal recognition of concessionary passes across Britain in the future, before any such scheme could become operational, there would be operational, technical and financial issues to be addressed by the responsible administrations. A sub-group of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference is investigating the potential for mutual recognition of concessionary fares schemes throughout these islands. However, it would likely to be some considerable time before any reciprocal arrangements could be put in place.

Gritting of Roads

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister for Regional Development how many miles of road on average are gritted in (i) Banbridge; (ii) Craigavon; (iii) Lurgan; and (iv) Portadown each year.

(AQW 2899/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not record the salted road length on an individual town basis, but is able to provide this information by District Council area.

Details of the total road length, salted in any single salting operation, for the Banbridge District Council area and the Craigavon Borough Council area, which includes Lurgan and Portadown, are shown below.

- Banbridge Council Area - 200 miles
- Craigavon Council Area - 190 miles

The frequency of salting operations in a year is dependent on weather conditions experienced during the winter season.

Total Reserve of Grit

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister for Regional Development what is the total reserve of grit held by his Department for 2010; and how this compares to the last three years.

(AQW 2900/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that as part of the 2010 pre-season preparations for the winter period, salt barns, which are strategically placed in depots throughout the North, were filled to capacity. This resulted in Roads Service stockpiling some 65,000 tonnes of salt available for use over this winter period. There are also contractual arrangements in place to replenish salt stocks throughout the season.

By way of comparison to the previous three years, the reserves of salt held by Roads Service at the start of November, in the previous three years, are shown in the table below:

Year	2009	2008	2007
Tonnes	34,000	48,000	50,000

Strangford Ferry Multi-journey Ticket Books

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he would consider the sale of Strangford Ferry multi-journey ticket books through an agent based in Portaferry.

(AQW 2918/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it would be willing to consider the sale of its Strangford Ferry multi-journey ticket books through agents. However, Departmental Accounting Procedures would require full payment to be made in advance. In addition, multi-journey ticket books have a significant discount, and Roads Service would need assurance that the integrity of its discount for regular users was protected.

Roads Service is also currently investigating electronic ticketing systems for the Strangford Ferry, which will make it easier for customers to buy tickets outside office hours.

Directional Road Signage

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the options open to villages such as Portaferry where residents wish to increase directional road signage.

(AQW 2919/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The main purpose of direction signs is to guide road users to their desired destinations, via the most appropriate route, at the latter stages of their journey, particularly where destinations may be hard to find.

When direction signing is being provided, my Department's Roads Service considers the needs of the road user and the layout of the local road network connecting different places. In relation to existing signing, there is no list of options for increasing the amount of directional road signage. However, where anyone suggests a possible gap in the signing to a town or village Roads Service will consider and, if appropriate, rectify the situation.

Public-Private Partnership Projects

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) whether his Department has financially rewarded any private contractors involved in PPP projects that finished earlier than scheduled since May 2007; and if so (ii) to detail the contractors and the amounts and dates of payments.

(AQW 2921/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it awarded two Design Build Finance Operate (DBFO) Contracts which incentivised the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) contractor to finish the projects earlier than scheduled.

The DBFO Package 1 Contract was awarded to Highway Management (City) Limited and construction works were completed in November 2009. This contract incentivised the DBFO Company to complete construction works early through improved cash flow.

The DBFO Package 2 Contract was awarded to Amey Lagan Roads Limited and construction works were substantially completed in November 2010, when the A4 Dungannon to Ballygawley scheme was opened to traffic. The DBFO Company will be paid in line with contractual provisions for completing the A1 Beech Hill to Cloghogue scheme more than four months ahead of programme. Payments commenced in November 2010 and will be spread over the remaining 27 year period of the contract. The payment mechanism incentivises the DBFO Contractor to make the road available earlier than programmed.

Roads Service is aware that there were bonus arrangements between the respective DBFO Companies and their Construction Contractors. However, Roads Service is not aware of the details of the bonus arrangements.

Gritting

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development to (i) list the private sector firms that his Department has had contracts with to grit and maintain roads since May 2007; and (ii) to detail (a) the total and annual costs of the contracts; and (b) the periods of the contracts.

(AQW 2923/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has separate contracts with private sector firms for winter service functions and for roads maintenance works.

Winter Service duties include road gritting and snow clearance. Roads Service has contracts in place with private sector firms to provide gritter drivers. Details of the private sectors firms contracted for driver hire, the total annual costs of those contracts and the contract periods, are provided in the table below:

Contractor	Annual Cost	Year
First Choice Selection Services	£178,000	2007/08
Driver Hire Ltd	£239,000	2008/09
Driver Hire Ltd	£565,000	2009/10
Total Cost	£982,000	

In addition, Roads Service has awarded two Design Build Finance Operate (DBFO) Contracts which involve the use of private companies to carry out a range of maintenance duties on the road network, including Winter Maintenance duties. Details of the DBFO Contracts are as follows:-

The DBFO Package 1 Contract was awarded on 3 February 2006 to Highway Management (City) Ltd. The operation and maintenance, including winter maintenance, for the M1 (Belfast – Sprucefield), M2, M3, M5, M22, A12 and A8 (M) is sub-contracted to Highway Management Maintenance.

The DBFO Package 2 Contract was awarded on 17 December 2007 to Amey Lagan Roads Ltd. The operation and maintenance, including winter maintenance, for the M1 (Sprucefield – Dungannon), A1, A4 (Dungannon – Ballygawley) and A101, is sub-contracted to Amey Inter-Urban.

Both DBFO Contracts have been awarded for a 30 year contract period, and given the packaged nature of these contracts, it is not possible to identify the specific costs within the contract for gritting.

Roads Service also has contracts with contractors and farmers who use their own equipment to help clear snow from roads after heavy snowfalls. From 2007-2010, 48 contracts were in place and for 2010-11, 43 contracts are in place. There was very little use made of the 2007-10 contracts and, as such, any payments are minimal. The current contract is being heavily utilised at present, however, details of the total and annual costs are not yet available.

Road maintenance covers a wide range of activities, from grass cutting to resurfacing works. As such, Roads Service has a large number of contracts in force at any one time, with each covering specific types of work. For example, environmental contracts cover grass cutting, weed control and gully emptying. Each Roads Service Division generally has a number of contracts in force at any one time.

Given the large number and varying nature of maintenance contracts and the range of contract start/end dates, there would be a considerable amount of work involved in identifying the details requested for all of the contracts let since May 2007. Consequently, collation of such a large volume of information could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

Mouchel

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the links his Department has with 'Mouchel'; (ii) whether he is aware of the company's falling share price; and (iii) for his assessment of whether a company takeover would present any threat to his Department.

(AQW 2929/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Mouchel is engaged by my Department's Roads Service through a framework contract – 'Consultancy Services for the Assistance in the delivery of the Roads Service Strategic Road Improvement (SRI) Programme, Major Works Planning, Assessment and Delivery Contract'. Mouchel currently supports Roads Service staff by providing professional services in the development of a number of major road schemes.

I am aware that the Mouchel share price has fallen over the past couple of years. However, at this point, I have no particular concerns relating to a takeover or merger of the company.

Road Surfaces

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the plans and procedures that have been put in place by his Department to review the quality of all road surfaces; and (ii) how much funding has been allocated for repairs if needed in the current financial year.

(AQW 2931/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that Article 8 of the Roads (NI) Order 1993, places a duty on Roads Service to maintain all public roads in a reasonable condition. In recognition of its duty of care, Roads Service has put in place a set of Maintenance Standards for Safety and has an inspection programme to ensure that roads have a satisfactory level of skidding resistance, which reduces the risk of uncontrolled skids and improves braking efficiency. These standards, which are designed to ensure a consistent service level and a safe highway, while offering value for money, are based on best practice, research and consultation with both the public and other professional bodies and Industry.

Essentially the safety standards and procedures currently in operation establish frequencies for road inspections which are dependent on traffic volumes and specify response times for the repair of defects. Inspection frequencies vary between daily cycles for motorways, to four-monthly cycles for carriageways carrying low volumes of traffic. Response times, specified for the repair of defects, are dependent on the severity of the defect and range from one calendar day, to routine inclusion in the next work programme for that particular route. These systems and procedures are recognised and accepted by the courts as being robust given the finite level of funding available. The Standards were last reviewed in 2006 and continue to provide a systematic approach to road maintenance management.

Roads Service also has a programme of measuring skidding resistance, using the Sideways-force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine (SCRIM), on the motorways, trunk roads and non-trunk A Class roads, and reports annually on the percentage of the network which is equal to or below the relevant investigatory level. Roads Service carries out investigations on all roads that are found to be below the investigatory level and, where necessary, arrange remedial work.

Although routine measurements of skid resistance using the SCRIM vehicle are not carried out on the B, C and U class network, regular visual inspection surveys provide information which assists Roads Service in developing planned maintenance programmes, such as surface dressing, which make a positive contribution to skidding resistance.

Surface defects, which are identified outside of these inspection regimes, are dealt with according to the aforementioned standards and remedial work arranged as necessary. If it becomes apparent that the relevant response time cannot be met, or is not appropriate, then the Department has the option of installing signs to warn road users of a possible danger.

When defects or problems arise, due to the actions of a third party, Roads Service will request that it takes the necessary steps to rectify the situation, if known. If the third party does not cooperate, or does not carry out the works to the required standard, Roads Service may carry out whatever work is necessary to restore the road condition in the interests of safety. Roads Service may subsequently seek to recover its costs.

I can confirm that the initial 2010/11 allocation for carriageway patching was some £18 million. In addition, a further £3.45 million has been allocated to Roads Service Divisions within the past few weeks. It is intended that this additional funding will be used to deal with the effects of the recent poor weather and also to assist with any winter maintenance pressures which arise.

Legislative Proposals in the European Commission

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development whether there is a specific individual or section within his Department to identify, at an early stage, legislative proposals in the European Commission and the potential impact on Northern Ireland.

(AQW 2946/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Within my Department there are a number of individuals in different policy areas who liaise with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and Whitehall Departments on European legislative proposals. These individuals analyse this information and assess and comment on any potential impact for the North.

Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail any communication his Department has had with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels in each of the last 24 months.
(AQW 2947/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Staff in my Department have ongoing contact with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels (NIEOB) regarding European issues relevant to the Department. Contact ranges from brief telephone calls to formal written exchanges. As such a comprehensive record of each and every communication has not been maintained.

Over the last 24 months the main themes of the communication with NIEOB have been in relation to:

- i. the visit of officials to Brussels in November 2008 and March 2010 on the inter-Departmental EU Study Visit organised by the Centre for Applied Learning;
- ii. the visit of officials to Brussels in April 2009 for the 2009 Trans-European Network –Transport (TEN-T) call for funding;
- iii. the visit of officials to Brussels in September 2009 in connection with EU funding for the Small Ferries Project;
- iv. the visit of the Department's lead EU official to Brussels in September 2009 as part of the Barroso Taskforce delegation;
- v. a visit by an official from the NIEOB to the Department in December 2009;
- vi. my visit to Brussels in March 2010 when I hosted a sustainable transportation seminar in the NIEOB; and
- vii. the visit of officials to Brussels in May/June 2010 for the 2010 TEN-T call for funding.

Connection of Homes with Septic Tanks to the Main Sewer System

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the responsibilities of NI Water regarding the connection of homes with septic tanks to the main sewer system; and how many households in such circumstances have been connected in each of the last five years.
(AQW 2951/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that under current legislation the owner or occupier of any domestic property not connected to the public sewer network, including those with septic tanks, may requisition a sewer extension. NIW is required to provide a requisitioned sewer subject to certain conditions. One of the conditions requires the persons making the requisition to pay the reasonable costs of providing the sewer as determined in accordance with NIW's charges scheme.

In calculating the cost to be borne by the person making the requisition, NIW will contribute a reasonable cost allowance of £2,137 to assist with the cost. In the case of an existing property (constructed before 1 January 2000) my Department increases the available allowance to £4,000.

While NIW holds records of the total number of new connections to the public sewer network, this information is not broken down specifically to identify the number of properties with septic tanks. It is therefore unable to provide the information sought about the number of properties with septic tanks connected to the public sewer network in the past five years.

Camper Vans at Lansdowne and Bath Street in Portrush

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Regional Development to (i) detail the number of complaints received by his Department and Coleraine Borough Council, in relation to the parking of camper vans at Lansdowne and Bath Street in Portrush; (ii) detail any consultation that took place between his Department, Coleraine Borough Council and other stakeholders regarding this issue; and (iii) list the businesses involved in the consultation process.

(AQW 2956/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service advises that it has received six written complaints relating to the parking of camper vans at Lansdowne and Bath Street, Portrush:

- Coleraine Borough Council on 11 February 2008;
- member of the public on 26 September 2008;
- Portrush Countryside Centre on 20 April 2009;
- member of the public on 25 June 2010; and
- 2 complaints from Blair's Caravans, Portrush, on 29 June 2010 and 23 August 2010.

My Department does not maintain details of complaints received by Coleraine Borough Council, therefore you may wish to contact the Council directly on this issue.

My Department consulted on the introduction of the Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Portrush) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedules 1 and 4 to the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order. Consultation was with Coleraine Borough Council, the PSNI and occupiers of land adjacent to the parking places on Bath Road and Lower Lansdowne Road. No written objection or other representation was received.

Consultation was not undertaken with businesses as there were none which fell within into the category set out within paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedules 1 and 4 to the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order, in other words, businesses occupying land adjacent to the parking places on Bath Road and Lower Lansdowne Road.

Gritting Footpaths

Mr J O'Dowd asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline any discussions his Department has had with (i) Banbridge District Council; and (ii) Roads Service regarding the agreement to allow Councils to grit footpaths.

(AQW 2972/11)

Minister for Regional Development: During the most recent review of my Department's Roads Service's Winter Service policy, which was fully debated and accepted by the Assembly, it was recognised that the cost of salting all footways would be prohibitive and that the basic logistics of introducing such a service, which is largely a manual task, make it impractical. In the same review, it was proposed that in periods of prolonged lying snow, Roads Service would seek to enlist the help of other agencies, such as District Councils, to assist in clearing busy town centre footways and pedestrian areas.

In consultation with the Local Government Association (NILGA), Roads Service drew up a draft legal agreement to try and facilitate this process. However, at that time, only a small number of Councils signed up to this agreement.

Following last year's spell of wintry weather, I asked the Chief Executive of Roads Service to revisit this issue.

Since that time, Roads Service has been negotiating with NILGA and an amended model agreement has been developed. The main change is that the indemnity offered to Councils in the original agreement can now be extended to private sector organisations acting as the Council's sub-contractor or agent.

The local Divisional Roads Manager has written and been in telephone contact with the Chief Executive of Banbridge District Council, to see if a local agreement for snow clearance from town centre footways and pedestrian areas could be reached. However, as of Friday 17 December 2010, this offer has not been accepted.

That said, the majority of Councils are now proposing to work with Roads Service to salt the main footpaths in their respective areas. Under the proposals put forward by my Department, Councils, or groups of traders acting on their behalf, will have the same indemnity benefits as Roads Service.

Roads Service will continue to engage with NILGA and directly with Councils, through its local Divisions, on the issue of gritting footpaths, to try to encourage as many as possible of the remaining Councils to come on board to provide this valuable service to their local ratepayers.

Creagh Waste Water Treatment

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development how many firms tendered for the Creagh Waste Water Treatment works contract.

(AQW 2977/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the procurement route for this contract was a competitive tendering process which invited a restricted list of 6 Contracting consortia to submit tenders, in accordance with the OJEU procedures.

The most economically advantageous tenderer, the Geda/EIMCO Joint Venture, selected through this competitive tendering process was then appointed to undertake the works at Creagh Wastewater Treatment Works.

Smart Passes

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many (i) 60 Plus Smart Passes; and (ii) Senior Smart Passes have been issued in each of the last three years.

(AQW 2978/11)

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

Period	60+ SmartPasses Issued	Senior SmartPasses Issued
01/12/2007 – 30/11/2008	51,113	20,917
01/12/2008 – 30/11/2009	17,017	6,778
01/12/2009 – 30/11/2010	15,116	4,735
Total	83,246	32,430

It should be noted that the 60+ SmartPass was introduced on 1 October 2010

Gritting Footpaths

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the financial cost of gritting all footpaths.

(AQW 2979/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it estimates the cost, in terms of manpower and vehicles, of salting all footways, at between £150,000 and £200,000 per treatment. In addition, the salt required to carry out this exercise would cost approximately £80,000 per treatment.

Grit or Sand for Roads

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 2696/11, (i) to what level will the salt or grit reserves be allowed to fall before more is sought; (ii) how long will it take to get more grit; and (iii) what discussions Roads Service has had with the Met Office and other agencies regarding the weather forecast over the coming months and projected cold spells.

(AQW 2980/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has confirmed that re-order arrangements are in place to ensure that salt stocks do not fall below a minimum level. For example, during the period from 1 October to 1 January each year, a minimum re-order level of 90% of full capacity is in operation. Roads Service has also advised that salt continues to be ordered and delivered on a regular basis.

With regard to communication with the Met Office and other agencies regarding the weather forecast, I can confirm that Roads Service has an extensive agreement in place with the Met Office to supply forecast information. This agreement provides Roads Service with regular updates on both weather forecast and prevalent conditions across the North, the frequency of these updates are dependent on the severity of the weather during any particular day. Furthermore, it allows Roads Service officials to make direct contact with the Met Office forecasters, as and when required, to ascertain specific information, if necessary.

NI Water Tender CO 71

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW1606/11, for his assessment of (i) the employment and human rights of embedded contract staff who are not subject to any legal proceedings; and (ii) whether such staff are offered the same employment and human rights as full-time permanent staff within NI Water.

(AQW 2983/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it does not recognise the term 'embedded contract staff' and it is not possible to establish which contract staff, if any, may be subject to legal proceedings. NIW is not able to comment on the employment and human rights of any contractor employees engaged. However, all NIW's current service contracts include the following specific clauses:

D2.1 "The contractor shall not unlawfully discriminate within the meaning and scope of any Law, enactment, order or regulation relating to discrimination whether in race, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation or otherwise in employment".

D2.2 "The contractor shall take all reasonable steps to secure the observance of condition D2.1 by the contractor and its staff and all sub contractors employed by the contractor in performance of the contract".

Gritting Schedule

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) how many miles of road are in the South Antrim constituency area, broken down by road classification; and (ii) how many miles of this road network are included in the current gritting schedule; and what this figure is as a percentage of the road network.

(AQW 3003/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not maintain the information that you have requested on a constituency basis. However, as Antrim, Lisburn and Newtownabbey Council areas fall within the South Antrim constituency, the table below details the information on a Council basis:-

	Antrim Borough Council	Lisburn City Council	Newtownabbey Borough Council
Motorway – M2, M1 and A1 (salted under the DBFO contracts).	31.94 miles	42.61 miles	26.3 miles
A8 (M)			1.9 miles
A class roads	61.84 miles	69.07 miles	24.5 miles
B class roads	51.33 miles	86.94 miles	42.0 miles
C class roads	107.47 miles	120.83 miles	41.2 miles
U class roads	274.20 miles	414.45 miles	207.7 miles
Miles of road included in gritting schedule	186.39 miles	273.78 miles	196.7 miles
Percentage of road network	35.3%	37.3%	57.24%

Gritting Schedule

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number, location and names of roads, currently included in the gritting schedule, which are classified as unadopted.

(AQW 3004/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that unadopted roads are not included in the Roads Service salting schedule.

Gritting Schedule

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number, location and names of roads that are not included in the gritting schedule because the roads are classified as unadopted.

(AQW 3005/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not hold the information the Member has requested, as it only salts adopted public roads that meet the required criteria.

Unadopted Roads

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development how many miles of roads are currently unadopted, broken down by road classification.

(AQW 3006/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not hold information on the length of unadopted roads. I am also advised that unadopted roads do not have a road classification.

Gritting Roads Classified as Unadopted

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the statutory or legislative requirements on housing developers to grit roads classified as unadopted and within their ownership.

(AQW 3007/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that there are no statutory or legislative powers requiring developers to grit unadopted roads within their ownership.

Sustainable Drainage Systems

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his Department's policy on Sustainable Drainage Systems.

(AQW 3017/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service deals with both the design and maintenance of the drainage of roads and footways. The drainage design standards used by Roads Service are contained in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.

The particular standard contained in this document, which deals with drainage and its interaction with the environment, is the recently revised Highway Standard HD45 "Road Drainage and the Water Environment". This standard deals with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Groundwater Directive and the Floods Directive. HD45 requires an assessment to be carried out and the outcome of this assessment, together with Rivers Agency advice, will indicate which type of drainage is required for a project, for example, a conventional system or a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS).

HD45 sets out a risk-based process for assessing the potential environmental effects of diffuse pollution from highway run-off and the need for any mitigation required to comply with the WFD. This process is based on rigorous and extensive research projects, carried out on behalf of the Highways Agency and the Environment Agency in England and Wales. This gives Roads Service a clear indication of where a SuDS is needed. It should be noted that a SuDS does not always contribute to an improved water environment.

HD45 also deals with risks from accidental spillage and interceptors or other mitigation measures will be provided in accordance with the standard.

Guidance on assessing and mitigating flood risk is also set out in HD45, however, Roads Service generally would comply with any requirements specified by, or advice given by DARD's Rivers Agency rather than carry out its own assessment.

I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW), that in new development sites it requires the drainage system to be designed and constructed with separate foul and surface water systems. Developers submit detailed drainage layouts, which are assessed and approved in accordance with the relevant statutory agency approvals for the discharge of surface water run-off. Where appropriate, NIW will approve and adopt defined SuDS that are designed to limit the volume of flow discharging to a watercourse, directly or indirectly.

I would also advise that NIW is a member of the North's SuDS Steering Group and has worked closely with DARD's Rivers Agency and DOE's NI Environment Agency in matters relating to development of a sustainable drainage system policy.

NI Water

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development how much NI Water, and its predecessor, spent on fuel in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3019/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the approximate amounts spent on fuel in the past five years by it, and its predecessor Water Service, are as detailed in the table below. All amounts are exclusive of VAT.

Financial Year	Amount	Entity
2009/10	£2,300,000	NIW
2008/09	£2,400,000	NIW
2007/08	£1,900,000	NIW

Financial Year	Amount	Entity
2006/07	£1,500,000	Water Service
2005/06	£1,800,000	Water Service

Traffic Calming Measures

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 2338/11, to detail the criteria used when deciding to implement traffic calming measures on the unclassified road through the village of Jonesborough; and (ii) whether the same criteria can be applied to provide traffic calming measures on the main B8 road through Main Street, Hilltown.

(AQW 3030/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the factors that were taken into consideration for the assessment of traffic calming in Jonesborough village were the same as those used for all assessments and are as follows:-

- Accident record over the last three years.
- Traffic volumes.
- Traffic speed.
- Environment (which comprises):-
 - "Rat running"
 - School or playground on street
 - School or playground adjacent to street
 - Shops
 - Public buildings (hall, library etc)
 - Hospital, Health Centre, Care Home etc
 - House to kerb distance less than 6.0 metres
 - Footway width less than 1.5 metres (or none)

These factors, and the subsequent scoring of each, are used to establish a priority list of Traffic Calming Schemes for each Council area.

However, it should be noted that although there are a variety of treatments that can be used in traffic calming schemes, generally, on A and B class routes, which have relatively high volumes of commercial traffic, ramps are not considered to be an appropriate measure.

In Jonesborough, the road through the village is a C class route and carries lower volumes of traffic, therefore, ramps were considered to be a suitable measure for traffic calming.

Cycle Network

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister for Regional Development how many miles of cycle network existed across Northern Ireland at 1 December 2010.

(AQW 3031/11)

Minister for Regional Development: As part of my Department's commitment to providing safer roads for vulnerable road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, support has been given to the charity Sustrans to develop the National Cycle network. This is a comprehensive network of safe and attractive cycling routes throughout the North, which extends to approximately 1330 km. These are mostly on quiet country roads, and include 171 km of traffic free paths.

In addition, my Department's Roads Service provides various infrastructure improvements in the form of segregated and shared cycle lanes, to complement the existing National Cycle Network. I can advise that 105 km of these cycle lanes have been constructed over the last five years, as detailed in the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan.

Cullybackey Railway Station

Mr M Storey asked the Minister for Regional Development whether Northern Ireland Railway has any plans to (i) relocate Cullybackey Railway Station and reinstate the passing loop; and (ii) provide park and ride facilities for all passengers at the station.

(AQW 3042/11)

Minister for Regional Development: In order to support a proposed one hour service between Belfast and Coleraine, NIR have recently produced an outline plan to reinstate a passing loop at Cullybackey. This will involve the construction of a new 800m passing loop and changes to the existing 3 level crossings in the village. They are also seeking suitable options for further Park and Ride sites in the Cullybackey area but this will have to be assessed in the context of strategic plans for Park and Ride. There are no plans to move the station.

Both the provision of a new passing loop and additional car park spaces will be subject to the availability of capital funding in light of the recent budget announcement.

Footpaths

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the criteria used to determine if and when footpaths are replaced or resurfaced.

(AQW 3051/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has a statutory duty to maintain public footways in a safe and serviceable condition and it undertakes an annual programme of footway reconstruction and resurfacing works, subject to the availability of financial resource. To this end, Roads Service operates a system of regular safety inspections to ensure that essential response maintenance is identified and completed, as necessary.

In accordance with the Roads Maintenance Standards for Safety, Roads Service inspects the condition of public footways, and this information is used in the preparation and prioritisation of Roads Service's annual footway reconstruction and resurfacing programme. This programme is prepared on the basis of a number of factors encompassing footway usage, general surface condition, structural deformation, public enquiries and public liability claims.

Many factors affect the condition of a footway and the resultant time span between surface treatments. These include the quality of the initial construction, the wear experienced from traffic, the frequency of openings to install and repair public utility services, weather conditions and how well they have been maintained.

Capital Projects in the North Down Constituency

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail how much has been spent on capital projects in the North Down constituency in each of the last three years.

(AQW 3052/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I would refer the Member to my answer to his Assembly Question AQW 1941/11, for details of my Department's Roads Service expenditure on capital projects in the North Down constituency.

Northern Ireland Water has advised that £21.26 million was invested in the water and wastewater infrastructure in the North Down constituency in the three financial years from April 2007 to March 2010. Details are as follows:

2007/08	£5.82 million
2008/09	£8.19 million
2009/10	£7.25 million

Details of expenditure on railway capital projects in the North Down constituency in each of the last three financial years are provided in the table below:

Capital Projects in North Down	Financial Year 2007/08	Financial Year 2008/09	Financial Year 2009/10
Bangor Line Time Division Multiplexer Replacement (TEML)	£151,580	£133,766	£246,740
Bangor West Path		£5,263	£49,119
Total	£151,580	£139,029	£295,859

The table below provides details of bus and rail projects which have had an impact across the region, including North Down:

Total cost of Capital Projects Impacting on North Down	Financial Year 2007/08	Financial Year 2008/09	Financial Year 2009/10
New Trains II		£16,956,929	£12,939,958
New Trains II Platform Extensions		£50,147	£379,895
Adelaide Train Facility		£243,071	£1,645,881
Class 3000 Overhaul			£1,646,437
Provision of Class 300 Capital Spares	£445,327	£32,396	
Disability Discrimination Act NIR	£8,656,076	£1,316,363	
New Rail Vision	£1,984,603	£3,049,574	£135,541
Building Condition Upgrade Programme (Bus)		£268,600	£835,620
Building Services Condition Programme (Bus)			£90,224
Class 3000 Trains	£665,912		
Total	£11,751,918	£21,917,080	£17,673,556

During these financial years, my Department has also invested in the purchase of new modern buses, some of which have been deployed in the North Down constituency.

NI Water

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the amount of fuel used by NI Water or Water Service vehicles in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3070/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the approximate amounts spent on fuel for service vehicles in the past five years by it, and its predecessor Water Service, are as detailed in the table below. All amounts are exclusive of VAT.

Financial Year	Amount	Entity
2009/10	£1,200,000	NIW
2008/09	£1,300,000	NIW
2007/08	£1,200,000	NIW
2006/07	£1,100,000	Water Service
2005/06	£1,000,000	Water Service

NI Water Tender C 398

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development if he can confirm that NI Water tender C 398 is a revised version of NI Water tender CO 71 and whether the tender contracts are comparable. **(AQW 3076/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that C398 is not a revised version of contract C071 and that the contracts are not considered comparable in that there is significant variation in relation to both the scope of the service to be provided and the service specification.

NI Water Tender C 398

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development if he can confirm that the current supplier of NI Water tender CO 71 was placed third on the list of preferred bidders for NI Water tender C 398. **(AQW 3077/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the contract award process in relation to C398 has not yet been completed and it is therefore considered inappropriate to provide information in relation to the list of preferred bidders at this time.

NI Water Tender C 398

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the company that was placed first on the preferred bidder list for NI Water tender C 398 has withdrawn its bid. **(AQW 3078/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the contract award process in relation to C398 has not yet been completed and the company that was placed first on the preferred bidder list for NI Water tender C 398 has withdrawn its bid.

NI Water

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) whether NI Water requested the current supplier of NI Water tender CO 71 to extend the current three-month extension contract until 31 January 2011, prior to disclosing the outcome of NI Water tender C 398; (ii) whether this request was declined; (iii) to outline the potential impact of this request being declined (iv) who, and at what management level, decided to request this extension; (v) why it was necessary to request this extension. **(AQW 3079/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that (i) the supplier on C071 was asked in November 2010 if it was willing to extend the contract until 31 January 2011, this was prior to disclosing the outcome of tender C398; (ii) the supplier declined this request; (iii) the potential impact relates to the transition of resources from C071 to C398. As a result of the supplier declining the request, it was decided to approach the transition in a phased basis, dealing with C071 resources as a matter of priority; (iv) the decision to establish whether the supplier

would be willing to extend the contract to 31 January 2011 was proposed by the Head of Operational Procurement and discussed and supported by the Head of M&E Services and the Director of Customer Services Delivery and (v) the extension was necessary in order to effect a transition from C071 to C398.

NI Water

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) whether his Department requested that the current supplier of NI Water tender CO 71 should extend the current three-month extension contract until 31 January 2011, after the preferred bidder of NI Water tender C 398 withdrew its bid; (ii) whether this request was accepted after the withdrawal of the preferred bidder for NI Water tender C 398; (iv) who, and at what management level, decided to request this extension; and (v) why it was necessary to request this extension.

(AQW 3080/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that (i) the supplier on C071 was asked in November 2010 if it was willing to extend the contract until 31 January 2011, this is dealt with via AQW 3079/11. This was prior to the withdrawal in early December 2010 of the bidder ranked first by the evaluation process for C398. NIW made a second request in December 2010 to the supplier on C071 to consider extending the contract. (ii) the supplier on C071 has indicated a willingness to accept the second request; (iv) in the first instance, the Head of Operational Procurement decided to make the December request and, in order to mitigate the risk to service delivery, escalated the decision to the Executive Committee who discussed and supported the decision; and (v) the extension was necessary in order to effect a transition from C071 to C398.

Castle Street in Comber

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the implementation of a one way system for Castle Street in Comber.

(AQW 3094/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has prepared a preliminary design for a one-way system on Castle Street, Comber. It is intended that this design will be incorporated into the proposed Environmental Improvement scheme for Castle Street, which is being promoted by the Department of Social Development, and supported by Ards Borough Council. However, it is unlikely that funding for this scheme will be available in the near future.

Class 3000 Deisel Multiple Unit Trains

Mr P Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development how many times have Class 3000 Deisel Multiple Unit trains failed to provide a passenger service since their introduction in 2004.

(AQW 3097/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink's interpretation of a service failure is when a train has stopped on the tracks and is unable to move. This has happened on 11 occasions since the CAF Class 3000 trains were introduced to service in December 2004.

Class 3000 Deisel Multiple Unit Trains

Mr P Frew asked the Minister for Regional Development, in the event of a total failure of a Class 3000 Deisel Multiple Unit engine on a single track railway, what plans are there in place to retrieve passengers and the train so that lengthy delays to passengers and other services can be avoided.

(AQW 3098/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Passenger safety is paramount in all of Translink's services. In the event of total failure of a Class 3000 train NIR take the following action. Firstly a technical engineer assesses if the train can be made mobile again. If this is not possible the failed train is recovered by coupling it to a similar Class 3000 train and hauling it to the nearest platform/station where passengers can disembark safely and from where replacement train services can be operated.

On occasions where failed train recovery proves more difficult and time-consuming due to the nature of the failure, NIR will disembark passengers from the failed train. If the failure occurs on double track another train is drawn up alongside and passengers are transferred from train to train across a bridging ramp. If the failure has occurred on single track, NIR disembark passengers trackside and assist them to walk trackside to board a replacement train. NIR recognise that this final option incorporates a degree of risk to passengers and they will only implement this response with the assistance of fire and rescue services and where no other reasonable option exists.

The range of responses outlined above will unfortunately result in delay and disruption to NIR services. As mentioned, NIR's first priority will always be safety of passengers. Where services are disrupted they liaise closely with Ulsterbus and Metro to provide replacement bus services and they endeavour to clear any blockage as quickly as possible in order to reinstate normal services at the earliest opportunity.

NI Water

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he, and the Chair of NI Water, are aware of a recently published magazine article, in which the Head of Internal Audit in NI Water stated that many of the current issues affecting NI Water are, in her view, a legacy from the Water Service. **(AQW 3110/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: Both the Chair of Northern Ireland Water and I are aware of this article.

Roads Service depot at Balloo Road, Bangor

Mr A Easton asked the Minister for Regional Development whether the public are permitted to avail of grit from the Roads Service depot at Balloo Road, Bangor during periods of ice and snow. **(AQW 3119/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: During the period of severe weather at the end of 2009/10, my Department's Road Service, introduced, on a trial basis, a salt bin facility outside its depot at Balloo Road, Bangor. Regrettably, following a number of incidents involving the public, it was necessary for Roads Service to remove the salt bin facility.

However, Roads Service provides salt bins and grit piles for use by the public, on a self help basis, on roads which do not qualify for inclusion into the gritting schedule and where the following criteria are met:

- the location in question must be on the publicly maintained road network;
- the gradient of the road in question must be over 5%;
- no reasonable alternative route shall be available; and
- the subject road attains a minimum overall score, derived using a specific formula, where points are awarded depending on road geometry, residential usage, community welfare and commercial usage.

There are no limits placed on the number of salt boxes which may be provided. However, salt boxes will not normally be provided within 100 metres of an existing salt box. In addition, new salt boxes are not provided unless requested by a member of the public and that person agrees to spread the salt provided.

Roads Constructed in the North Down Area

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many kilometres of road have been constructed in the North Down area in each of the last three years. **(AQW 3120/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it has not constructed any new roads in North Down in the last three financial years. However, details of lengths of road constructed as part of private developments in North Down, which have been adopted by Roads Service, are provided in the table below:

Year	Length Of Road
2007/08	3.3 Kilometres
2008/09	3.1 Kilometres
2009/10	1.7 Kilometres

NI Water

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 2762/11, what legal advice was sought on the information deemed to be sensitive and whether this legal advice supported his Department's request to the Public Accounts Committee to handle the information appropriately. **(AQW 3125/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: My Department has, on several occasions, identified sensitive elements in information it has provided to the Public Accounts Committee. In asking for such information to be handled appropriately it has, in accordance with standard practice, identified what information might be exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; where information might fall under the scope of the Data Protection Act 1998, and advised the Committee of this. The identification of exempt information or personal data rarely requires legal advice. However, on occasion where legal advice has been sought from the Departmental Solicitors Office, my Department has acted in a manner consistent with that advice. The detail of such legal advice is subject to legal professional privilege.

NI Water

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 2797/11, what direction his Department issued to NI Water after the publication of the article in Volume 34, Issue 11 (Dec/Jan) of 'Internal Auditing'. **(AQW 3127/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: Pursuant to AQW 2797/11, my Department issued no direction to Northern Ireland Water (NIW) after the publication of the article in Volume 34, Issue 11 (Dec/Jan) of 'Internal Auditing'. However, after the publication of the article, the Department wrote to NIW about the timing, content and inappropriateness of the article being published in the middle of a PAC investigation.

NI Water: Verified Contracts

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number and value of verified contracts available when he took the decision to dismiss the four non-executive directors of NI Water; and (ii) the number and value of verified contracts established under the Water Service. **(AQW 3150/11)**

Minister for Regional Development:

- (i) When I took the decision to dismiss the four non-executive directors of NI Water, NI Water's Internal Audit had verified in its initial Contracts Approvals review, that 19 contracts had been identified as irregular with a total value of £6.2 million. The additional 'deep dive' audit work, still ongoing during the Independent Review Team's considerations, identified a further 55 contracts with a value of £22.2 million, that were deemed to be irregular. These were subsequently verified by Internal Audit. (ii) 6 of the contract irregularities with a total value of £2.9 million from 1 April 2007 (pre-April 2007 was outside the scope of the reviews) were established under the Water Service.

Enterprise Service

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) what consultation he has had with Translink, and commuters, in relation to increasing the number of stops on the Enterprise service to include stops at Dundalk and Lisburn; and (ii) what steps have been taken to address the need for increased capacity on the Enterprise service.

(AQW 3151/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Both Translink and I have had consultation with Lisburn public representatives over an extended period. Translink recognised the need to carefully balance end to end journey times with the increase in passenger catchment resulting from inclusion of additional stops. As a result they have introduced additional stops at Lisburn on selected off-peak trains with the objective of increasing passenger numbers through provision of direct Lisburn to Dublin and direct Dublin to Lisburn services.

The 08:00 Belfast to Dublin Enterprise train now stops at Dundalk to provide additional capacity from Dundalk to Dublin. This will further increase the number of passengers using Enterprise trains. These additional stops have been introduced with minimal impact in overall running times.

Translink have advised that currently Enterprise services do not need additional capacity. The trains in operation at present can generally deal comfortably with the number of passengers travelling. Nevertheless both my Department and the Department of Transport in Dublin, NI Railways and Iarnród Éireann share a vision and aspiration of service frequency improvements which would involve a train operating every hour in each direction. Such a service improvement would bring benefits to overall economic activity both North and South.

However, both operators would require increases in their operating subsidy payments to allow this to happen. Unfortunately, the budgetary constraints rules out any such development at this time.

Gritted Roads

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how many miles of road have been gritted, on average, in each of the last five years in (i) Bangor; (ii) Holywood; (iii) Donaghadee; (iv) Millisle; and (v) other parts of North Down.

(AQW 3152/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that it does not maintain records of the length of road salted on an individual town basis, but is able to provide this information by District Council area.

The total road length, salted in any single salting operation, for the North Down Borough Council area is 130 miles. This area includes Bangor and Holywood and includes some routes which take in parts of Newtownards, Dundonald, Donaghadee and Millisle.

Whilst the schedule of the salted public road network is reviewed annually, there has been no significant change to the length of road treated over the last five years.

School Safety Signs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many school safety signs have been erected in the North Down Borough Council area since May 2007; (ii) to detail the location of each sign; and (iii) the total cost of erecting these signs.

(AQW 3155/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that schemes, that included school safety signs, in the North Down Council area since May 2007, are detailed in the table below:-

Year	Location	Cost
2007/08	Redburn PS, Old Hollywood Road, Hollywood.	£9,000
	St Comgall's College, Brunswick Road, Bangor.	£8,000
	Sullivan Upper, Abbey Ring, Hollywood.	£6,000
	Glenlola Collegiate, Bloomfield Road, Bangor.	£4,000
2008/09	St. Malachy's Primary School, Clandeboye Road, Bangor.	£6,000
	Clandeboye Primary School, Clandeboye Road, Bangor.	£7,000
2009/10	Bangor Central Primary School, Castle Park Road, Bangor.	£5,000
	St Columbanus College, Ballymacconnell Road, Bangor.	£6,000
2010 to date	Ballymagee Primary School, Ashbury Avenue, Bangor.	£10,000
	Rathmore Primary School, Rathmore Road, Bangor.	£7,000
	Bangor Academy School, Castle Street, Bangor.	£10,000

Removal of Snow and Ice from Pavements

Sir Reg Empey asked the Minister for Regional Development if he can confirm that individuals or businesses will not be liable for claims against them if they remove snow and ice from footpaths and roads adjacent to their property.

(AQW 3178/11)

Minister for Regional Development: There is no law to stop individuals or businesses from clearing snow and ice from the footpath or carriageway adjacent to their property. It is not legally possible to provide an absolute assurance that individuals or businesses will never be found liable and responsible for a compensation award. I am advised that it is unlikely that individuals or businesses will be held liable in compensation claims if they clear snow and ice carefully and do not create dangers or obstructions on the footpath or carriageway which would endanger the safe use of the public highway by members of the public.

Gritting of Roads

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) how much has been ring-fenced, in each of the last five years, to prepare for gritting the roads during the winter; and (ii) the actual cost of gritting the roads in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3192/11)

Minister for Regional Development: While my Department's Roads Service does not ring fence budgets, details of the opening budget position and the actual cost of gritting in each of last five financial years are provided in the table below:

Year	Opening Budget	Total Spend
2005/06	£4,852,000	£5,261,000
2006/07	£4,794,000	£4,443,000
2007/08	£4,828,000	£4,683,000
2008/09	£4,781,000	£6,799,000
2009/10	£4,934,000	£8,123,000

Impact of the Recent Severe Weather Conditions on Roads

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Regional Development whether his Department has carried out an assessment of the impact of the recent severe weather conditions on roads; and to provide a breakdown of the estimated cost of repairs necessary in each local council area.

(AQW 3198/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, even with regular care and attention, roads will deteriorate over time and require corrective maintenance works. The rate and extent of deterioration is influenced by numerous factors, including traffic volumes, weather conditions and work carried out by utilities.

The recent cold weather will undoubtedly have damaged the road network. The repeated freezing and thawing cycle causes carriageways to split and potholes to form. However, it will be some time before the full extent of the damage caused to the road network, following the recent cold weather, can be fully assessed.

The total cost of the damage caused solely by the cold weather may never fully be known, as it would not be practical, or indeed possible, for Roads Service to diagnose the causes that have led to, or are likely to contribute to, damage to the roads.

Roads Service undertakes a series of regular inspections and condition surveys to ensure the road network is maintained to defined standards, and that serious road defects are detected and repaired. These arrangements, together with the experience and professional judgement of Roads Service engineers, ensure that the roads remain safe, and do not fall below satisfactory and serviceable levels.

Salting and Gritting Roads

Mr J Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development how many requests Roads Service received from residents, businesses and public representatives in relation to salting and gritting roads in December 2010 to date, broken down by council area, and of these, how many requests were (i) met; and (ii) not met.

(AQW 3201/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the information you have requested on the number of requests in relation to salting and gritting roads in December 2010, to date, is not available. Roads Service has, however, noted that many of its 24 Section Offices received in excess of 100 telephone and written requests per day, in relation to these matters, during periods of adverse weather in December 2010.

In view of this excessive demand on resources, it was necessary to deal with the requests in order of priority. The information you have requested on the numbers of requests met and not met, is, however, not available.

Belfast Harbour Commission

Mr G Savage asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the mechanism by which his Department hope to raise revenue via a levy on the Belfast Harbour Commission.

(AQW 3202/11)

Minister for Regional Development:

Officials from my Department and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners are currently scoping options for realising the proposed revenue outlined in the draft 2010 Budget.

Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into NI Water

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 2763/11, to detail all written correspondence from staff within his Department, at Grade 5 or above, to the Department of

Finance and Personnel in relation to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into his Department and NI Water.

(AQW 3212/11)

Minister for Regional Development: On 5 July 2010, the then Permanent Secretary wrote to the Treasury Officer of Accounts in the Department of Finance and Personnel advising of a letter to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) from the Group Chief Executive of Phoenix Energy Holdings.

On 15 October 2010 the Permanent Secretary of my Department wrote to the Treasury Officer of Accounts seeking advice on handling issues around some of the information that was requested by the PAC. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretary wrote to the Treasury Officer of Accounts on 7 December 2010 advising of two Assembly Questions received by my Department in relation to the PAC inquiry into NI Water.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development if he can confirm that his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011-2015; and whether it will include details of departmental saving measures and the potential impact of these measures.

(AQW 3216/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I am still considering the implications for my Department of the draft Budget 2011-15 and will therefore not be in a position to publish draft Savings Delivery Plans within the one week timescale. I aim to publish draft Savings Delivery Plans, including details of departmental saving measures and the potential impact of these measures, as early in January 2011 as possible.

Roads: Salt and Grit levels

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the amount of grit used in the North Down area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3218/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the roads treated within North Down area form part of a larger schedule of the roads network which is treated in a single salting application.

The approximate tonnages of salt used in the North Down area are as follows:

Year	Salt Tonnage
2009/10	1,996
2008/09	1,713
2007/08	1,093
2006/07	842
2005/06	1,141

These figures are a calculated on a pro-rata basis, and these approximate quantities include for primary and secondary salting actions, the replenishment of salt boxes and salt piles.

Gritting in the North Down Area

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent on providing grit for roads in the North Down area in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3219/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the roads treated within North Down area form part of a larger schedule of the roads network which is treated in a single salting application.

Based on an approximate road length treated in North Down, the estimated annual cost has been calculated as follows:

Year	Expenditure
2009/10	£222,100
2008/09	£186,500
2007/08	£128,900
2006/07	£120,700
2005/06	£145,300

These approximate figures are calculated on a pro-rata basis, and include for primary and secondary gritting actions, the provision and replenishment of salt bins and the provision of salt piles.

Road Safety Schemes in the North Down Borough Council Area

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many road safety schemes have been implemented in the North Down Borough Council area since May 2007; and (ii) to detail the cost and location of each scheme.

(AQW 3220/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that road safety schemes in the North Down Council area, from May 2007, are detailed in the table below:

Year	Location	Cost
2007/08	Bloomfield Road Roundabout – Resurfacing and the provision of High Friction Surfacing on South Circular Road and Bloomfield Road approaches, and at Pelican Crossing.	£61,000
	A2 Holywood Bypass/ Sullivan Place – Control of right turn into Sullivan Place.	£4,000
	Donaghadee Road Roundabout – provision of high friction surfacing on all approaches.	£28,000
2008/09	A2 Bangor Road at Old Belfast Road - Control of right turn into Old Belfast Road.	£131,000
	Balloo Road at Gransha Road, Bangor - Control of all vehicular movements and additional pedestrian facilities.	£129,000
2009/10	No schemes.	Nil
2010 to date	Balloo Road / Bloomfield Road South - Traffic signals altered to provide fully controlled right turn, and enhanced pedestrian facilities.	£137,000

Department for Social Development

Agenda NI

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department and its agencies have spent on (i) articles and adverts in Agenda NI; (ii) subscriptions to Agenda NI; and (iii) payments for staff attending conferences organised by BMF Conferences since May 2007.

(AQW 2475/11)

Minister for Social Development (Mr A Attwood): The table below provides details of expenditure by Business Area as requested from May 2007 to date;

	Articles & Adverts in Agenda NI £	Subscriptions to Agenda NI £	Payments for attendance at BMF Conferences £	Totals £
URCDG	0	0	4,360	4,360
SSA	2,392	35	4,065	6,492
CMED	7,650	0	390	8,040
CORE	1,205	280	2,155	3,640
Housing	0	0	1,170	1,170
Grand Totals	11,247	315	12,140	23,702

Engagement with European Political Institutions

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister for Social Development to detail (i) the number of officials within his Department who are currently directly involved in engagement with European political institutions; and (ii) the success rate of his Department in accessing European funding in each of the last three years.
(AQW 2796/11)

Minister for Social Development: A total of 5 Officials from my Department are directly involved with the European Commission at different levels on a wide range of European issues, - mostly concerned with closed but still live programmes.

My Department continues to draw down funds in line with planned project expenditure.

As Accountable Department for Measure 2.1 of Peace III, we work closely with the relevant funders and institutions to manage the spend within budget.

Additionally, my Department continues to be involved in a number of other EU Initiatives and liaises closely with the European Commission in relation to potential future funding opportunities as follows:-

Transnational and Interregional Programmes

Northern Ireland is eligible for three Transnational Cooperation programmes funded from the European Regional Development Fund i.e.:-

- North West Europe Programme
- Atlantic Area Programme

Northern Periphery Programme

In total there is some €1.3 billion for which we can apply in partnership with other EU regions.

The Northern Ireland Taskforce Report and Action Plan

A European Commission Task Force for Northern Ireland led by the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy was formed in 2007. Its remit is supporting the peace process with a particular emphasis on improving competitiveness and generating jobs and growth in line with the Union's overall Lisbon Strategy. An Action Plan has been developed by OFMDFM in response to the NITF report. The overall aim of the Action Plan is:

- “To engage more effectively with the European Union and its policies and initiatives to help us to achieve our own Programme for Government priorities, particularly in relation to growing a dynamic innovative economy.”

The Action Plan has been developed under five themes:

- Promote our interests within the European Union;
- Access EU funding;
- Raise our positive profile throughout Europe;
- Raise awareness and encourage participation in European matters; and
- Share our experience in conflict resolution with Europe and beyond.

The Leipzig Charter

The Leipzig Charter was an initiative of the German EU Presidency and was adopted by the Council of Ministers in Leipzig in May 2007.

The central message in the Leipzig Charter is the necessity of 'integrated strategies and coordinated action'. All levels of government i.e. local, regional, national and European have an interest in healthy cities and share the responsibility for the success of cities. European structural funds are to be made available for local projects that embrace this integral approach.

DSD has been monitoring developments on Leipzig and expressed an interest in participating in a European Leipzig networking group.

Quartiers En Crise - European Areas Regeneration Network (QEC ERAN)

DSD is a member of the Belfast in Europe QEC-ERAN group which has an overall objective of:-

- Promoting Belfast in Europe QEC-ERAN and demonstrate local good practice in a European context
- facilitating exchanges between local people, professionals and politicians in the European cities involved in QEC-ERAN
- Considering and promoting integrated strategies for the improvement of conditions in inner city areas
- Promoting research into best practice from other European cities so that a co-ordinated targeted approach to housing, employment, health and social services, education and economic regeneration achieves maximum effect within Belfast

BMF Business Services

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department, and its arms-length bodies, have spent on BMF Business Services since May 2007.

(AQW 2808/11)

Minister for Social Development: The table below provides details of expenditure as requested from May 2007 to date.

	Articles &Adverts in Agenda NI £	Subscriptions to Agenda NI £	Payments for attendance at BMF Conferences £	Totals £
Urban Regeneration & Community Development Group	0	0	4,360	4,360
Ilex	6,721	0	2,184	8,905
Charities Commission	0	0	0	0
Social Security Agency	2,392	35	4,065	6,492
Child Maintenance Enforcement Division	7,650	0	390	8,040
Core	1,205	280	2,155	3,640
Housing	0	0	1,170	1,170
N.I. Housing Executive	5,008	70	3,913	8,991
Grand Totals	22,976	385	18,237	41,598

People Registered as Unemployed

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Social Development how many people with a degree aged (i) under 24 years old; and (ii) 24 years old and above were registered as unemployed at the beginning of December in each of the last five years.

(AQW 2847/11)

Minister for Social Development: My Department does not routinely record the information requested.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how much has been spent on the Warm Homes Scheme in the Strangford constituency since May 2007.

(AQW 2863/11)

Minister for Social Development: The current Warm Homes Scheme commenced on 1 July 2009. Prior to that the scheme was delivered by Eaga plc. When their contract for Warm Homes ended, Eaga handed over to the Department for Social Development all records they held relating to the scheme. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive holds those records on behalf of the Department. It is not possible to analyse those records by constituency between May 2007 and June 2009. The only information held in relation to money spent under the original scheme is for total spend across Northern Ireland by each financial year of the scheme.

Since 1 July 2009, £574,761 has been spent on Warm Homes interventions in the Strangford area.

Social Deprivation

Mr P Givan asked the Minister for Social Development what the level of social deprivation is in each constituency, as measured by the Noble Indices.

(AQW 2906/11)

Minister for Social Development: The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010) provides a statistical measure of levels of deprivation across a number of geographies in Northern Ireland. The table presents the results from the 2010 measures at Assembly Area level with a variety of summary measures.

The Department for Social Development do not have responsibility for producing the NIMDM. These figures are produced by the Demography and Methodology Branch of the NI Statistics and Research Agency within the Department of Finance and Personnel and are available online at:

http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme_deprivation2010/default.asp

Assembly Area	Extent (%)	Rank of Extent (1 is most deprived)	Income Scale	Rank of Income Scale (1 is most deprived)	Income Rate (%)	Rank of Income Rate (1 is most deprived)	Employment Scale	Rank of Employment Scale (1 is most deprived)	Employment Rate (%)	Rank of Employment Rate (1 is most deprived)
Belfast East	19	6	18,355	12	23	9	5,223	17	11	11
Belfast North	59	2	34,825	3	42	2	9,283	4	20	2
Belfast South	20	5	17,502	15	19	13	5,473	16	9	17
Belfast West	76	1	42,664	1	51	1	11,625	2	24	1
East Antrim	10	10	16,151	17	18	14	5,511	15	11	13
East Londonderry	14	9	23,072	10	25	7	7,132	10	13	7
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	5	17	22,741	11	22	10	6,517	11	11	12
Foyle	43	3	41,487	2	38	3	11,884	1	18	3
Lagan Valley	7	14	17,572	14	16	17	6,069	14	9	16
Mid Ulster	9	12	24,326	8	25	6	7,476	8	13	8
Newry and Armagh	17	8	30,654	4	28	5	8,783	6	14	5
North Antrim	9	11	23,689	9	22	12	7,401	9	12	10
North Down	3	18	13,446	18	15	18	4,515	18	9	18
South Antrim	5	15	17,851	13	17	16	6,307	12	10	15
South Down	7	13	25,911	7	22	11	8,428	7	12	9
Strangford	5	16	17,278	16	17	15	6,143	13	10	14
Upper Bann	18	7	27,851	5	24	8	9,290	3	14	6
West Tyrone	23	4	27,685	6	30	4	8,888	5	16	4

Legislative Proposals in the European Commission

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Social Development whether there is a specific individual or section within his Department to identify, at an early stage, legislative proposals in the European Commission and the potential impact on Northern Ireland.

(AQW 2945/11)

Minister for Social Development: My Department's European Union (EU) Unit is in regular contact with the European Commission in Brussels in order to keep updated with EU Legislation/Policies/Guidance and on various issues which may have a potential impact on Northern Ireland.

The Department's European Union (EU) Unit was originally established with the objective of co-ordinating EU activities within DSD and monitoring the administration and delivery of EU Programmes. A number of the Programmes have now closed and the Unit is responsible for ensuring that Closure Packs containing a wide range of material and information from various sources throughout the Department are prepared to audit and EC standards.

DSD is the Accountable Department for Measure 2.1 of the Peace III Programme (Creating Shared Public Spaces) and additionally, continues to be involved in a number of other EU Initiatives which may potentially impact on Northern Ireland.

As the central contact point within the Department on all EU issues the EU Unit is responsible for coordinating, managing and distributing information, advice and guidance to appropriate branches throughout the Department.

Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels

Mr A Ross asked the Minister for Social Development to detail any communication his Department has had with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels in each of the last 24 months.

(AQW 2948/11)

Minister for Social Development: My Department is in regular contact with the NI Executive's European Office in Brussels in order to keep updated with EU Policies/Guidance and on various issues relating to former, current and future EU Programmes. My predecessor hosted a reception in September 2009 in the Northern Ireland Executive Office for a range of EU Commissioners, MEPs and Officials, as part of a wider visit. Later the same month a DSD official attended the Barosso Task Force Working Group Meeting in the office.

Locally there is significant contact between officials and staff in DFP's European Unit over a range of issues but currently focusing on closure of the Urban II programme. My Department also liaises regularly with the Special European Programmes Body on matters relating to the PEACE III programme. In most cases DFP act as the conduit where issues need to be brought to the attention of the NI Executive Office.

The other channel for contact over EU matters is with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin who provide the briefings for each change of EU President. An official from the Department will always attend these one day sessions hosted by DFA.

Contact is either by telephone, email and letter or occasionally in person through local meetings. Every effort is made to minimise travel to Brussels given the associated costs.

People Registered as Unemployed

Mr T Burns asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the total number of people currently registered as unemployed and claiming benefits who have never had a job, broken down by age.

(AQW 2950/11)

Minister for Social Development: My Department does not routinely record the information requested.

Boiler Scrappage Scheme

Mr T Elliott asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department will introduce a boiler scrappage scheme; and if so, when will the scheme begin.

(AQW 2960/11)

Minister for Social Development: In January 2011 I will announce a new Fuel Poverty Strategy which will include a pilot Boiler Replacement Scheme. I expect the new Boiler Replacement Scheme to be in place for spring 2011.

Unlike the Boiler Scrappage Scheme in England the Boiler Replacement Scheme will be targeted at vulnerable people who have inefficient boilers.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Social Development whether there are any security policies or procedures in place in the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division in relation to dealing with cases for individuals who may be members of Fathers for Justice.

(AQW 2982/11)

Minister for Social Development: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division does not have any specific security policies or procedures for dealing with cases for individuals who may be members of Fathers for Justice.

Vandalism to Housing Executive Homes

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister for Social Development how many incidences of vandalism to Housing Executive owned homes have been recorded in each of the last three years, broken down by each district office and the estimated cost of repairing the damage.

(AQW 2990/11)

Minister for Social Development: The table below details the numbers of incidences of vandalism to Housing Executive owned homes and the cost of repairing the damage in each of the last three years, broken down by Housing Executive district office.

Financial Year	2007/8			2008/9			2009/10		
	Incidences	Cost of repairs	Incidences	Cost of repairs	Incidences	Cost of repairs	Incidences	Cost of repairs	
West Belfast	118	£22,218.58	97	£18,864.31	116	£28,709.56			
East Belfast	18	£1,387.82	19	£12,211.22	32	£9,694.00			
South Belfast	28	£1,490.27	24	£4,081.40	39	£2,318.30			
North Belfast	88	£7112.26	87	£16894.22	254	£45916.51			
Shankill	70	£18,930.75	52	£4,102.91	42	£5,698.54			
Bangor	119	£13,663.86	145	£21,861.50	181	£52,199.40			
Newtownards	79	£10,217.47	60	£5,717.34	28	£2,432.79			
Castlereagh	72	£8,926.17	58	8,150.65	54	£14,739.87			
Lisburn Antrim St.	69	£7,720.63	84	£6,486.51	44	£3,762.96			
Lisburn Dairy Farm	89	£9,477.16	95	£10,687.62	71	£8,956.51			
Downpatrick	19	£1,563.29	45	£10,844.41	24	£3,329.47			
Banbridge	24	£4,047.28	19	£2,226.55	17	£1,099.94			
Newry	37	£4,372.76	36	£4,561.72	39	£5,796.80			
Armagh	10	£2,713.62	30	£6,065.01	12	£610.34			
Lurgan/Brownlow	104	£9,690.47	107	£9,728.37	93	£10,379.01			
Portadown	146	£8,900.76	107	£10,401.79	77	£8,714.32			
Dungannon	28	£4,481.85	29	£9,473.86	41	£11,027.79			
Fermanagh	186	£18,896.02	100	£12,945.30	70	£13,466.06			
Ballymena	78	£42,855.20	86	£16,686.85	68	£11,118.35			
Antrim	188	£23,368.98	180	£24,556.48	83	£12,554.12			

Financial Year	2007/8		2008/9		2009/10	
	Incidences	Cost of repairs	Incidences	Cost of repairs	Incidences	Cost of repairs
Newtownabbey 1	53	£4,601.44	63	£4,763.25	55	£11,318.41
Newtownabbey 2	27	£5,111.98	49	£3,236.07	19	£2,516.68
Carrickfergus	30	£4,671.27	29	£2,507.24	22	£1,899.60
Larne	22	£3,355.95	16	£1,341.73	26	£3,015.66
Ballycastle	21	£1,917.88	14	£1,365.43	23	£1,991.62
Ballymoney	33	£6,917.90	34	£8,926.82	50	£10,992.68
Coleraine	248	£21,944.17	128	£15,300.04	86	£12,585.58
Waterloo Place	27	£3,431.38	39	£3,735.99	49	£12,518.00
Waterside	200	£26,518.28	147	£15,061.20	180	£33,310.81
Collon Terrace	137	£9,750.74	94	£8,061.42	143	£14,301.34
Limavady	22	£1,129.52	30	£4,171.62	33	£2,101.86
Magherafelt	18	£1,577.37	9	£1,346.09	21	£1,434.26
Strabane	4	£472.85	4	£317.25	17	£3,346.52
Omagh	11	£775.02	9	£631.25	5	£425.69
Cookstown.	4	£255.70	6	£277.49	7	£455.51

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how much has been spent on the Warm Homes Scheme in the North Down constituency since May 2007.

(AQW 2992/11)

Minister for Social Development: The current Warm Homes Scheme commenced on 1 July 2009. Prior to that the scheme was delivered by Eaga plc. When their contract for Warm Homes ended, Eaga handed over to the Department for Social Development all records they held relating to the scheme. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive holds those records on behalf of the Department. It is not possible to analyse those records by constituency between May 2007 and June 2009. The only information held in relation to money spent under the original scheme is for total spend across Northern Ireland by each financial year of the scheme.

Since 1 July 2009, £545,012 has been spent on Warm Homes interventions in the North Down area.

Customer First Across the Social Security Agency's Local Office Network

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development whether he considered the implications of the introduction in 2013 of the Universal Credit in England, Scotland and Wales when making his decision to roll-out Customer First across the Social Security Agency's local office network.

(AQW 3011/11)

Minister for Social Development: I have not made any decision yet on the roll out of Customer First across the Social Security Agency's local office network. The evaluation report into the Customer First pilot in North District was provided to me in early December 2010. I am currently considering the findings of this report and I will make my decisions when I have fully considered all of the information available.

While it is too early to be definitive about the implications of the proposed introduction in 2013 of Universal Credit, consideration will be given to this in due course. It is clear that the proposed changes have the potential to impact on all the benefits currently delivered through the local office network and it is important that the Agency be positioned to respond flexibly to these challenges in the future.

Customer First

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development whether 242 staffing posts will be removed from the Social Security Agency if Customer First is implemented.

(AQW 3012/11)

Minister for Social Development: As made clear previously, no staff will lose their employment as a consequence of Customer First being implemented. The Customer First initiative is intended to provide a more efficient organisational structure for how social security benefits are processed including achieving greater economies of scale than the current operating model. If Customer First were implemented in full, there would be a projected efficiency saving of around 171 posts out of the current 1800 posts across the SSA local office network over a 3 year period. During this time any extra staff would be redeployed to vacancies elsewhere in the Agency, the Department for Social Development or the wider Northern Ireland Civil Service, in line with normal terms and conditions of employment if necessary.

Customer First Across the Social Security Agency's Local Office Network

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development what is the projected cost of rolling out the Customer First model across the Social Security Agency's local office network.

(AQW 3013/11)

Minister for Social Development: As set out in the Business Case, the projected cost of rolling out the Customer First model across the Social Security Agency's local office network is £22.9 million over a 15 year period. Over the same period the projected savings are £64.3 million.

Social Security Agency's Strategic Business Review

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development how much was spent on the Social Security Agency's strategic business review project; and how much has been spent on the Customer First project to date.

(AQW 3014/11)

Minister for Social Development: The table set out below details the Social Security Agency's expenditure on the Strategic Business Review and Customer First initiative. This is in line with the projected expenditure calculations in the Business Case.

Timeframe	Expenditure
Strategic Business Review (Nov 2006 – July 2009)	£2.671 million
Customer First (August 2009 – August 2010)	£2.376 million
Total Expenditure	£5.047 million

Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance Medical Reviews

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development (i) how many people were compelled to attend medical reviews in relation to their (a) Disability Living Allowance; (b) Incapacity Benefit; and (c) Employment Support Allowance in each of the last three years; (ii) how many of these people had their claims refused as a result of the review; and (iii) how many people's claims were reinstated after an oral appeal.

(AQW 3043/11)

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

		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11†
Disability Living Allowance	Number of customers referred for a medical examination	9721	10195	5546
	Disallowed following examination*			
	Successful appeals **	1851	1761	932
Incapacity Benefit	Number of customers referred for a medical examination	24649	10864	2134
	Disallowed following examination	5495	2326	902
	Successful appeals***	585	850	150
Employment †† & Support Allowance	Number of customers referred for a medical examination	2531	22801	15085
	Disallowed following examination	415	7995	5209
	Successful appeals***	0	354	967

† The 2010/11 figures cover the period from 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2010.

† † ESA commenced from 27 October 2008..

* Information on Disability Living Allowance disallowances based solely on an Examining Medical Practitioner's report is not held by the Department as in determining entitlement to DLA all evidence is considered including information provided on the customers claim form, medical information supplied or gathered and the on line medical guidance.

- ** The figures provided are the number of successful oral appeals including appeals where the rate of DLA was under appeal and not just those relating to disallowances.
- *** Figures given for successful Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance appeals include both oral and written hearings. No ESA Appeals were completed by the end of 2008/09, following introduction of the benefit on 27 October 2008.

Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Employment Support Allowance Appeals

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development how many people have appealed against the refusal or rescinding of their (i) Disability Living Allowance; (ii) Incapacity Benefit; and (iii) Employment Support Allowance in each of the last three years; and to detail the cost of these appeals.

(AQW 3044/11)

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

		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 †
Disability Living Allowance*	Number of appeals	6495	6377	3721
	Costs	£1,232,760	£1,118,988	£694,116
Incapacity Benefit	Number of appeals	3563	1998	808
	Costs	£765,717	£517,543	£168,218
Employment & Support Allowance**	Number of appeals	110	5201	3764
	Costs	£42,126	£693,963	£778,204

† The 2010/11 figures cover the period from 1 April 2010 to 30 November 2010.

* This is the total number of appeals received as the information is not available in the format requested. Appeals are received from both applicants who have been refused or rescinded Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and from those awarded one of the eleven different rates of DLA but who are not satisfied with the particular rate awarded. DLA appeals are recorded on an overall number basis and not by different categories which distinguish an individual's benefit history.

** Employment and Support Allowance commenced from 27 October 2008.

In addition to the costs detailed in the table above, costs are also incurred by The Appeal Service. The costs cannot be provided for specific benefits. The annual expenditure of the Appeal Service for benefit appeals are as follows:-

Year	Expenditure
2008/09	£4,827,704
2009/10	£5,322,808
2010/11 †	£2,916,366

Lenadoon Shops in Belfast

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the work which will be carried out at the Lenadoon Shops in Belfast, including a timeframe for its completion.

(AQW 3091/11)

Minister for Social Development: The Housing Executive's Commercial Property Department has been in regular contact with the local Residents group regarding maintenance of the shops at Lenadoon and has agreed to paint the rear and gable wall of the shops in the New Year, most likely in March 2011 when weather conditions are better. There is also an area of ground to the back of the buildings which is fenced off and padlocked and the Housing Executive's local District Office has agreed to clear debris from the area. However, as there is a very steep approach to the rear of these shops and a vehicle couldn't access the area in the current climate, arrangements are in place to have the area cleared manually when the weather improves. In relation to the guttering of the building, the tenants have been reminded that this is their responsibility to clear as part of their own maintenance obligation under the terms of the lease.

Cold Weather Payments

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development which postcode areas have received Cold Weather Payments in the last twelve months.

(AQW 3107/11)

Minister for Social Development: Qualifying customers living in all post code areas in Northern Ireland have received Cold Weather Payments both last winter and this winter. Last winter five separate Cold Weather Payments were made to customers living in post code areas covered by Castleberg, Katesbridge and St Angelo (Enniskillen) weather stations – these were BT24-28, 30-35, 45-48, 60-71, 74-77, 80-82 and 92-94. Three payments were made to customers living in post code areas covered by Aldergrove and Ballykelly weather stations incorporating BT 1-23, 29, 36-44, 49 and 51-57.

This winter, up to 24 December 2010, four separate Cold Weather Payments have been made to customers living in post code areas covered by Aldergrove, Castleberg, Glenanne, Katesbridge and St Angelo (Enniskillen) weather stations which are BT 24-35, 39-46, 60-71, 74-82 and 92-94. Three payments have been made to those living in post code areas covered by Ballykelly weather station – BT 47-49 and 51-57, whilst two payments have been made to those living in post code areas covered by Stormont weather station – these include BT1-23 and BT36-38.

The number of weather stations was increased from five to seven in 2010/11.

Capital Projects in North Down

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Social Development how much his Department has spent on capital projects in North Down in each of the last three financial years.

(AQW 3108/11)

Minister for Social Development: Detailed below is the amount that my Department has spent on capital projects in North Down in each of the last three financial years:

2007/08	£12,676,322.36
2008/09	£22,776,972.00
2009/10	£8,082,642.00

Colin Gateway Project

Ms J McCann asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the reasons for the £0.07million underspend in capital grant funding for the Colin Gateway Project, as outlined in his Department's December Monitoring Round return.

(AQW 3126/11)

Minister for Social Development: There is no such underspend. The total investment for Colin Gateway is £3.1m and it is anticipated that it will be fully spent. The original bid (submitted October 2008) was based on the Department's best estimate of profiled costs at that time. The profile was based on

the estimated cost of the project, as determined through the development process and profiles have been continually reviewed. In 2010-11, OFMDFM authorised the transfer by Department of Finance and Personnel of £1.443m into DSD's budget for Colin Gateway. Based on the latest profiles, the Department only required £1.376m for the project in 2010-11 and have sought to return the small excess of £0.067m to Department of Finance and Personnel. As Integrated Development Funding is ring fenced for specific projects, the Department was required to return the funding to Department of Finance and Personnel and was unable to retain it to fund other regeneration initiatives. The Department has placed bids in the Budget 2010 exercise to secure funds to fully complete the £3.1m Colin Gateway project project.

Draft Savings Delivery Plans

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister for Social Development whether his Department will publish its draft Savings Delivery Plans within one week of the publication of the draft Budget 2011 -2015; and whether it will include details of departmental savings measures and their anticipated impact.

(AQW 3140/11)

Minister for Social Development: I have repeatedly called for the publication of a draft budget, though I am not in a position to recommend it. The most acute budget for a generation needs to be right and fully informed by the community and stakeholders. There are a series of unknowns around the budget and its proposals are complex, all of which require to be addressed. These are being worked through. I shall ensure that there is full engagement with stakeholders and the Social Development Committee and that all relevant details are published in due course.

Income Support Processing

Mr M Brady asked the Minister for Social Development whether staff in Income Support processing sections will be redeployed when customers migrate to Employment Support Allowance; and if he can give an assurance that there will be no impact on the delivery of Income Support when lone parents migrate from this payment to Job Seekers Allowance.

(AQW 3148/11)

Minister for Social Development: While both changes to rules for Lone Parents and the imminent Incapacity Benefits Reassessment exercise will have impacts on Income Support processing and staffing levels, the full extent of any impact will only become clear in early 2012, when sufficient numbers of customers have moved through the reassessment process.

I have made it very clear of my concerns about many of the current and proposed changes to the social welfare system, that their impact will be closely monitored and, given the increasing numbers seeking benefits, I believe it is important to protect the social security service, crucially the numbers of frontline staff.

Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister for Social Development which neighbourhoods in the South Antrim constituency have benefited from the Neighbourhood Renewal Scheme in each of the last five years; and how much money has been allocated to each group in each year.

(AQW 3193/11)

Minister for Social Development: Ballyclare is the only Neighbourhood within the South Antrim constituency to benefit from the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. The Ballyclare Neighbourhood Renewal Area comprises the Grange/Thornhill estate and a small area of the Ollardale estate. During the last five years the area has benefitted from £360,296.59 of Neighbourhood Renewal funding. The breakdown of funding is as follows:

2006/2007

Newtownabbey Borough Council Local Strategic Partnership	£34,492.88
Ballyclare Community Concerns Transitional Running Costs	£27,640.00
Ballyclare Community Concerns Salaries and Running Costs	£87,867.61
Grange Residents Association Cross Community Summer Camp	£520.00

2007/2008

Ballyclare Secondary School Homework Club	£4279.48
Ballyclare Secondary School Breakfast Club	£2187.76
DRD Traffic Calming Measures	£14,634.04
Grange Community Association Christmas Information Event	£450.00

2008/2009

Youth for Christ – Youth DJ Skills programme	£1,069.72
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Technical Assistance	£15,555.26
Ballyclare Secondary School Homework Club	£1,075.16
Ballyclare Secondary School Breakfast Club	£11,606.68

2009/2010

Grange Community Association - Information Events 2009	£1,697.00
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Grange Play Park	£69,623.40
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Grange Health Care Initiative	£7,091.50
Ballyclare Secondary School Adopt a School	£1,776.00
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Grange Community House Refurbishment	£6,089.50
Newtownabbey Borough Council - Technical Assistance	£35,263.44

2010/2011

Newtownabbey Borough Council - Technical Assistance	£34,330.56
Grange Community Association – Community House Running Costs	£3,046.60

West Green Flats in Holywood

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the timescale for the demolition of West Green Flats in Holywood.

(AQW 3197/11)

Minister for Social Development: Two blocks of flats alongside other adjacent properties in West Green Holywood have been earmarked for demolition to make way for a new housing development in the area.

The demolition will take place in two phases: the first phase involving the flats and the second involving the adjacent properties.

Services have been disconnected from the flats at West Green and plans are already being developed to effect their demolition before March next year.

Residents from the adjacent properties comprising the second phase of demolition are still being re-housed. Once that has been completed, those properties will also be demolished but the timing of that will of course be entirely dependant on how quickly suitable alternative accommodation can be found for those residents who have to relocate.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

IT System at Parliament Buildings

Ms M Anderson asked the Assembly Commission to details the steps being taken to upgrade the IT system at Parliament Buildings to increase the internet speed, so that MLAs can provide a better quality of interaction with constituents and others.

(AQW 2912/11)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The Assembly Commission provides an internally based email system for use by Members, Party Support staff and Secretariat staff on Assembly business. This system has been designed with a high degree of availability.

The Assembly Commission also operates a “shared service” arrangement with the Northern Ireland Civil Service to ensure a secure connection to internet based resources. There has been an increasing demand for a large number of feature-rich websites from all users of the internet connection within Parliament Buildings including Members, Members’ staff, Party support staff, Party staff, Secretariat staff and guests to the building including journalists, NICS staff and visitors. This has increased demand on the existing internet connection to the extent that restrictions on access to non essential websites have been put in place for Assembly Secretariat staff. The Commission is also investigating how to prioritise all traffic to ensure that external email sites such as Hotmail, Yahoo and Google Mail are accessible during busy periods

In addition, the Assembly Commission is in the process of procuring an independent internet connection for use by Assembly Members and their support staff and the Assembly Secretariat on Assembly business. Secretariat staff are currently evaluating proposals from suppliers in response to the published tender opportunity. A contract will be awarded shortly and installation work is anticipated to start in January with priority being given to improving access to the internet to assist Members with their Assembly business.

Supplying Water to Assembly Committees

Mr A Ross asked the Assembly Commission to detail the cost of supplying (i) a jug of tap water: and (ii) a bottle of water to Assembly Committees.

(AQW 3176/11)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): There is no cost to the Assembly Commission for supplying a jug of tap water;

- (i) The cost of supplying a 250ml bottle of water to an Assembly Committee is £0.60 net
- (ii) Supplying Water to Assembly Committees

Mr A Ross asked the Assembly Commission whether it owns or rents the plastic jugs used to supply water to Assembly Committees.

(AQW 3177/11)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The Assembly Commission owns all light equipment associated with the provision of the Catering Services. This includes jugs used to supply water to the Assembly Committees.

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Revised Written Answers

Friday 7 January 2011

(AQW 1765/11)

The information on expenditure on conferences that is available is given in the table below:

EXPENDITURE ON CONFERENCES IN THE LAST 3 YEARS

Expenditure on Conferences Attended by DSD Staff	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Core	2,685	5,208	3,468
Housing	7,956	14,050	13,573
Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division	0	456	240
Social Security Agency	6,836	447	7,566
Urban Regeneration Group	22,715	11,870	15,766
ILEX	-	-	-
NI Housing Executive	84,505	54,154	68,425
Sub-total	124,697	86,185	109,038
Expenditure on Conferences Hosted by DSD			
Core	0	806	200
Housing	6,559	3,574	12,811
Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division	19,062	2,733	885
Social Security Agency	7,354	0	0
Urban Regeneration Group	6,487	5,995	170
ILEX	-	11,936	19,156
NI Housing Executive	90,135	100,540	71,758
Sub-total	129,597	125,584	104,980
Grand Total	254,294	211,769	214,018

It should be noted that the nature of the Department's business often necessitates consultations with outside bodies and interested stakeholders. It is for this reason that the information on costs has been split between conferences attended and conferences hosted. These "conference" figures include mandatory consultations with key stakeholders in relation to new policies etc and information seminars regarding legislative and policy changes. The detailed information requested is not available from the Department's finance systems at the level requested.



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