

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 18 March 2011

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Contents

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister95

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development98

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure109

Department of Education114

Department for Employment and Learning.....151

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment154

Department of the Environment.....156

Department of Finance and Personnel158

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.....162

Department of Justice176

Department for Regional Development.....182

Department for Social Development198

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission.....202

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

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

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Robinson, Ken (East Antrim)
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Wells, Jim (South Down)
Wilson, Brian (North Down)
Wilson, Sammy (East Antrim)

Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 18 March 2011

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Arms-Length Bodies

Mr J Craig asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, for each Department, to (i) list each Arms-length body which was in existence five years ago; (ii) list each Arms-Length body which currently exists; (iii) detail the annual cost of each Arms-Length body which was in existence five years ago; (iv) detail the annual cost of each Arms-Length body which is in existence today; (v) detail the number of staff employed in each Arms-Length body which was in existence five years ago; (vi) detail the number of staff employed in each current Arms-length body; and (vii) to detail the departmental Arms-Length bodies which are in the process of being set up, including those for which legislation is currently progressing.

(AQW 3223/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness): The information requested was not all readily available and departments have had to collate the details and we apologise for the delay in answering.

Information on many of the Arms length Bodies (ALBs) in existence five years ago and currently is published in the Public Bodies 2006 report and the Public Bodies and Public Appointments Annual Report 2009/10 publications, which are available on the internet at:

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

and

http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/microsoft_word_-_of1_10_0152180_public_bodies__annual_report_-_pdf.pdf

Information on ALBs not included in the publications above and lists of those ALBs in the process of being set up have been placed in the Assembly Library.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) came into existence on 12 April 2010. DoJ has indicated that details of expenditure and staff numbers relating to ALBs before that date are a matter for the previous department. DoJ is therefore unable to provide an answer to parts (i), (iii) and (v) of the Question.

Child Poverty Strategy

Ms D Purvis asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what specific measurements and targets they will use to (i) calculate the reduction in child poverty levels when implementing the Child Poverty Strategy; and (ii) meet the requirement to report annually on progress.

(AQW 5058/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The measurements and targets that will be used to calculate the reduction in future child poverty levels here will be those set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Child Poverty Act

Ms D Purvis asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether, as part of Northern Ireland's obligations under the Child Poverty Act, they have considered the models established by the Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales which set clear, specific and measurable targets to gauge their progress in reducing child poverty .

(AQW 5059/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In developing a Child Poverty Strategy we have taken advice from officials who have considered a number of similar strategies put in place by other administrations, including those in Scotland and Wales. Officials monitor progress across jurisdictions, not least to ensure that we comply with the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010 which makes requirements on administrations across the UK, individually and collectively.

Our strategy will be supported by a Delivery Plan which will set clear, specific and measurable targets, that are both appropriate to the particular needs of children and families here and that will allow us to effectively measure the progress being made in reducing child poverty. The Delivery Plan is currently being prepared with inputs from across government departments and from key stakeholders represented on the Ministerial-led Poverty Stakeholder Forum.

Child Poverty Strategy

Ms D Purvis asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether they have considered adopting the standard established by the National Assembly for Wales to match the lowest child poverty rate in Europe of 5 per cent before housing costs in developing the Child Poverty Strategy.

(AQW 5060/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: In considering possible changes to the draft Child Poverty Strategy which was published for a period of public consultation on 6 December 2010, our officials have taken account of a wide range of inputs including an assessment of the child poverty strategy proposals for Scotland and Wales.

We are currently considering some proposed changes to our draft strategy, in light of some of the comments made during the public consultation period and an agreed Executive strategy is on schedule to be laid before the Assembly before its dissolution on 24 March, in line with the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Severe Child Poverty in Northern Ireland

Mrs D Kelly asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for their assessment of the recent Save the Children report, Severe Child Poverty in Northern Ireland, which includes a call for an emergency plan to tackle severe child poverty in the Chancellor's Budget and the Child Poverty Strategy.

(AQW 5075/11)

First Minister and deputy First Minister: We welcome the production of Save the Children's recent report on severe child poverty here.

The report is a valuable addition to the body of evidence that our officials are considering in developing the Child Poverty Strategy's Delivery Plan that will be necessary when the Executive publishes its Child Poverty Strategy in March 2011.

As members of the recently re-established Ministerial-led Poverty and Social Inclusion Stakeholder Forum, which met for the second time on Thursday 3 March 2011, Save the Children will be actively involved in both the development and implementation of the delivery plan.

Appointment of a New High Court Judge

Mr A Maginness asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the reasons for the delay by the NI Judicial Appointment Commission in the recruitment and appointment of a new High Court Judge. **(AQW 5077/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission was established to enhance the independent process for the appointments of judicial office holders to courts and tribunals. Whilst OFMDFM holds resourcing and sponsorship responsibility for the Commission it has no locus in appointment matters. It may be helpful therefore for you to direct your enquiry to the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the implementation of the plan to decentralise public sector jobs within their Department, and its agencies, since the publication of the Bain Report. **(AQW 5119/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The decentralisation/relocation of posts within OFMDFM remains under consideration.

Playboard: Funding

Ms A Lo asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the funding that has been allocated to Playboard from April 2011. **(AQW 5247/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: You may be aware that our Department has been co-ordinating a package of funding, through the Ministerial Sub-Committee on Children and Young People, to enable those after school projects originally supported by the Children and Young People's Funding Package via PlayBoard to continue whilst work on the future delivery of childcare here was progressed.

With the existing funding package due to end on 31 March 2011, we are currently considering a number of options in regard to the future funding of the projects beyond that date, but no decisions have yet been taken. However, we expect to make an announcement on this issue shortly.

European Micro-Loan Funding

Ms D Purvis asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister why Northern Ireland has not drawn down any of the European micro-loan funding for businesses. **(AQW 5248/11)**

First Minister and deputy First Minister: The first call for applications under the new EU microfinance facility 'PROGRESS' was launched by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in October 2010. The facility is aimed at microfinance organisations across the EU who provide loans to individuals or micro-companies in the social economy who would otherwise find it difficult to access finance from mainstream sources. The EIF will not make direct loans to individuals or businesses.

PROGRESS aims to provide up to €500 million to eligible organisations but there are no pre-allocated amounts set aside for different regions: it is entirely up to interested microfinance providers to apply directly to the EIF in response to open calls for applications.

We have followed the development of the PROGRESS facility very closely in the context of the special EU Barroso Task Force for Northern Ireland. In November 2010, soon after the first call was published, the Junior Ministers met with a range of microfinance bodies including the credit unions, The Prince's Trust and the banks to promote awareness of the new EU facility and to encourage take-up where applicable.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Invest Northern Ireland and the Department for Employment and Learning have information about PROGRESS on their websites and are promoting awareness among their client bases.

To date, The Prince's Trust is the only organisation considering an application under the current call which offers microfinance guarantees and an official in our Department is assisting them with the application process. We understand that further calls will be issued by the EIF in the coming years offering different forms of financial support which may prove more attractive to microfinance providers.

We understand that to date, the EIF has awarded two contracts under PROGRESS, one in Belgium and the other in the Netherlands. Our office will continue to monitor the development of PROGRESS and track future calls for applications.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Consultation Documents

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to list the number and titles of all consultation documents published by her Department since May 2007.

(AQW 4993/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew): A total of 240 consultations have been published by my Department since May 2007. A list of these consultations is attached at Annex A.

ANNEX A

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Environmental Impact Assessment - Carrickacullion	4 May 2007
Application to register "NI Beef" as a Protected Geographical Indicator	8 May 2007
Application to register "NI Lamb" as a Protected Geographical Indicator	8 May 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment – Garvaghy	25 May 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment – Liscalgat	15 June 2007
Disability Action Plan 2007-2010	27 June 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Derrygonnelly	28 June 2007
Proposed Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) (Amendment) Regulations	9 July 2007
Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) Regulations 2008	10 July 2007
Products of Animal Origin (Disease Control) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	23 July 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment – Drumaness	24 July 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Cam Forest, Springwell Forest and Grange Park Forest, Loughermore Forest, Co Derry	27 July 2007
Equality Impact Assessment of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013	August 2007
Eggs and Chicks Regulations (NI) 2008	1 August 2007
Control of Salmonella in Poultry Scheme Order 2008	11 September 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballycastle Forest	10 October 2007

Title of Consultation	Date Published
The Olive Oil Regulations (NI) 2008	12 October 2007
Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Fruit and Vegetable Regime: Consultation on the possible allocation of new entitlements/reference amounts under the Single Farm Payment Scheme to fruit, vegetable, potato, orchard and nursery stock producers.	18 October 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Breen	22 October 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Carnmore Forest	7 November 2007
The Plant Health (Amendment No 2) Order (NI) 2008	7 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballypatrick Forest	16 November 2007
Strangford Lough Non Disturbance Zones	23 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment – Donemana Tyrone	30 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Davagh Forest Learmount	30 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Cam, Gortnamoyagh, Loughermore Forests	30 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Glenshane	30 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment – Drumnamalta Tyrone	30 November 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment – Altmore Tyrone	30 November 2007
Consultation on an Administrative System for Dealing with Fisheries Offences	December 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Forest Roadworks – Narrow Water, Mourne, Tollymore, Castlewellan, Drumkeeragh, Tievenadarragh Forests	14 December 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Forest Roadworks - Camlough, Carnagh, Fathom, Slieve Gullion, The Fews, Gosford, Drumbanagher	14 December 2007
Environmental Impact Assessment - Slievedoo Forest	14 December 2007
Consultation on a Diseases of Animals Bill	7 January 2008
Consultation on Proposal for 2% Increase to Milk Quotas from 1 April 2008	8 January 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Deforestation - Banagher Forest	18 January 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Forest Roadworks - Banagher Forest	18 January 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Afforestation - Riversdale Forest	24 January 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Legaghory, Co Derry	25 January 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Lislea Fermanagh	30 January 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Dungiven	1 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Lisvellaw Fermanagh	1 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Cregan Tyrone	1 February 2008
Seed Potato Growing Crop Inspection Fees - The Seed Potatoes (Crop Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2008	1 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Cullion Tyrone	8 February 2008
Implementation of the Aquatic Animal Health Directive 2006/88/EC in NI	8 February 2008

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Policy Consultation on Electronic Recording and Reporting of Fishing Activities and on Means of Remote Sensing	11 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Drumrany	15 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Armagh	15 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Ballymullan Down	15 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballynagarrick	22 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Cormullagh Tyrone	22 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Glenariff	22 February 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Glenderg	22 February 2008
Consultation on a Draft All-Island Animal Health And Welfare Strategy	13 March 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Cornamucklagh Tyrone	21 March 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Trillick Tyrone	21 March 2008
Implementation of European Council Directive 2007/33/EC in Potato Cyst Nematode - The Plant Health (Amendment No 3)Order (NI) 2010	21 April 2008
Draft Investment Plan for the European Fisheries Fund	2 May 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Omagh	23 May 2008
EU Consultation on Review of Less Favoured Area Scheme	27 May 2008
Application to register “Armagh Bramley Apple” as a Protected Geographical Indicator	29 May 2008
Forestry Bill	June 2008
Consultation on Responsibility and Cost Sharing for Animal Health and Welfare	June 2008
Scrapie Monitoring (Fees) Regulations (NI) 2008	10 June 2008
Consultation on a Draft Evidence and Innovation Strategy	18 June 2008
Consultation on CAP Health Check Legislative Proposals	23 June 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballycoan, Purdysburn, Co.Down	4 July 2008
Consultation on the proposed Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulations (NI) 2008	4 July 2008
The Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations (NI) 2009	7 July 2008
Scallop Fishing in NI Inshore Waters	7 July 2008
Eggs and Chicks (No. 2) Regulations (NI) 2008	9 July 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Carnmore Forest	25 July 2008
Rural Champion	13 August 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Carrickrovaddy	12 September 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Maghery Armagh	19 September 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Drumahoe	03 October 2008

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Seed Potato Growing Crop Inspection Fees - The Seed Potatoes (Crop Fees) Regulations (NI) 2009	9 October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Randalstown Antrim	10 October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – RSPB – Lough Erne Fermanagh	10 October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - – Newtownbutler Fermanagh	24 October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Pomeroy – Tyrone	31 October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Newtowncromelin Antrim	31 October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Bushmills Antrim	31 October 2008
Joint Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Food Standards Agency Consultation on Changes to BSE Testing	31 October 2008
Electronic Sales Note Legislation (Buyers and Sellers)	Industry Workshops at Fishing Ports November 2008
The Swine Vesicular Disease Regulations (NI) 2009	04 November 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment - Omagh	7 November 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment – Caledon Tyrone	21 November 2008
The Horse Passports Regulations (NI) 2010	5 December 2008
Developing the Recreational and Social Use of Forest Service Forests	1 January 2009
Implementation of new EU Animal By-Products Regulations	January 2009
Consultation on the European Commission's Review of the Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002	5 January 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Ballylenaghan, Belvoir Park Forest, Co Down	9 January 2009
Equality Impact Assessment on our strategy for 'Developing the Recreational and Social Use of Forest Service Forests'.	14 January 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Derrylin Fermanagh	16 January 2009
Implementation of CAP Health Check Milk Quota Increases	21 January 2009
Rural Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion Framework 2008 – 2011	26 January 2009
Proposed Donaghadee Wild Mussel Fishery	27 January 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Lurgan	30 January 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Bleary Armagh	30 January 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Downpatrick	6 February 2009
The Wine Regulations (NI) 2009	18 February 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Castlewella	20 February 2009
Consultation on policy options arising from the CAP Health Check agreement	02 March 2009
Review of Support Arrangements for Less Favoured Areas - Full Report	05 March 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Ardboe Tyrone	6 March 2009

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Environmental Impact Assessment – Belleek Fermanagh	6 March 2009
The Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations (NI) 2010	10 March 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Randalstown Antrim	20 March 2009
Consultation on New EU Rules To Safeguard The Welfare of Meat Chickens (Broilers)	24 March 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballinamallard Fermanagh	27 March 2009
Proposed Strangford Lough Pot Fishing Management Plan	6 April 2009
Rural Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion Framework 2008 – 2011 EQIA	8 April 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - A & B Contracts - Omagh	10 April 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Dromore	24 April 2009
Reform of the EC Marketing Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	24 April 2009
The Marketing of Fresh Horticulture Produce Regulations (NI) 2010	24 April 2009
Consultation on Lough Neagh (levels) Scheme 2009	29 April 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Belleek Fermanagh	8 May 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Portadown	8 May 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballynacraig, Crossgar, Co Down	22 May 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Ballynacraig, Crossgar, Co. Down	22 May 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Glenarm Antrim	22 May 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Ballygilbert	5 June 2009
Consultation on the Diseases of Animals (Importation of Machinery and Vehicles) Order (NI) 2009	22 June 2009
Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2009	3 July 2009
The Charges for Residues Surveillance Regulations (NI) 2010	3 July 2009
Eggs and Chicks Regulations (NI) 2010	7 July 2009
The Draft Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (NI) 2009	5 August 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – RSPB - Rabbit Island, Lower Lough Erne	21 August 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Lisnevanagh	28 August 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Drummuck	4 September 2009
Application to register “Lough Neagh Eel” as a Protected Geographical Indicator	4 September 2009
Consultation on the Implementation of Individual Movement Recording for Sheep and Goats and Electronic Identification (EID) for Sheep	11 September 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Mullaghbawn	25 September 2009
Consultation on the Scrapie (Fees Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2010	2 October 2009

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Horse Racing (Charges on Bookmakers) Order (NI) 2010	5 October 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - The National Trust - Newtownbutler	16 October 2009
Control of Salmonella in Turkey Flocks Scheme Order 2010	28 October 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Greencastle	30 October 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - The National Trust - Ballytintagh	30 October 2009
Application to register "New Season Comber Potato" as a Protected Geographical Indicator	30 October 2009
Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Scheme Order 2009	5 November 2009
Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2010	5 November 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment -Tempo	06 November 2009
DARD Children & Young People's Action Plan	20 November 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Tyrone	20 November 2009
Proposals for changes to dog control legislation.	23 November 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment – Tyrone	27 November 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Fermanagh	27 November 2009
Equality Impact Assessment for the Roll-out of DARD Direct	10 December 2009
The Specified Disease & Insect Transmissible Disease Regulations (NI) 2010	14 December 2009
Environmental Impact Assessment - Magherydogherty	08 January 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment -Newtownbutler	08 January 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Sixmilecross	08 January 2010
Consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment of the Agri-Environment Programme and the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Scheme	11 January 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – Belleek Fermanagh	15 January 2010
Consultation on Options for Distribution of the UK Share of the EU Dairy Fund	20 January 2010
Draft Proposals for the DARD Research Challenge Fund	21 January 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Glasdrummond	22 January 2010
Consultation on the review of the NI Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) fees 2010	22 January 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Gortmellon, Donemana. Co Tyrone	05 February 2010
Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Regulation	Industry seminar 9 February 2010
Beef and Pig Carcase Classification Regulations (NI) 2010	10 February 2010
The African Horse Sickness Regulations (NI) 2010	23 February 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment- Derrygortrevy	26 February 2010

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Environmental Impact Assessment - Tycanny, Augher, Co. Tyrone	5 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – Augher Tyrone	05 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – Dromore Tyrone	05 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Caledon, Co. Tyrone	05 March 2010
Consultation on the Equality Screening of the Farm Modernisation Programme	8 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone	19 March 2010
The Olive Oil Regulations (NI) 2011	19 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Cavanacaw, Armagh	26 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Maghera	26 March 2010
Consultation on the proposed Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulations (NI) 2010	26 March 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Gortreagh, Tyrone	2 April 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Derrywilligan, Newry	2 April 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – Armagh	2 April 2010
Consultation on an Amendment To The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (NI) 2000 (as amended) – Beak Trimming Of Laying Hens	28 April 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment -Pomeroy, Co. Tyrone	30 April 2010
Consultation on the Implementation of EU Pesticides Legislation	May 2010
The Seed Potatoes Regulations (NI) 2010 – consolidated Regulations	4 May 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Castlewellan, Co. Down	7 May 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Claudy, Co. Derry	21 May 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Balleyharvey Upper, Antrim	28 May 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Clough Mills, Co. Antrim	28 May 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Toomebridge, Co. Antrim	28 May 2010
Consultation Paper on the proposed Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (NI) 2010	June 2010
Proposed Regulations for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Bass	1 June 2010
Strategy for the Sustainability of the Honey Bee	7 June 2010
Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2009	9 June 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment -Templepatrick, Co. Antrim	11 June 2010
Disability Action Plan 2010-2013	16 June 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone	18 June 2010
Draft Poultrymeat Regulations (NI)	18 June 2010
Consultation on the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products	July 2010
Equality Impact Assessment of Farm Modernisation Programme, Tranche 2	9 July 2010

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Environmental Impact Assessment - Loughgall, Co. Armagh	23 July 2010
Consultation on Proposals for the transposition of EU Directive 2009/145 on Amateur Vegetables Varieties	August 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Middletown, Co. Armagh	13 August 2010
Equality Screening - Supply Chain Development Savings Proposal	25 August 2010
Equality Impact Assessment of the Manure Efficiency Technology Scheme Tranche 2	27 August 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Monkstown, Co. Antrim	10 September 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – Banagher Forest	17 September 2010
Belfast Lough Experimental Cockle Fishery	17 September 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Kilrea	24 September 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Larne, Co. Antrim	1 October 2010
Implementation of new EU Animal By-Products Regulations	October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh	8 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Dunbeg Upper	8 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – Lisnaskea	10 October 2010
The Seed Potatoes (Crop Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2011	12 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Benburb, Co. Tyrone	15 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Benburb, Co. Tyrone	15 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Glenarrif Forest	22 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Breen Forest	22 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment – RSPB - Lough Erne, Co. Fermanagh	22 October 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - Glendarragh Piggeries Ltd - Tullyvally	22 October 2010
The Seed Potatoes (Tuber Inspection Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2011	12 November 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 645443 - Garrison, Co. Fermanagh	26 November 2010
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 620049 - Omagh, Co. Tyrone	26 November 2010
Customer Channel Strategy Consultation	1 December 2010
Marketing of Potatoes (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2011	15 December 2010
Zoonoses Fees Regulations 2011	16 December 2010
Consultation on EU Communication on CAP reform post 2013	17 December 2010
Aujeszky's Disease Order, Aujeszky's Disease Scheme Order and Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2011	17 December 2010
Consultation on the protected zone status of <i>Bermisia tabaci</i>	13 January 2011
DARD's draft Budget 2011-15 proposals	13 January 2011

Title of Consultation	Date Published
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 627910 - Ballymacrevan/ Ballyshanaghill/ Ballyvollen, Crumlin, Co. Antrim	21 January 2011
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 602013 - Drumbeemore/ Edenaveys/ Calone, Armagh, Co. Armagh	21 January 2011
DARD Revised Equality Scheme	26 January 2011
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 637426 - Castlewellan, Co. Down	28 January 2011
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 606400 - Ederney, Co. Fermanagh	28 January 2011
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 628541 - Keady, Co. Armagh	4 February 2011
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 615520 - Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone	11 February 2011
Environmental Impact Assessment - File Ref 615520 - Ballymoney, Co. Antrim	11 February 2011
Consultation on Proposals for the Introduction of Revised Compensation Arrangements for Bovine TB and Brucellosis	23 February 2011
Epitrix (Potato Flea Beetle) Consultation	1 March 2011

EU Nitrates Directive

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, in respect of compliance with the EU Nitrates Directive, if she is aware of the processes and costs involved in the disposal of poultry litter in the Republic of Ireland; and whether any lessons can be learned from it.

(AQW 5063/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The potential of poultry litter as a nutrient source and organic fertiliser is well recognised. Approximately 70% of the poultry litter produced annually in the north is currently land spread as an organic fertiliser. However, this practice needs to be carefully managed at farm level to ensure that excess nutrients, particularly phosphorus, are not over applied. Precautions also need to be taken to prevent disease risk, particularly Botulism in cattle.

Currently approximately 43,000 tonnes of poultry litter per year are disposed of by exporting to the south of Ireland. This is used in mushroom compost and for land spreading as an organic fertiliser on arable crops. The costs of these disposal options are estimated to range from £12 - £15 per tonne.

While there is a higher proportion of arable land in the south the constraints of the Nitrates Directive also apply there. Therefore, there is little scope to expand this disposal route as no additional capacity in the south has been identified.

Additional controls on the application of phosphorus will apply in the south from January 2013. This will further limit the land available for spreading poultry litter, which has a high phosphorus content relative to other livestock manures.

Experience has demonstrated that spreading poultry litter on land at levels which over supply crop nutrients can cause a build up of excess nutrients in the soil and consequent water pollution. The purpose of good agricultural practice and the EU Nitrates and Water Framework Directives is to prevent such pollution occurring.

Ireland: GM-free Zone

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she has had any discussions with her counterpart in the Republic of Ireland in relation to making the island of Ireland a GM-free zone. **(AQO 1282/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Roles and responsibilities for the full range of issues raised by the genetic modification of food and animal feed are distributed across several local departments and agencies, including the Department of the Environment and the Food Standards Agency.

My Department's role in relation to genetic modification is limited to the enforcement of European law controlling the import of animal feed stuffs and seed certification.

I have discussed the issue of making the island of Ireland a GM free zone with both Brendan Smith the previous Agriculture Minister in the South and with junior Minister Trevor Sargent and I will continue to have discussions with the new government. I am personally and politically opposed to the growing of GM crops on the island of Ireland.

Given the roles and responsibilities of other Departments and Agencies in the north, any policy on a GM free zone would certainly be a matter for cross cutting discussion and would require Executive agreement.

Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many recorded disagreements there have been during the last four years between livestock owners and the Department's valuation officers regarding the value of animals that had to be removed from herds following outbreaks of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis. **(AQO 1292/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: During the last four years there have been recorded disagreements between 24 livestock owners and the Department's valuation officers regarding the value of animals that had to be removed from herds following outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Over the same 4 year period there were 55,932 animals valued. Of the 24 livestock owners referred to, this relates to 381 animals.

Farm Modernisation Programme

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline which areas have benefited from Tranche 2 of the Farm Modernisation Programme. **(AQO 1286/11)**

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: With your permission, Mr Speaker, I will answer questions 5 and 12 together.

As the process of issuing Letters of Offer for Tranche 2 of the Farm Modernisation Programme is ongoing and will not be completed until the end of March at the earliest, it is therefore much too early to identify which geographical areas have benefited from funding. It is anticipated that approximately 2,300 Letters of Offer will be issued to beneficiaries and as of Monday 14 March 895, had been processed. A full analysis of the areas which have benefited from Tranche 2 funding will be undertaken once all the Letters of Offer have been issued and this information will be used to feed into preparatory work for a further Tranche of this Programme later this year.

Farm Modernisation Programme: South Antrim

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development which areas in South Antrim have benefited from Tranche 2 of the Farm Modernisation Programme.

(AQO 1293/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: As the process of issuing Letters of Offer for Tranche 2 of the Farm Modernisation Programme is ongoing and will not be completed until the end of March at the earliest, it is therefore much too early to identify which geographical areas have benefited from funding. It is anticipated that approximately 2,300 Letter of Offer will be issued to beneficiaries and as of Monday 14 March 895, had been processed. A full analysis of the areas which have benefited from Tranche 2 funding will be undertaken once all the Letters of Offer have issued and this information will be used to feed into preparatory work for a further Tranche of this Programme later this year.

Rural Communities

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action her Department is taking to build capacity within rural communities.

(AQO 1294/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I am supporting rural community capacity building through a contract for the delivery of rural community development services being delivered by a consortium consisting of the Rural Community Network, the 9 Rural Support Networks and the Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network. The contract is in place from 1 September 2010 to 31 March 2011 and it is hoped that it will be extended to August 2011.

The contract specifically requires the consortium members to create lasting capacity and leadership capability in rural areas; continue to recognise changes in rural areas and provide support to communities to manage these changes. The local Rural Support Networks have been to the forefront in providing this support to rural communities, for many years and have done some exemplary work often in challenging circumstances. I was very pleased to learn recently that under my Department's Rural Challenge Programme the Omagh Forum for Rural Associations has been working in partnership with The National Autistic Society NI to deliver Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) training for staff at the Omagh Leisure Centre and in turn encouraging young people with Autism to use the Leisure Centre facilities.

As part of Budget 2010 I announced my intention to commit £16m to anti-poverty measures in rural areas over the next four years. The capacity building work will be funded from within these anti-poverty resources, as it has been in the previous Budget period.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise, CAFRE, provides a range of further and higher education programmes to provide suitably qualified people for employment in the agri-food industry. The College also delivers industry support programmes to assist the development of competitive and sustainable farm and rural businesses.

Brucellosis: Keady

Mr C Boylan asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for an update on the Brucellosis situation in the Keady area and to outline how she is working with local farmers to tackle the disease.

(AQO 1295/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: In 2010, the Keady area had eleven confirmed brucellosis breakdowns, with no new reactor herds coming to light there since November. Although this is welcome news, DARD surveillance measures and vigilance from herd keepers must remain at a high level because of the nature of the disease, its variable incubation period and how easily it can spread.

In June of last year, a farmers' meeting was held in Keady mart to discuss the brucellosis situation with the local farming community and to allow them to give voice to their concerns. Members of the local Veterinary Office as well as senior Veterinary Service staff, working specifically with brucellosis, attended that meeting.

Following on from that, I personally attended the next meeting in Keady mart in September of last year. I was encouraged by the level of co-operation from the farming community in what are difficult circumstances for farmers trying to keep their herds free of disease. On both occasions Veterinary staff from DAFF in the south of Ireland attended and contributed to the open discussions on the necessary steps towards eradication.

However, very recently, you will be aware that there has been another disappointing development regarding brucellosis in the Keady area. On 1 March 2011 a Keady farmer reported finding part of a calf carcass in silage and we cannot rule out the possibility it had been deliberately placed there. If infected with brucellosis, it is obviously extremely worrying and would again threaten our aim of brucellosis eradication.

My Department's vets and the PSNI have launched an investigation into the incident. The carcass has been submitted to the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) laboratory for brucellosis testing and for DNA analysis and we will be taking action depending on the results of those tests and investigations.

Rural Development Programme

Mr A Ross asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how much funding under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme has been committed to each Rural Development Programme cluster to date.

(AQO 1296/11)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: All clusters submitted Local Rural Development Strategies and developed implementation plans for the full period of the programme 2007-2015. To date the clusters have committed by way of letter of offer:

- ARC Assisting Rural Communities North West £4,500,000;
- DRAP Down Rural Area Partnership £2,600,000;
- GROW Generating Rural Opportunities Within south Antrim £2,000,000;
- LRP Lagan Rural Partnership £1,360,000;
- NER North East Region £2,665,000;
- SOAR Southern Organization for Action in Rural Areas £3,445,000;
- SWARD South West Action for Rural Development £6,760,000.

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

2010/11 In-Year Monitoring Rounds

Ms A Lo asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) how much additional funding his Department was allocated as a result of the 2010/11 in-year monitoring rounds; (ii) how much of this funding was allocated for direct spend by his Department; (iii) how much each arm's-length and statutory body was allocated from this funding; (iv) what criteria and processes were used to determine the allocation of this funding to arm's-length and statutory bodies; (v) to detail any money that arm's-length and statutory bodies received from this funding that they subsequently allocated to another agency or group; and (vi) what criteria and processes were used by arm's-length and statutory bodies to determine the allocation of funding to other agencies.

(AQW 4960/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr N McCausland):

- (i) The additional funding my Department was allocated through in-year monitoring rounds was as follows:

Value	Background
£77k	To reimburse the Department for part of its contribution towards DHSSPS' Swine Flu costs
£986k	To fund the equal pay settlement for civil servants
£3,230k	To provide additional funding for PRONI's new accommodation project. This was required because of delays in disposing of its existing premises; the disposal was planned to generate income which would be used to part fund the new project.
£260k£ 260k	To provide additional funding for the Sports Strategy Implementation programme.
£117k	Funding for the purchase of security gates for Falls, Shankill and Whiterock Libraries and for small items of capital equipment and software in Libraries.
£59k	Funding for Armagh Planetarium for the purchase of desk top work stations, repair work, the purchase of book-stock and reprinting of the Border Heritage Book.
£5k	Additional funding for the upgrade of PCs for Museums Council.
£342k	Additional funding for National Museums for the purchase of a Sir John Lavery painting, a counting machine for the Dalchoolin Gallery, signage and to cover unforeseen increased costs in Cultra Manor, New World Development and Security Systems.
£50k	Additional funding for the Department's Administration costs

- (ii/iii) Of this additional £5,126k received through in year monitoring rounds, £4,343k was for spending within the Department and £783k was for spend through the Department's Arms Length Bodies.
- (iv) DFP commissions four budget monitoring rounds each year. These monitoring rounds give Departments and their Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) the opportunity to bid for additional funding or to return reduced budget requirements.

The Department scrutinises bids developed by its ALBs to ensure these are consistent with its objectives and priorities and represent responses to genuine budget pressures. The additional funding for them was obtained via this process.

- (v/vi) The £260k provided to Sport NI was allocated to a specific project under Motorsport Safety. Distribution of funds through this programme was based on identified need at various venues, developed through formal business cases. Funding was awarded through letters of offer and delivered on the completion of milestones. Sport NI's funding verification processes are designed to ensure that all funding provided is used for the purpose intended.

Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail (i) the social clause requirements in his Department's capital or current spend projects, including (a) the creation of apprenticeships; and (b) the employment of long-term unemployed persons; and (ii) any proposals his Department has to expand such opportunities.

(AQW 4981/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The social clause requirement currently applies to construction contracts entered into from December 2008 and whose value lies above £2m. None of my Department's current construction contracts meet these criteria and so the social clause is not relevant.

It is not this Department's role to expand opportunities under the social clause. However, I can report that the Central Procurement Directorate is working with the Department of Employment and Learning to consider how expanding social clause targets would integrate with wider Government programmes.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for an update on the implementation of the plan to decentralise public sector jobs within his Department, and its agencies, since the publication of the Bain report.

(AQW 5087/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Minister for Finance and Personnel has made clear his position on the Bain Report into the Review of Policy on the Location of Public Sector Jobs on a number of occasions. The Minister has indicated that in the current financial climate and in light of the spending pressures facing all departments spending £40 million on relocating public sector jobs is simply not affordable at present.

No plans have been made to decentralise any posts within my Department and at this time there are no plans to do so in the immediate future.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mrs M Bradley asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, for each of the last three years, to detail the number of public sector jobs within his Department and its agencies that have been (i) decentralised from Belfast to another location, broken down by the new location; and (ii) relocated to Belfast from another location, broken down by the original location.

(AQW 5092/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: There is currently no centralised programme for the location or relocation of public sector or civil service jobs.

In the last three years no posts within the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure have been decentralised from Belfast to another location or relocated to Belfast from another location.

Lough Neagh Navigation Marker System

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what action his Department is taking to repair the damage caused to the Lough Neagh navigation marker system.

(AQW 5171/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has the statutory responsibility for dredging the entrance to the Sixmilewater river and additionally maintains 47 markers on Lough Neagh as a public service.

The recent severe cold weather caused extensive ice damage to markers on Lough Neagh. Details of the damage to the 29 markers (out of 47) maintained by DCAL was reported to my Department. My officials are currently working with the Rivers Agency to progress a programme to repair/replace the damaged markers.

While my Department is aware of the need for urgent action on this matter, the nature of the work makes it subject to the availability of replacement markers, weather conditions and contractor commitments. Rivers Agency has started work on the production of new markers but it is unlikely that this work will begin before April due to existing commitments of the contractor.

Funds Allocated to the Three Regional Sports Stadia

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) to detail the revised spending profile for funds allocated to the three regional sports stadia; (ii) to outline the anticipated progress on each

stadium up to 2015; and (iii) whether the level of planned commitment in the four year period to 2015 is such that each scheme will be assured of eventual completion within a six year period.

(AQW 5202/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure:

- (i) The indicative profile for expenditure of the public funding provisionally allocated for the development of the three regional sports stadiums is as follows:

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
£1m	£20m	£20m	£69m

- (ii) Meetings are currently underway to take forward planning of the individual projects and at this early stage it is not possible to provide detail on the anticipated progress of each individual project across the next 4 year period.
- (iii) The level of public funding provided (£110m) is consistent with that set out in the Outline Business Case, recently approved by DFP. As such it is considered sufficient, alongside the funding to be provided by the governing bodies, to ensure completion of the projects.

Additional Funding for Libraries

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much additional funding has been allocated for libraries in the 2011-15 budget period.

(AQW 5255/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Details of the additional allocation to Libraries is as follows:

	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m	2013/14 £m	2014/15 £m	Total £m
Libraries Resource	0.00	0.50	1.88	0.50	2.88
Libraries Capital	1.50	0.50	0.00	0.50	2.50
Total	1.50	1.00	1.88	1.00	5.38

Notes:

£596k of libraries capital over the four years was reclassified to resource.

£4,250k of libraries resource was reclassified to capital in respect of EFNI

Libraries NI will be responsible for identifying the specific areas to which this extra funding will be allocated. These allocations will be subject to review and approval by the Department.

I trust this is helpful

Irish Cricket Team

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure whether he intends to invite the Irish Cricket Team to Parliament Buildings to celebrate it's victory over England in the Cricket World Cup in Bangalore.

(AQW 5256/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I was delighted to learn about the Ireland cricket team's victory over England at the 2011 ICC World Cup. I was also especially pleased to see that players from Northern Ireland contributed to this victory. As the tournament is still ongoing, however, I have not given any consideration to inviting the team to a reception in Parliament Buildings. I will consider whether and how best to mark the achievements of the team, and the Northern Ireland players involved, once the tournament is over.

Funding to Boxing Clubs

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much funding his Department has allocated to boxing clubs in each of the last two years, including the name of the club and the amount of each allocation.

(AQW 5270/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland including the distribution of funding. In the last two financial years, 2008/09 and 2009/10, SNI has, through its Awards for Sport programme, provided £41,759 to boxing clubs towards the purchase of sports equipment. This is broken down as follows:

Date of Award	Club	Award Amount
11/2/10	St Pauls's ABC	£9,540
11/2/10	Cairn Lodge ABC	£2,374
11/2/10	Lurgan ABC	£7,727
11/2/10	All Saints ABC	£8,000
18/3/10	Lurgan ABC	£1,760
18/3/10	Banbridge ABC	£9,358
19/3/10	Ligoniel ABC	£3,000
Total		£41,759

Amateur Boxing

Mr Pat Sheehan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to provide a breakdown of the allocation of funding for amateur boxing in each of the last two years.

(AQW 5273/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland including the distribution of funding. In the last two financial years, 2008/09 and 2009/10, SNI has allocated £223,576 to amateur boxing. This is broken down as follows:

2008/09

Applicant	Programme	Amount
Ulster Provincial Boxing Council	Governing Body Plans	£15,500
Ulster Provincial Boxing Council	Athlete Support Programme	£3,400
P Barnes	Athlete Support Programme	£3,980

2009/10

Applicant	Programme	Amount
Ulster Provincial Boxing Council	Investing in Performance Sport	£31,000
Ulster Provincial Boxing Council	Athlete Support Programme	£104,659
E O'Kane	Athlete Support Programme	£9,323
T McCarthy	Athlete Support Programme	£2,400
P Barnes	Athlete Support Programme	£1,555

Applicant	Programme	Amount
St Paul's ABC	Awards for Sport	£9,540
Cairn Lodge ABC	Awards for Sport	£2,374
Monkstown Community Sports Facility	Awards for Sport	£10,000
Lurgan ABC	Awards for Sport	£9,487
All Saints ABC	Awards for Sport	£8,000
Banbridge ABC	Awards for Sport	£9,358
Ligoniel ABC	Awards for Sport	£3,000
Total - 2008/09 & 2009/10		£223,576

Irish Amateur Boxing Association

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the level of funding that his Department has awarded to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association in each of the last two years.
(AQW 5280/11)

Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland including the distribution of funding. In the last two financial years, 2008/09 and 2009/10, SNI has provided no funding to the Irish Amateur Boxing Association.

Department of Education

Impact of Draft Budget: Upper Bann

Mr S Moutray asked the Minister of Education what impact the Department's draft budget will have on the proposed capital builds for schools in Upper Bann.
(AQW 4169/11)

Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane): Tá seacht dtionscadal le haghaidh scoileanna i dtoghcheantar na Banna Uachtair i bPlean Seachadta Infheistíochta (IDP) na Roinne.

There are seven projects for schools in the Upper Bann constituency on the Department's Investment Delivery Plan (IDP). The project for Banbridge Academy is currently under construction and will not be affected by the reduced budget. The other six projects are at various stages in planning.

The Draft Budget 2011-15 highlighted significant reductions in the capital budget for Education over the next four years which would have a detrimental effect on my Department's ability to deliver the school building programme.

While I was successful in securing an additional £65.5 million of capital funding over the four year period in the Final Budget allocation, a gap still exists between the capital funding required to fully deliver the Department's capital programme and the amount allocated. Any investment in new builds, if at all possible, is therefore likely to be intermittent and limited until 2014-15.

The reduction in the capital allocation will require a comprehensive reassessment of how the limited capital funds available should be deployed on a strategic and prioritised basis to address the most pressing needs. I will write to schools on the IDP, including the six in Upper Bann, to inform them of the position when this is finalised.

Departmental Budget

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education how much money she intends to bid for to supplement her departmental budget.

(AQW 4210/11)

Minister of Education: Bhí an dréacht-thoradh Buiséid le haghaidh oideachais fíordhúshlánach agus tá sé léirithe agam riamh go leanfainn orm a dhéanamh stocaireachta ar bhreis acmhainní le hiarmhairt na laghduithe ar sheirbhísí oideachais a mhaolú, go háirithe ar an leibhéal maoinithe a bhíonn ar fáil do scoileanna.

The draft Budget outcome for education was particularly challenging and I have always made it clear that I would continue to lobby for additional resources to mitigate the impact of reductions on education services, particularly on the level of funding available for schools. Ahead of the Final Budget being agreed by the Executive, I submitted a request for additional funding from the Invest to Save Fund of £25m in each of the Budget years. In addition I also sought additional funding of £50/£75/£75/£100m to minimise the impact of any reductions on schools budgets as well as an additional £68/£44/£32/£10m in capital funding to invest in the schools estate.

As a result of my efforts the Executive's Final Budget included an additional £114 million current expenditure while a further £40 million has been allocated for capital investment. This additional funding will help mitigate the challenges facing the education budget, particularly in year 1.

GCSE and GCE A Level Irish

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education how many pupils sat (i) GCSE Irish; (ii) GCE AS Level Irish; and (iii) GCE A2 Level Irish in each of the last five years, broken down by school.

(AQW 4470/11)

Minister of Education: Ní choinníonn mo Roinn eolas maidir le scrúduithe GCE AS faoi láthair.

My Department does not currently hold information in respect of GCE AS Levels. However, it is expected that AS level entry information will be available from the 2010/11 academic year. Information in respect of GCSE and GCE A2 Levels in Irish are detailed in the tables below.

School name	GCSE Irish entries				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Abbey Christian Brothers GS	52	55	58	59	55
Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School	19	21	17	24	12
Assumption Grammar School	35	22	36	16	25
Christian Brothers' Grammar School	47	29	28	18	22
Christian Brothers School	26	19	12	12	8
Colaiste Feirste	50	66	87	73	95
Corpus Christi College	15	21	14	0	5
Craigavon Senior High School	0	0	1	0	0
Cross and Passion College	11	38	13	12	18
Dalriada School	0	1	0	0	0
De La Salle College	7	13	7	14	0

School name	GCSE Irish entries				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Dean Maguirc College	25	28	16	19	25
Dominican College	14	18	22	29	34
Dominican College	11	13	14	13	15
Drumcree College	12	4	6	0	8
Edmund Rice College	15	12	15	14	0
Holy Cross College	0	25	12	7	14
Holy Trinity College	14	35	20	5	7
Immaculate Conception College	15	20	16	0	0
Integrated College Dungannon	12	13	9	7	0
Lagan College	3	0	5	1	2
Lismore Comprehensive School	0	8	16	43	41
Little Flower Girls' School	14	15	15	17	12
Loreto College	30	44	41	45	23
Loreto Grammar School	35	50	41	38	32
Lumen Christi College	18	28	15	32	29
Malone Integrated College	9	9	14	7	3
Mount Lourdes Grammar School	38	27	36	35	21
Oakgrove Integrated College	7	1	6	12	0
Our Lady and St Patrick's College	16	24	17	17	27
Our Lady of Lourdes High School	9	10	8	8	10
Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School	17	5	13	8	14
Our Lady's Grammar School	43	59	76	68	72
Rathmore Grammar School	20	18	16	18	18
Sacred Heart College	45	31	41	4	6
Sacred Heart Grammar School	55	54	51	63	40
Shimna Integrated College	14	12	9	8	12
St Brigid's College	30	19	7	5	4
St Brigid's High School	9	0	0	6	0
St Catherine's College	29	51	52	46	49
St Cecilia's College	42	45	54	35	31
St Ciaran's High School	45	62	56	24	18

School name	GCSE Irish entries				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
St Colman's College	68	67	50	75	64
St Colman's High School	0	0	1	0	0
St Colm's High School	13	22	4	0	0
St Colm's High School	16	20	24	15	17
St Columban's College	3	0	0	0	0
St Columba's College	8	15	22	11	13
St Columb's College	28	34	31	28	30
St Dominic's High School	45	32	23	31	23
St Eugene's College	13	0	7	0	0
St Eugene's High School	14	13	7	0	0
St Gemma's High School	36	12	13	30	15
St Genevieve's High School	58	32	15	18	19
St Joseph's Boys' School	1	1	0	0	0
St Joseph's College	36	16	15	18	14
St Joseph's Grammar School	55	40	35	19	39
St Joseph's High School	17	22	12	12	20
St Louis Grammar School	28	36	54	31	22
St Louis Grammar School	25	27	39	32	27
St Louise's Comprehensive College	11	16	24	3	21
St Macnissi's College	24	32	32	24	19
St Malachy's College	48	44	27	32	28
St Malachy's High School	24	41	51	9	32
St Mark's High School	27	25	25	0	0
St Mary's Christian Brothers' GS	38	55	33	21	13
St Mary's College	0	0	5	9	16
St Mary's Grammar School	44	56	33	59	52
St Mary's High School	19	24	20	12	9
St Mary's Limavady	0	20	15	4	17
St Michael's College	45	44	43	23	40
St Michael's Grammar	23	43	52	43	40
St Olcan's High School	22	0	0	0	0
St Patrick's Academy	131	162	116	118	100

School name	GCSE Irish entries				
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
St Patrick's Co-ed College	66	85	66	36	44
St Patrick's College	23	33	45	17	20
St Patrick's College	27	42	23	6	6
St Patrick's College	19	20	22	17	9
St Patrick's College	9	8	1	0	7
St Patrick's Grammar School	23	19	17	16	23
St Patrick's Grammar School	50	41	28	59	57
St Patrick's High School	29	56	47	26	44
St Paul's College	11	14	8	12	8
St Paul's High School	40	40	20	14	8
St Pius X College	65	59	10	5	9
Sullivan Upper School	0	0	1	0	0
Thornhill College	68	53	39	54	58

School ref.	School name	A2 Irish entries				
		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
5420059	Abbey Christian Brothers GS	10	5	6	13	9
1420277	Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School	4	7	6	5	4
4420086	Assumption Grammar School	11	4	8	2	9
2420064	Christian Brothers' Grammar School	1	1	1	5	2
1240291	Colaiste Feirste	27	17	17	18	45
3230227	Cross and Passion College	0	0	0	1	0
1230182	De La Salle College	2	0	2	6	0
2230138	Dean Maguirc College	2	1	0	1	0
1420082	Dominican College	5	7	8	7	7
3420068	Dominican College	2	3	2	1	3
3230203	Edmund Rice College	0	0	2	0	0
2230301	Holy Cross College	0	7	2	3	2

School ref.	School name	A2 Irish entries				
		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
4260255	Lagan College	1	0	0	0	3
5230213	Lismore Comprehensive School	3	0	0	2	0
3420034	Loreto College	6	4	3	5	8
2420065	Loreto Grammar School	8	6	5	12	15
2420287	Lumen Christi College	10	8	0	5	2
1260294	Malone Integrated College	2	0	0	2	0
2420041	Mount Lourdes Grammar School	6	5	8	7	6
2260276	Oakgrove Integrated College	2	0	0	0	2
4420259	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	3	3	8	7	6
5420060	Our Lady's Grammar School	10	6	12	8	8
1420095	Rathmore Grammar School	10	6	4	10	8
5420076	Sacred Heart Grammar School	5	10	10	14	10
4260281	Shimna Integrated College	1	2	0	2	3
2230225	St Brigid's College	1	0	4	3	1
5230218	St Catherine's College	8	4	6	10	14
2230188	St Cecilia's College	1	1	1	3	2
5230152	St Ciaran's High School	2	2	0	4	10
5420062	St Colman's College	14	13	12	17	13
2420054	St Columb's College	11	9	6	7	10
1420029	St Dominic's High School	9	9	8	8	12
1230155	St Genevieve's High School	2	2	3	2	0

School ref.	School name	A2 Irish entries				
		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
2230131	St Joseph's Boys' School	3	1	1	1	1
5420073	St Joseph's Grammar School	12	6	4	11	8
3420010	St Louis Grammar School	6	2	4	4	5
5420045	St Louis Grammar School	5	3	3	0	1
1230053	St Louise's Comprehensive College	5	6	1	2	3
3420094	St Macnissi's College	3	0	1	1	3
1420030	St Malachy's College	2	7	5	7	2
4230211	St Malachy's High School	0	1	0	1	4
1420021	St Mary's Christian Brothers' GS	13	5	10	9	16
3420080	St Mary's Grammar School	5	4	5	18	6
2230077	St Mary's Limavady	0	0	0	0	3
2420043	St Michael's College	5	6	2	4	6
5420056	St Michael's Grammar	15	14	11	9	12
5420304	St Patrick's Academy	0	12	0	11	10
5420038	St Patrick's Boys Academy	11	0	9	0	0
3230234	St Patrick's Co-ed College	6	7	3	9	8
1230026	St Patrick's College	0	0	0	1	1
2230144	St Patrick's College	0	0	0	0	1
4420088	St Patrick's Grammar School	2	0	0	1	0
5420268	St Patrick's Grammar School	7	9	7	14	5
5230187	St Patrick's High School	5	7	5	3	2

School ref.	School name	A2 Irish entries				
		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
5230157	St Paul's High School	3	6	4	5	7
2420052	Thornhill College	19	16	19	26	16
1420264	Victoria College	0	0	0	1	0

Source: RM data solutions database

Primary Schools that Currently Teach Irish and Spanish

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of (i) maintained; (ii) controlled; and (iii) grant-aided integrated English-medium primary schools that currently teach (a) Irish; and (b) Spanish, broken down by school.

(AQW 4526/11)

Minister of Education: Ag leibhéal na bunscoile ní bhailíonn an Roinn faisnéis maidir le teangacha a ndéantar staidéar orthu i mbunscoileanna aonair lasmuigh de Chlár na dTeangacha Bunscoile a chuireann tacaíocht taistil ar fáil do bhunscoileanna ar mian leo Spáinnis, Gaeilge agus Polainnis a sheachadadh.

At primary level the Department does not collect information on languages studied at individual primary schools outside of the Primary Languages Programme which provides peripatetic support for primary schools wishing to deliver Spanish, Irish and Polish. Schools currently studying Irish and Spanish through the Primary Languages Programme by language and category of school requested are as follows:

	Maintained	Controlled	Integrated
Irish	71	0	1
Spanish	105	138	14

School Name	Type	Language
Holy Family Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
Holy Trinity Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
Mercy Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St John the Baptist Boys' Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St John the Baptist Girls' Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St Michael's Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St Therese of Lisieux Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
Ballyhackett Primary School CASTLEROCK	Maintained	Spanish
Carlane Primary School TOOMEBRIDGE	Maintained	Spanish
Kilcoan Primary School ISLANDMAGEE	Maintained	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Lourdes Primary School WHITEHEAD	Maintained	Spanish
Mount St Michael's Primary School RANDALSTOWN	Maintained	Spanish
St Brigid's Primary School, CLOUGHMILLS	Maintained	Spanish
St Brigid's Primary School, BALLYMONEY	Maintained	Spanish
St Brigid's Primary School, BALLYMENA	Maintained	Spanish
St Brigid's Primary School (Tirkane) MAGHERA	Maintained	Spanish
St Ciaran's Primary School CUSHENDUN	Maintained	Spanish
St Columb's Primary School DESERTMARTIN	Maintained	Spanish
St James' Primary School, NEWTOWNABBEY	Maintained	Spanish
St John Bosco Primary School PORTGLENONE	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School CRUMLIN	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's on the Hill Primary School, NEWTOWNABBEY	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School BELLAGHY	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School PORTGLENONE	Maintained	Spanish
St Nicholas' Primary School, CARRICKFERGUS	Maintained	Spanish
St Olcan's Primary School ARMOY	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Primary School BALLYCASTLE	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School PORTRUSH	Maintained	Spanish
Tir-na-Nog Primary School, BALLYCLARE	Maintained	Spanish
Ballymacrickett Primary School GLENNAVY	Maintained	Spanish
Christ the Redeemer Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St Aloysius Primary School, LISBURN	Maintained	Spanish
St Bernard's Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Spanish
St Brigid's Primary School DOWNPATRICK	Maintained	Spanish
St Comgall's Primary School BANGOR	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School KILLOUGH	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School STRANGFORD	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School CROSSGAR	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School, LISBURN	Maintained	Spanish
St Macartan's Primary School LOUGHINISLAND	Maintained	Spanish
St Malachy's Primary School, DOWNPATRICK	Maintained	Spanish
St Mark's Primary School DUNMURRY	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School SAINTFIELD	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School NEWCASTLE	Maintained	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
St Mary's Primary School PORTAFERRY	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary, CASTLEWELLAN	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School DOWNPATRICK	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School, PORTAFERRY	Maintained	Spanish
St. Mary's Primary School ARDGLASS	Maintained	Spanish
Ballylifford Primary School COOKSTOWN	Maintained	Spanish
Blessed Patrick O'loughran Primary School CASTLECAULFIELD	Maintained	Spanish
Clea Primary School KEADY	Maintained	Spanish
Cloughoge Primary School NEWRY	Maintained	Spanish
Holy Cross Primary School KILKEEL	Maintained	Spanish
Jonesboro' Primary School NEWRY	Maintained	Spanish
Lissan Primary School COOKSTOWN	Maintained	Spanish
Moneydarragh Primary School ANNALONG	Maintained	Spanish
St Brendan's Primary School CRAIGAVON	Maintained	Spanish
St Clare's Convent Primary School, NEWRY	Maintained	Spanish
St Colman's Abbey Primary School, NEWRY	Maintained	Spanish
St Colman's Primary School BANBRIDGE	Maintained	Spanish
St John's Primary School COALISLAND	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's and St James Primary School POYNTZPASS	Maintained	Spanish
St Joseph's Primary School (Meigh) KILLEAVY	Maintained	Spanish
St Malachy's Primary School CARNAGAT	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School COOKSTOWN	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School BANBRIDGE	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School (Granemore) KEADY	Maintained	Spanish
St Michael's Primary School (Finnis) DROMARA	Maintained	Spanish
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School FORKHILL	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School (Derrynaseer) AUGHAGALLON	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School Loup MONEYMORE	Maintained	Spanish
St Teresa's Primary School LURGAN	Maintained	Spanish
Seagoe Primary School, PORTADOWN	Maintained	Spanish
Broadbridge Primary School EGLINTON	Maintained	Spanish
Christ the King Primary School OMAGH	Maintained	Spanish
Envagh Primary School DRUMQUIN	Maintained	Spanish
Glendermott Primary School DERRY	Maintained	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Good Shepherd Primary and Nursery School, DERRY	Maintained	Spanish
Gortnagarn Primary School OMAGH	Maintained	Spanish
Holy Family Primary School BALLYMAGROARTY	Maintained	Spanish
Loreto Convent Primary School OMAGH	Maintained	Spanish
St Aidan's Primary School Magilligan LIMAVADY	Maintained	Spanish
St Anne's Primary School STRABANE	Maintained	Spanish
St Colmcille's Primary School CLAUDY	Maintained	Spanish
St Eugene's Primary School LISNASKEA	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Girls' Primary School STRABANE	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School TEMPO	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School, Maguiresbridge ENNISKILLEN	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School BELLANALECK	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School DERRYLIN	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School, NEWTOWNBUTLER	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School, Altinure CLAUDY	Maintained	Spanish
St Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher OMAGH	Maintained	Spanish
St Nailes Primary School, KINAWLEY	Maintained	Spanish
St Ninnidh's Primary School, DERRYLIN	Maintained	Spanish
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School STRATHFOYLE	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School GARVARY	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School CASTLEDERG	Maintained	Spanish
St Patrick's Primary School NEWTOWNSTEWART	Maintained	Spanish
St Scire's Primary School TRILLICK	Maintained	Spanish
St. Columba's Primary School DERRY	Maintained	Spanish
Tempo Primary School, TEMPO	Maintained	Spanish
Donegall Road Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Euston Street Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Fane Street Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Glenwood Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Knocknagoney Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Malvern Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Seaview Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Taughmonagh Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Wheatfield Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Ampertaine Primary School, MAGHERA	Controlled	Spanish
Antrim Primary School ANTRIM	Controlled	Spanish
Armoyle Primary School ARMOYLE	Controlled	Spanish
Ballycarry Primary School BALLYCARRY	Controlled	Spanish
Ballyhenry Primary School GLENGORMLEY	Controlled	Spanish
Ballykeel Primary School BALLYMENA	Controlled	Spanish
Ballynure Primary School BALLYNURE	Controlled	Spanish
Ballysally Primary School BALLYSALLY	Controlled	Spanish
Broughshane Primary School BROUGHSHANE	Controlled	Spanish
Buick Memorial Primary School CULLYBACKEY	Controlled	Spanish
Bushmills Primary School BUSHMILLS	Controlled	Spanish
Carnalridge Primary School PORTRUSH	Controlled	Spanish
Carniny Primary School BALLYMENA	Controlled	Spanish
Carnmoney Primary School NEWTOWNABBEY	Controlled	Spanish
Carrickfergus Model Primary School	Controlled	Spanish
Castledawson Primary School CASTLEDAWSON	Controlled	Spanish
Castleroe Primary School COLERAINE	Controlled	Spanish
Creavery Primary School ANTRIM	Controlled	Spanish
Crumlin Primary School CRUMLIN	Controlled	Spanish
Culcraigh Primary School, AGHADOWEY	Controlled	Spanish
Cullycapple Primary School, AGHADOWEY	Controlled	Spanish
Culnady Primary School, MAGHERA	Controlled	Spanish
Damhead Primary School, COLERAINE	Controlled	Spanish
Doagh Primary School DOAGH	Controlled	Spanish
Drumard Primary School, Tamlaght MAGHERA	Controlled	Spanish
Dunclug Primary School BALLYMENA	Controlled	Spanish
Duneane Primary School TOOMEBRIDGE	Controlled	Spanish
Earlview Primary School, New Mossley ANTRIM	Controlled	Spanish
Eden Primary School BALLYMONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Fourtowns Primary School AHOGHILL	Controlled	Spanish
Garryduff Primary School BALLYMONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Glynn Primary School GLYNN	Controlled	Spanish
Gracehill Primary School GRACEHILL	Controlled	Spanish
Greenisland Primary School GREENISLAND	Controlled	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Groggan Primary School RANDALSTOWN	Controlled	Spanish
Hazelbank Primary School AUGHAFATTEN	Controlled	Spanish
Irish Society's Primary School MOUNTSANDEL	Controlled	Spanish
Kells & Connor Primary School KELLS	Controlled	Spanish
Kilmoyle Primary School BALLYMONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Kilrea Primary School KILREA	Controlled	Spanish
Knockloughrim Primary School KNOCKLOUGHRIM	Controlled	Spanish
Landhead Primary School, BALLYMONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Leaney Primary School BALLYMONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Loanends Primary School CRUMLIN	Controlled	Spanish
Longstone Primary School AHOGHILL	Controlled	Spanish
Magherafelt Primary School MAGHERAFELT	Controlled	Spanish
Mallusk Primary School NEWTOWNABBEY	Controlled	Spanish
Millburn Primary School COLERAINE	Controlled	Spanish
Moorfields Primary School BALLYMENA	Controlled	Spanish
Mossgrove Primary School, NEWTOWNABBEY	Controlled	Spanish
Mossley Primary School, NEWTOWNABBEY	Controlled	Spanish
Moyle Primary School, LARNE	Controlled	Spanish
Oakfield Primary School CARRICKFERGUS	Controlled	Spanish
Olderfleet Primary School, LARNE	Controlled	Spanish
Parkhall Primary School ANTRIM	Controlled	Spanish
Portglenone Primary School, PORTGLENONE	Controlled	Spanish
Portrush Primary School PORTRUSH	Controlled	Spanish
Portstewart Primary School PORTSTEWART	Controlled	Spanish
Silverstream Primary School GREENISLAND	Controlled	Spanish
Straid Primary School BALLYCLARE	Controlled	Spanish
Straidbilly Primary School LISCOLMAN	Controlled	Spanish
Straidhavern Primary School NUTTS CORNER	Controlled	Spanish
Templepatrick Primary School TEMPLEPATRICK	Controlled	Spanish
Tildarg Primary School BALLYCLARE	Controlled	Spanish
Tobermore Primary School TOBERMORE	Controlled	Spanish
Victoria Primary School, CARRICKFERGUS	Controlled	Spanish
Whitehead Primary School WHITEHEAD	Controlled	Spanish
Whitehouse Primary School, NEWTOWNABBEY	Controlled	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Alexander Dickson Primary School BALLYGOWAN	Controlled	Spanish
Anahilt Primary School HILLSBOROUGH	Controlled	Spanish
Ballinderry Primary School, LOWER BALLINDERRY	Controlled	Spanish
Ballycarrickmaddy Primary School, LISBURN	Controlled	Spanish
Ballycloughan Primary School SAINTFIELD	Controlled	Spanish
Ballyholme Primary School BANGOR	Controlled	Spanish
Ballynahinch Primary School BALLYNAHINCH	Controlled	Spanish
Brownlee Primary School LISBURN	Controlled	Spanish
Carrickmannon Primary School BALLYGOWAN	Controlled	Spanish
Carrowdore Primary School CARROWDORE	Controlled	Spanish
Carryduff Primary School CARRYDUFF	Controlled	Spanish
Cumran Primary School CLOUGH	Controlled	Spanish
Donaghadee Primary School DONAGHADEE	Controlled	Spanish
Dunmurry Primary School DUNMURRY	Controlled	Spanish
Fort Hill Primary School LISBURN	Controlled	Spanish
Glasswater Primary School CROSSGAR	Controlled	Spanish
Hollywood Primary School HOLYWOOD	Controlled	Spanish
Killowen Primary School LISBURN	Controlled	Spanish
Kircubbin Primary School KIRCUBBIN	Controlled	Spanish
Kirkistown Primary School CLOUGHEY	Controlled	Spanish
Lisnasharragh Primary School, BELFAST	Controlled	Spanish
Newtownards Model Primary School NEWTOWNARDS	Controlled	Spanish
Portaferry Integrated Primary School PORTAFERRY	Controlled	Spanish
Riverdale Primary School, LISBURN	Controlled	Spanish
Seymour Hill Primary School DUNMURRY	Controlled	Spanish
Armstrong Primary School ARMAGH	Controlled	Spanish
Bush Primary School DUNGANNON	Controlled	Spanish
Cookstown Primary School COOKSTOWN	Controlled	Spanish
Cortamlet Primary School ALTNAMACHIN	Controlled	Spanish
Donacloney Primary School DONACLONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Donaghmore Primary School DONAGHMORE	Controlled	Spanish
Drumadonnell Primary School BALLYRONEY	Controlled	Spanish
Hardy Memorial Primary School RICHILL	Controlled	Spanish
Hart Memorial Primary School PORTADOWN	Controlled	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Howard Primary School MOYGASHEL	Controlled	Spanish
Lisfearthy Primary School DUNGANNON	Controlled	Spanish
Lisnadill Primary School ARMAGH	Controlled	Spanish
Milltown Primary School BANBRIDGE	Controlled	Spanish
Mullaglass Primary School, NEWRY	Controlled	Spanish
Poyntzpass Primary School POYNTZPASS	Controlled	Spanish
Richmount Primary School, PORTADOWN	Controlled	Spanish
Windsor Hill Primary School, NEWRY	Controlled	Spanish
Bready Jubilee Primary School BREADY	Controlled	Spanish
Bridgehill Primary School CASTLEDERG	Controlled	Spanish
Brookeborough Primary School BROOKEBOROUGH	Controlled	Spanish
Cooley Primary School COOLEY	Controlled	Spanish
Cumber Claudy Primary School CLAUDY	Controlled	Spanish
Donemana Primary School DONEMANA	Controlled	Spanish
Drumrane Primary School DUNGIVEN	Controlled	Spanish
Dunmullan Primary School KNOCKMOYLE	Controlled	Spanish
Ebrington Controlled Primary School DERRY	Controlled	Spanish
Edwards Primary School CASTLEDERG	Controlled	Spanish
Fountain Primary School, DERRY	Controlled	Spanish
Limavady Central Primary School LIMAVADY	Controlled	Spanish
Lisbellaw Primary School LISBELLAW	Controlled	Spanish
Lisnagelvin Primary School DERRY	Controlled	Spanish
Maguiresbridge Primary School MAGUIRESBRIDGE	Controlled	Spanish
Moat Primary School, Lisnaskea ENNISKILLEN	Controlled	Spanish
Newbuildings Primary School, DERRY	Controlled	Spanish
Queen Elizabeth II Primary School, KILSKERRY TRILLICK	Controlled	Spanish
Sion Mills Primary School SION MILLS	Controlled	Spanish
Forge Integrated Primary School, BELFAST	Integrated	Spanish
Acorn Integrated Primary School, CARRICKFERGUS	Integrated	Spanish
Ballycastle Controlled Integrated Primary School	Integrated	Spanish
Corran Integrated Primary School LARNE	Integrated	Spanish
Glengormley Integrated Primary School	Integrated	Spanish
Millstrand Integrated Primary School PORTRUSH	Integrated	Spanish
Spires Integrated Primary School MAGHERAFELT	Integrated	Spanish

School Name	Type	Language
Kilbroney Integrated Primary School ROSTREVOR	Integrated	Spanish
Portadown Integrated Primary School PORTADOWN	Integrated	Spanish
All Childrens Integrated Primary School NEWCASTLE	Integrated	Spanish
Cedar Integrated Primary School CROSSGAR	Integrated	Spanish
Rowandale Integrated Primary School MOIRA	Integrated	Spanish
Enniskillen Integrated Primary School ENNISKILLEN	Integrated	Spanish
Oakgrove Integrated Primary School DERRY	Integrated	Spanish
Holy Cross Boys' Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Irish
St Kevin's Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Irish
St Malachy's Primary School, BELFAST	Maintained	Irish
Altayeskey Primary School DRAPERSTOWN	Maintained	Irish
Barnish Primary School BALLYCASTLE	Maintained	Irish
Greenlough Primary School (St Mary's) PORTGLENONE	Maintained	Irish
St Brigid's Primary School KNOCKLOUGHRIM	Maintained	Irish
St Columba's Primary School GARVAGH	Maintained	Irish
St John's Primary School SWATRAGH	Maintained	Irish
St MacNissius' Primary School TANNAGHMORE	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School, Gortaclea CUSHENDALL	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School DRAPERSTOWN	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's & St Joseph's Primary School TIRKEERAN, GARVAGH	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School, Loughiel BALLYMENA	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School (Glen) MAGHERA	Maintained	Irish
St. Mary's Primary School BALLYCASTLE	Maintained	Irish
Christ the King Primary School BALLYNAHINCH	Maintained	Irish
Holy Family Primary School DOWNPATRICK	Maintained	Irish
Sacred Heart Primary School DUNDRUM	Maintained	Irish
St Caolan's Primary School SAINTFIELD	Maintained	Irish
St Colman's Primary School BELFAST	Maintained	Irish
St Joseph's Primary School CARRYDUFF	Maintained	Irish
St Kieran's Primary School, DUNMURRY	Maintained	Irish
St Malachy's Primary School CASTLEWELLAN	Maintained	Irish
Ballyholland Primary School NEWRY	Maintained	Irish
Carrick Primary School WARRENPOINT	Maintained	Irish

School Name	Type	Language
Holy Trinity Primary School COOKSTOWN	Maintained	Irish
Mount St Catherine's Primary School ARMAGH	Maintained	Irish
Our Lady's Primary School (Tullysaran) BENBURB	Maintained	Irish
St Brigid's Primary School COALISLAND	Maintained	Irish
St Brigid's Primary School AUGHER	Maintained	Irish
St Brigid's Primary School CROSSMAGLEN	Maintained	Irish
St Bronagh's Primary School ROSTREVOR	Maintained	Irish
St Francis of Assisi Primary School KEADY	Maintained	Irish
St Jarlath's Primary School, Blackwatertown DUNGANNON	Maintained	Irish
St Johns Primary School MIDDLETOWN	Maintained	Irish
St John's Primary School MOY	Maintained	Irish
St Joseph's Primary School CALEDON	Maintained	Irish
St Joseph's Primary School COOKSTOWN	Maintained	Irish
St Malachy's Primary School CAMLOUGH	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School STEWARTSTOWN	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School BALLYGAWLEY	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School RATHFRILAND	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School MULLAGHBAWN	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School LURGAN	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School, AUGHNACLOY	Maintained	Irish
St Oliver Plunkett Primary School KILMORE	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School MAGHERALIN	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School HILLTOWN	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School CROSSMAGLEN	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School COALISLAND	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School DONAGHMORE	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School ARMAGH	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School MAYOBRIDGE	Maintained	Irish
St Patrick's Primary School DUNGANNON	Maintained	Irish
All Saints Primary School OMAGH	Maintained	Irish
Cornagogue Primary School ENNISKILLEN	Maintained	Irish
Drumduff Primary School SIXMILECROSS	Maintained	Irish
Drumnabey Primary School CASTLEDERG	Maintained	Irish
Faughanvale Primary School GREYSTEEL	Maintained	Irish

School Name	Type	Language
Killyhommon Primary School ENNISKILLEN	Maintained	Irish
Knocknagor Primary School TRILLICK	Maintained	Irish
Recarson Primary School OMAGH	Maintained	Irish
Rosemount Primary School, DERRY	Maintained	Irish
St Brigid's Primary School, Mountfield OMAGH	Maintained	Irish
St Finlough's Primary School, (Sistrakeel), LIMAVADY	Maintained	Irish
St Joseph's Primary School, DRUMQUIN	Maintained	Irish
St Mary's Primary School, Ballymagorry STRABANE	Maintained	Irish
St Matthew's Primary School, Garvaghey BALLYGAWLEY	Maintained	Irish
St Peter's & St Paul's Primary School DUNGIVEN	Maintained	Irish
St Teresa's Primary School, Loughmacrory OMAGH	Maintained	Irish
Tummery Primary School DROMORE	Maintained	Irish
Millennium Integrated Primary School LISDOONAN	Integrated	Irish

Free School Meal Entitlement

Mr P Butler asked the Minister of Education to detail the most up-to-date figures available for each primary school with a free school entitlement of more than 50%, the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 or 5 in (i) Maths; and (ii) English at Key Stage 2, broken down by Education and Library Board area and management type.

(AQW 4543/11)

Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas ar fáil sa tábla thíos.

The information is contained in the table below.

Percentage achieving Level 4 or above in Key Stage Two Assessments for pupils attending schools with a free school meal entitlement of more than 50% by Education and Library Board and by school Management type 200910.

School Name	ELB	Management Type	% Achieving level 4 or above in (i) Maths	% Achieving level 4 or above in (ii) English	% Entitled to free school meals
Donegall Road Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	70.4	37.0	50.7
Euston Street Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	64.0	56.0	51.4
Glenwood Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	54.9	59.2	51.5
Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain	Belfast	Controlled	*	*	51.7
Knocknagoney Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	90.0	90.0	52.0

School Name	ELB	Management Type	% Achieving level 4 or above in (i) Maths	% Achieving level 4 or above in (ii) English	% Entitled to free school meals
Blackmountain Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	58.3	41.7	52.5
Nettlefield Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	50.0	40.0	53.2
Wheatfield Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	44.4	*	54.1
Harmony Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	31.8	36.4	55.4
Avoniel Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	65.0	55.0	57.1
Grove Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	85.7	71.4	61.0
Edenbrooke Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	38.5	19.2	63.3
Vere Foster Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	60.0	*	66.0
Currie Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	40.0	40.0	66.4
Malvern Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	*	*	67.3
Blythefield Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	57.1	35.7	73.1
Beechfield Primary School	Belfast	Controlled	*	*	76.5
Gaelscoil An Lonnain	Belfast	Other Maintained	*	*	67.3
St Malachy's Primary School Eliza Street	Belfast	Maintained	75.0	75.0	53.0
Holy Cross Boys' Primary School	Belfast	Maintained	84.3	78.4	53.6
St Vincent De Paul Primary School	Belfast	Maintained	42.9	50.0	54.1
St Matthew's Primary School Seaforde	Belfast	Maintained	63.4	63.4	56.2
Edmund Rice(Cb) Primary School	Belfast	Maintained	74.4	66.7	56.8
St Peter's Primary School Ross Road	Belfast	Maintained	83.3	81.0	60.3
Holy Cross Girls Primary School	Belfast	Maintained	65.0	65.0	62.3
St Bernadette's Primary School	Belfast	Maintained	94.6	83.8	70.9

School Name	ELB	Management Type	% Achieving level 4 or above in (i) Maths	% Achieving level 4 or above in (ii) English	% Entitled to free school meals
St Mary's Primary School Divis Street	Belfast	Maintained	52.6	47.4	73.0
St Aidan's Christian Bro Primary School	Belfast	Maintained	72.2	66.7	74.5
Rathenraw Integrated Primary	North Eastern	Controlled Integrated	76.5	70.6	54.9
Earlview Primary School	North Eastern	Controlled	61.1	61.1	50.9
Rathcoole Primary School	North Eastern	Controlled	55.6	72.2	51.8
Dunclug Primary School	North Eastern	Controlled	92.9	85.7	54.4
Ballysally Primary School	North Eastern	Controlled	34.5	31.0	59.1
Ballee Primary School	North Eastern	Controlled	*	*	70.0
Tullycarnet Primary School	South Eastern	Controlled	46.2	61.5	51.3
Old Warren Primary School	South Eastern	Controlled	66.7	58.3	53.1
Kilcooley Primary School	South Eastern	Controlled	80.0	100.0	62.3
Derriaghy Primary School	South Eastern	Controlled	100.0	85.7	63.4
St Colmcille's Primary School Glebetown Drive	South Eastern	Maintained	64.5	64.5	52.9
The Good Shepherd Primary School	South Eastern	Maintained	65.5	34.5	56.0
St Luke's Primary School	South Eastern	Maintained	86.2	62.1	71.2
St Kieran's Primary School	South Eastern	Maintained	67.9	56.6	74.1
Ballyoran Primary School	Southern	Controlled	85.3	73.5	51.6
Tullygally Primary School	Southern	Controlled	71.4	71.4	59.6
Fountain Primary School	Western	Controlled	71.4	71.4	61.4

School Name	ELB	Management Type	% Achieving level 4 or above in (i) Maths	% Achieving level 4 or above in (ii) English	% Entitled to free school meals
Christ The King Primary School Gortin	Western	Maintained	100.0	84.2	52.8
Holy Family Primary School Aileach	Western	Maintained	82.9	92.7	54.1
Longtower Primary School	Western	Maintained	75.6	80.0	54.9
St Brigid's Primary School Carnhill	Western	Maintained	83.7	85.7	57.6
Barrack Street Boys' Primary	Western	Maintained	78.3	73.9	58.7
St Therese's Lenamore P S Heather Road	Western	Maintained	71.9	70.3	60.4
Holy Child Primary School Central Drive	Western	Maintained	75.0	75.0	72.6
St Paul's Primary School, Slievemore	Western	Maintained	40.0	55.0	77.4

* denotes fewer than 5 pupils

Suicide Prevention

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Education to outline where suicide prevention sits within her Department's Programme for Government.

(AQW 4853/11)

Minister of Education: Tá sé ríthábhachtach go n-oibríonn na Ranna i gcomhar lena chéile agus leis an phobal i gcoitinne agus an earnáil dheonach le cur chuige comhordaithe réigiúnach a bhaint amach um fhéinmharú a chosc.

It is vital that Departments work collaboratively and with the wider community and voluntary sector to achieve a co-ordinated regional approach to suicide prevention. The issue is a high priority for me, personally through my involvement in the Ministerial Co-ordination Group on Suicide Prevention and for my Department as a member of the Suicide Strategy Implementation Body which brings together key statutory and voluntary stakeholders.

The education sector can play a significant role in early intervention through awareness raising and the development of confidence and coping skills in young people to foster good emotional and mental health.

Both the primary and post-primary curricula have elements designed to develop the young person as an individual and to enhance young people's own awareness of the stressors in their lives and their capacity to deal with them. Our schools have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. Each school has a pastoral care system and all must have discipline and anti-bullying policies.

My Department's Pupils Emotional Health and Wellbeing Programme is addressing how the entire school community should be engaged in promoting resilient emotional health for all pupils, what support systems are available for vulnerable pupils and those experiencing stress and what support is available to schools in the event of a crisis. The Programme is a vehicle to integrate individual policies and services in a consistent and coherent way and benefits from the active involvement of other

departments and of the voluntary sector in building the capacity of schools to recognise and, where appropriate, address challenging issues.

I have established an independent professional counselling service available to young people in post primary schools during difficult and vulnerable periods in their lives. This service has recently been extended to post primary pupils in special schools. As part of the current arrangements for support following a critical incident, pupils in primary schools also have access to counselling support and I am considering the appropriateness of further interventions, including counselling, for primary age pupils.

One focus for intervention with pupils of primary age is around promoting resilience and coping skills. My Department has funded Women's Aid to develop and deliver a programme of capacity building training for primary teachers using a Social Guardian's model. The training will provide teachers with a better understanding of the impact of domestic violence on children and their families and the skills and confidence to deliver the Helping Hands Programme to pupils in the classroom. This approach will increase the number of primary age children who benefit from the Helping Hands programme which encourages them to talk about issues affecting them, reassures them that they have the right to feel safe all the time and directs them to sources of help.

Irish Medium School: Castlederg

Mr A Bresland asked the Minister of Education how many children currently attend the Irish Medium School in Castlederg; and how much funding it has received in each of the last three financial years. **(AQW 4894/11)**

Minister of Education: Chuaigh an grúpa súgartha deonach Gaeilge i gCaisleán na Deirge, Naíscoil na Deirge, isteach sa Chlár Leathnaithe Oideachais Réamhscolaíochta (PSEEP) i Meán Fómhair 2010 agus ní bhfuair sé, mar sin, maoiniú roimhe sin.

The Irish medium voluntary playgroup in Castlederg, Naíscoil na Deirge, entered the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP) in September 2010 and did not, therefore, receive funding previously. The group is in receipt of 7 funded places for children in their final pre-school year for the 2010/11 school year at a rate of £1,525 per place. If all 7 children continue to attend until the end of March it is anticipated that the playgroup will receive a total of £7,472.50 in the current financial year. As the group's registration with the Western Health and Social Care Trust allows for up to 16 children to attend it is likely that younger children, for whom their parents pay a fee, also attend the group.

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) why she did not reinstate the South Eastern Education and Library Board following the retraining of Board members in 2008; and (ii) the cost of this retraining. **(AQW 4970/11)**

Minister of Education: Smaoinigh mé ar an Bhord a athshuíomh in 2008 agus glacadh roinnt réamhchéimeanna, lena n-áirítear oiliúint athnuachana a sholáthar.

I considered reinstating the Board in 2008 and a number of preliminary steps were taken, including the provision of refresher training. However, after careful consideration of all factors, including the timescale at that time for the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA), I decided that the Commissioners should remain in place until ESA was established.

The cost of the training provided to Board members in June 2008 was £4,136 excluding VAT.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education, for each of the last three years, in relation to the Education and Training Inspectorate to detail (i) the number of permanent full-time inspectors; (ii) the budget allocated to the Inspectorate (iii) the qualifications and experience required for the post of

an inspector; (iv) how the qualifications and experience of inspectors are updated; and (v) how many current inspectors have ICT qualifications at level 2, 3, 4 or above.

(AQW 4978/11)

Minister of Education:

(i) Is é líon na gcigirí buana lánaimseartha, mar a bhíonn ar 1 Aibreán, do gach ceann de na trí bliana seo caite ná:

(i) The number of permanent full-time inspectors, as of 1 April, for each of the last three years is:

2010/2011	68
2009/2010	67
2008/2009	67

(ii) The budget allocated to the Inspectorate, for each of the last three years is:

2010/2011	397,000 ¹
2008/2009	5,695,000
2009/2010	4,885,000

1 During 2010/2011 the staffing budget for the Education and Training Inspectorate was retained by DE as part of an overall staffing budget.

(iii) The qualifications and experience required for the post of an inspector can vary depending on the specialism required and therefore certain additional qualifications or experience will apply. Typically, the following generic qualifications and experience would be required for an inspector's post:

A degree level qualification which meets the requirement for recognition to teach in grant-aided schools in the North.

At least 10 years teaching experience, which have been gained in schools, colleges of further education, institutions of higher education or initial teacher education.

(iv) The qualifications and experience of inspectors are updated through their induction programme and through staff development of several types. Some corporate staff development is centrally programmed for the whole inspectorate (a minimum of five days per annum); some is phase-specific, relating, for example, to primary education. Some staff development is self-programmed staff development which has been approved by an inspector's line-manager (up to five days per annum). This can involve working with a more experienced colleague in or outside our organisation. Others involve working with other organisations; for example, some inspectors have availed of opportunities provided by a link-up between ETI and Business in the Community to undertake professional development; others have undertaken Online Learning for Teachers and Educators courses under the auspices of the Regional Training Unit; others have undertaken post-graduate studies related to their particular specialism, often outside working hours.

(v) There are currently 19 inspectors who have specialist ICT qualifications at level 2, 3, 4 or above. However, all inspectors have developed a high level of ICT competence both in relation to their own specialism and as IT professional users. In addition, inspectors develop their own ICT competence during their ETI Induction programme, through the ETI's Corporate Staff Development Programme and through self-programmed staff development.

Formal Intervention Programme

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Education to detail the funding allocated under her Department's Formal Intervention Programme to each school in the North Eastern Education and Library Board area in (i) 2009/10; (ii) 2010/11.

(AQW 5019/11)

Minister of Education: Ní chuireann an Roinn maoiniú breise ar fáil go díreach do scoileanna sa Phróiseas Foirmiúil Idirghabhála agus dá bhrí sin, níl aon mhaoiniú leithdháilte aici do scoileanna i mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Oirthuaiscirt.

The Department does not provide additional funding directly to schools in the Formal Intervention Process and has not therefore allocated any funding to schools in the North Eastern Education & Library Board. Rather, a key aim of that process is to ensure that schools where provision is found through inspection to be less than satisfactory address the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report in a way that focuses first and foremost on the interests of the pupils.

Schools in the Formal Intervention Process receive focused support and guidance from the relevant Education and Library Board, working where appropriate with the relevant sectoral body, to enable them to improve the quality of their provision. While the Department expects that such support will normally be provided from within existing resources provided to the ELB, there are some specific circumstances in which the Education and Library Boards can make a bid to the Department to cover additional costs that they incur in providing support to schools in the Formal Intervention Process. I can advise the member that, the amount allocated to date in 2010-11 to the NEELB under these arrangements is £40,000.

Head Teachers: Restrictions

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education whether there are restrictions on the number of hours per year that a head teacher can spend in an individual staff member's classroom, as is the case in the rest of the UK.

(AQW 5025/11)

Minister of Education: I measc na socruithe le haghaidh bhainistíocht feidhmíochta múinteoirí agus athbhreithnithe i Sasana agus i dtuaisceart na hÉireann tá teorainneacha, de thrí huaire an chloig agus uair a chloig faoi seach, maidir leis an fhad breathnóireachta ranga ba chóir a bheith ann de ghnáth mar chuid den tsraith bhliantúil athbhreithnithe.

The arrangements for teachers' performance management and review in England and in the north of Ireland include limits, of three hours and one hour respectively, on the duration of classroom observation that should normally take place as part of the annual review cycle.

As in England, Principals in schools here have a duty to evaluate the standards of teaching and learning in the school, and ensure that proper standards of professional performance are established and maintained. Principals may consider that the classroom observations they have agreed for performance review are sufficient for this purpose. However, no agreement has been made with teachers' employers that classroom observation should not take place outside the context of performance review.

Social Clause Requirements

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the social clause requirements in her Department's capital or current spend projects, including (a) the creation of apprenticeships; and (b) the employment of long-term unemployed persons; and (ii) any proposals her Department has to expand such opportunities.

(AQW 5030/11)

Minister of Education: San áireamh san Ionad Soláthair den Scoth (CoPE) de chuid na hearnála oideachais tá clásail shóisialta i ngach soláthar bonneagair Mór-Oibreacha ó Feabhra 2009.

The education sector Centre of Procurement Excellence (CoPE) has included social clauses in all Major Works infrastructure procurements since February 2009. The social clauses require main contractors to recruit:

- (a) one apprentice, either directly or through the supply chain for each £2m of project value; and
- (b) one long-term unemployed person, either directly or through their supply chain for each £5m of project value.

To reflect the current economic downturn, these requirements have recently been reviewed by the Construction Industry Forum for the North of Ireland (CIFNI) Sustainability Task Group. Revised proposals for the unemployed and apprentices have been developed and further requirements have been introduced to provide opportunities for students in third level education and to monitor the implementation of the sustainability requirements. These proposals are currently being considered by the Department of Finance and Personnel, Central Procurement Directorate and the Department of Employment and Learning and when agreed will be piloted in construction contracts in the education sector.

Rural Outreach Workers

Mr R McCartney asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the work carried out by Rural Outreach Workers, funded by the Youth Outreach Programme, in relation to the travelling community; (ii) whether funding will be extended for the 2011-15 budget period; and (iii) whether interim measures will be put in place to ensure these positions are maintained until the budget is agreed.

(AQW 5047/11)

Minister of Education: Tá maoiniú comharthaithe le haghaidh obair fhor-rochtana curtha ar fáil ag an Roinn Oideachais do na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann ó 2006/07 ar aghaidh agus do Chomhairle na nÓg ó 2008/09 ar aghaidh.

Earmarked funding for outreach work has been made available by DE to the Education and Library Boards from 2006/07 onwards and to the Youth Council from 2008/09 onwards.

In 2006/07 and 2007/08 funding was provided from the Children and Young People Funding Package specifically for outreach youth work provision focusing on marginalised and isolated young people in rural areas. Following the ending of this funding package, DE continued allocating earmarked outreach funding which included both rural and urban areas. Information has therefore been provided covering outreach youth work from 2006/07 to 2010/11.

The majority of youth outreach funding is used to secure outreach/detached youth worker posts. The purpose of these posts is to engage with young people who are disengaged, hard to reach or who do not regularly engage in mainstream youth provision. Some of these young people are from the Travelling Community. In addition to this, outreach funding is used for specifically targeted initiatives and programmes.

- (i) The Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards and the Youth Council have provided the following information on youth outreach funding that was specifically targeted at the travelling community from 2006/07 to 2010/11:

Financial Year	Funder	Project/Unit Details	Amount (£)
2006/07	WELB	Derry Travellers Support Group	30,000
	BELB	An Munia Tober	18,745
2007/08	WELB	Derry Travellers Support Group	10,000
	BELB	An Munia Tober	8,206
2008/09	WELB	Derry Travellers Support Group	6,956
	Youth Council/SEELB	An Munia Tober	15,393
2009/10	WELB	Derry Travellers Support Group	34,233
	Youth Council/BELB	An Munia Tober	10,063
	SEELB	An Munia Tober	2,492
	BELB	An Munia Tober	22,980

Financial Year	Funder	Project/Unit Details	Amount (£)
2010/11	WELB	Derry Travellers Support Group	28,082
	SEELB	An Munia Tober	3,227
	SEELB	Intervention Funding	500
	BELB	An Munia Tober	31,600

In determining my draft Budget proposals I afforded protection to a number of important spending areas including youth. The Executive and Assembly agreed the Final Budget allocations on 9 March and I am now in a position to consider how best to allocate the resources available to me. Until I have the opportunity to do this, no final decisions on allocations for 2011/12 and future years can be made in relation to any organisation funded by the Department.

As the Executive and Assembly has now agreed the budget, interim measures will not be considered.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) the function of the Education and Training Inspectorate; (ii) its total cost since its creation; and (iii) the total number of people employed in it in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5053/11)

Minister of Education:

- (i) Tá feidhm na Cigireachta Oideachais agus Oiliúna leagtha amach sa chuid “Na rudaí a dhéanaimid” den “Chairt um Chigireacht”, cáipéis atá ar fáil go poiblí agus a fhoilsítear ar shuíomh gréasáin ETI.
- (i) The function of the Education and Training Inspectorate is outlined in the “What we do” section of the “Charter for Inspection”, a publicly available document which is published on the ETI website. It can be accessed using the following link:

<http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-about-inspection/a-charter-for-inspection-3.pdf>

- (ii) It would not be possible to quantify the total cost of the Education and Training Inspectorate since its creation. The Education and Training Inspectorate in the North can trace its antecedents directly back to the Inspectorate established in 1832 by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland. A number of inspectors transferred to the Ministry of Education in the North when it was formed in 1922. The total cost of the organisation throughout its history is not available.
- (iii) The total number of inspectors in the Education and Training Inspectorate in each of the last five years is:

March 2011	65
March 2010	68
March 2009	67
March 2008	67
March 2007	65

School Inspections

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Education how the inspection process on teaching and learning in the classroom is measured; and to detail the evidence which is collected, collated, evaluated, and assessed in a school inspection.

(AQW 5054/11)

Minister of Education: Tá roinnt cáipéisí foilsithe ag ETI, a leagann amach an dóigh a dtomhaistear an próiseas iniúchta ar theagasc agus ar fhoghlaim sa seomra ranga. Chomh maith leis seo tá an fhianaise iontu a bhailítear, a chomhordaítear, a mheastar agus a mheasúnaítear i gcigireacht ghearr.

There are a number of ETI-published documents, which outline how the inspection process on teaching and learning in the classroom is measured and also contain the evidence which is collected, collated, evaluated and assessed in a short inspection. These are publicly available on the Education and Training Inspectorate's website. The main documents include the following:

1	Charter for Inspection	www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-about-inspection/a-charter-for-inspection.htm
2	A Common Framework for Inspection	www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-about-inspection/a-common-framework-for-inspection.htm
3	Together Towards Improvement	www.etini.gov.uk/index/together-towards-improvement.htm
4	Leadership and Management Guidance	www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-post-primary/leadership-and-management-guidance.htm
5	What Happens after an Inspection	www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-required-for-inspection/what-happens-after-an-inspection-pre-school-centres-schools-special-education-including-alternative-education-provision-youth.htm www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-required-for-inspection/what-happens-after-an-inspection-further-education-work-based-learning-and-employment-programmes.htm
6	Inspection Guidance	www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-post-primary/standard-inspection-guidance.htm and www.etini.gov.uk/index/quick-links-teachers.htm
7	Self Evaluation within the Follow-up Inspection Process	www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-about-inspection/self-evaluation-within-the-follow-up-inspection-fui-summary.htm
8	Specific guidance for different areas of the curriculum	http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/document-archive.htm

Professional Development For Teachers

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education, given the absence of the Education and Skills Authority, who has responsibility for commissioning continuous professional development for teachers.

(AQW 5057/11)

Minister of Education: In éagmais ESA, fanann an fhreagracht reachtúil chun soláthar oiliúint bhreise do mhúinteoirí a áirithiú le gach ceann de na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann faoina Seirbhís Chomhairleach don Churaclam faoi seach.

In the absence of ESA, the statutory responsibility for securing the provision of further training for teachers remains with each of the Education and Library Boards under their respective Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS).

Schools can also provide for any additional training that they wish to undertake from within the funding they receive under the Local Management of Schools funding arrangements.

School Inspections

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Education whether evidence collected during a school inspection is made available to the Board of Governors and the Principal, in line with the Nolan Principles.

(AQW 5081/11)

Minister of Education: Is fostaí sa tseirbhís phoiblí é gach cigire agus é tiomanta do na prionsabail ar a dtugtar ‘The Seven Principles of Public Life’ nó ‘the Nolan Principles’.

All inspectors are public servants and are committed to upholding “The Seven Principles of Public Life” which are also referred to as “the Nolan Principles”. The evidence collected during a school inspection is made available to the Board of Governors and the Principal through discussions with the principal and senior staff and oral report-backs to the Principal and the Board of Governors. In addition a pre-publication copy of the written report is sent to the school to allow the Principal and Board of Governors to check the factual accuracy of the report, in advance of publication.

Education Training Inspectorate

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Education whether, having consulted with the Information Commissioner, she intends to introduce measures to ensure that all schools assessed by the Education Training Inspectorate have access to all information and findings gathered during the inspection.

(AQW 5083/11)

Minister of Education: Tugtar go leor deiseanna le linn na cigireachta, d’aon scoil a ndéanann an Chigireacht Oideachais agus Oiliúna measúnú ar a gcuid oibre, leis an eolas a chuardach atá bailithe ag na foirne cigireachta agus na torthaí cigireachta atá foirmithe aige.

Any schools whose work is evaluated by the Education and Training Inspectorate is afforded several opportunities during the inspection to seek the information which has been gathered by the inspection teams and the inspection findings which are informed by it. All inspectors, as civil servants, adhere to “The Seven Principles of Public Life”.

Boards of Governors

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Education, in relation to Boards of Governors, to detail (i) what steps are taken to ensure that Board members have the skills and knowledge necessary to fulfil their roles; (ii) how many Board members have availed of training and support; and (iii) the total cost of this training and support, broken down by Education and Library Board area, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 5085/11)

Minister of Education:

- (i) Cuireann na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlann oiliúint agus tacaíocht ar fáil do na Boird Gobharnóirí Scoileanna le cuidiú a thabhairt dóibh a gcuid freagrachtaí reachtúla a chomhlíonadh. Tugtar an deis do gach Gobharnóir nua bheith páirteach i gclár ionductaithe agus cuirtear clár oiliúna do ghobharnóirí ar fáil ar bhonn bliainiúil do ghobharnóirí reatha. Aimsítear ábhair éagsúla sa dá chúrsa seo.

- (i) The education and library boards provide training and support to assist school Boards of Governors to fulfil their statutory responsibilities. All new governors are offered a place on an induction programme and existing governors are offered an annual governor training programme, both of which cover a variety of essential topics.

My Department has published an on-line information guide on the DE website entitled 'Every School a Good School – the Governors' Role' which sets out the roles and responsibilities of school Boards of Governors.

(II) THE NUMBER OF BOARD OF GOVERNOR MEMBERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED ELB TRAINING COURSES IS SET OUT BELOW.

School Year	BELB	NEELB	SEELB	SELB	WELB
2005/06	419	810	756	1,431	541
2006/07	668	1,623	818	1,133	1,045
2007/08	301	2,159	442	832	591
2008/09	257	2,769	149	625	426
2009/10	627	122	633	1,186	872
Total	2,272	7,483	2,798	5,207	3,952

Boards of Governors served a 4 year term of office from 2005/6 to 2008/9 and some of their members will have attended more than one training course in this 4 year cycle. Boards of Governors were reconstituted in the 2009/10 school year when the induction programmes commenced for new governors.

(III) THE TOTAL COST OF THIS TRAINING AND SUPPORT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

School Year	BELB (£)	NEELB (£)	SEELB (£)	* SELB (£)	WELB (£)
2005/06	13,439	7,000	9,818	5,134	6,159
2006/07	15,980	16,000	18,572	11,541	7,300
2007/08	17,531	16,000	10,137	7,533	4,541
2008/09	18,886	16,000	6,573	9,335	4,399
2009/10	20,081	4,500	7,549	5,755	5,228
Total	85,917	59,500	52,649	28,908	31,665

* Due to different ELB administration systems, the ELB expenditure is based on school years except for the Southern Board which is based on financial years and excludes salary costs. The Western Board's costs exclude facilitator salary costs.

Education and Training Inspectorate: Membership

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education what allowances are available to members of the Education and Training Inspectorate in relation to home/office accommodation.

(AQW 5099/11)

Minister of Education: Cé go bhfuil foráil déanta ina mbailte féin ag gach ball den Chigireacht Oideachais agus Oiliúna do chóiríocht oifige, ní dhéantar aon íocaíocht dóibh mar aitheantas air seo.

Although all members of the Education and Training Inspectorate make provision in their homes for office accommodation, no payments are made to them in recognition of this.

Education and Training Inspectorate: Travel Costs

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education to detail the average annual travel costs of a full-time inspector of the Education and Training Inspectorate in 2009.

(AQW 5100/11)

Minister of Education: Is ionann £3309 agus meán costas an taistil bliaintiúil Chigire lánaimseartha na Cigireachta Oideachais agus Oiliúna.

The average annual travel cost of a full-time inspector of the Education and Training Inspectorate in the financial year 2009/2010 was £3309.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education to detail the sources of funding for the Education and Training Inspectorate in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5101/11)

Minister of Education: Tháinig an maoiniú uile beagnach don Chigireacht Oideachais agus Oiliúna (ETI) le trí bliana anuas, ón Roinn Oideachais.

Almost all of the funding for the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) in the last three years has come from the Department of Education. A small amount of funding was received each year from Criminal Justice Inspection and from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, in respect of inspection services provided by ETI in prisons and in the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

Development of a Strategic Plan for Schools

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to AQW 4473/11, in relation to the development of a strategic plan for schools, to detail (i) the two different approaches being adopted for schools in the (a) Portadown/Tandragee; and (b) Lurgan area; and (ii) the rationale behind adopting two different approaches.

(AQW 5104/11)

Minister of Education: Tá sé curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlann an Deiscirt (SELB) do mo Roinn gur eagraigh sé roinnt cruinnithe le páirtithe leasmhara d'fhonn plean straitéiseach a fhorbairt do na scoileanna i gCóras Dhá Shraith Craigavon.

The Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) has advised my Department that it has held a number of meetings with stakeholders with a view to developing a strategic plan for the schools in the Craigavon Two Tier System.

These meetings revealed a high level of agreement on the way forward in Portadown and Tandragee but a lack of agreement between schools in the Lurgan Area. Given the contrasting levels of agreement and differences in the school populations and demography of the two areas, the Board agreed that the two areas of Portadown/Tandragee and Lurgan should be progressed concurrently but with different approaches.

Portadown/Tandragee area

Given the consensus of opinion between the Portadown and Tandragee schools it was agreed to adopt an approach involving the five Controlled Post-Primary schools working together.

The aim is to achieve a voluntary coalition to ensure all young people attending the schools have access to the best possible educational opportunities to help them realise their potential. A number of factors are being considered and changes will be phased in.

Lurgan area

In planning for the Lurgan area, the SELB has advised that it has completed an initial study on future needs for Post-Primary provision in the controlled sector and intends to publish a consultation document focusing on the two main educational options identified.

Option 1 proposes to retain the current Craigavon Two Tier system in Lurgan but address the accommodation issues of Craigavon Senior High School by co-locating it with Lurgan College on the latter's site.

Option 2 proposes to move away from the current system. The proposal is to replace the current system with either a single all-ability school or two 11-19 schools located on two different sites, one being Grammar and the other Secondary.

It is anticipated that the consultation will take place after the Assembly Elections. The responses will then be considered and any recommendation for the way forward, agreed by the Board, where a significant change is proposed will then be subject to the normal development proposal process.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education whether she intends to reduce the level of funding allocated for the Education and Skills Authority in light of budgetary cuts and the delay in its establishment.

(AQW 5106/11)

Minister of Education: Níor bunaíodh an tÚdarás Oideachais agus Scileanna go fóill.

The Education and Skills Authority has not yet been established. However my draft allocations and savings proposals on the Draft Budget 2011-15 include a proposed saving of £2.2 million from the Education and Skills Authority Implementation Team in each of the four years of the Budget period. In addition, in light of the delay in the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority, £2.9m of monies which would otherwise have been allocated to bodies which were to be established under the Review of Public Administration will be considered as savings in 2011-12. Should ESA be established in 2011-12 the Department will seek to absorb these costs from within its existing allocation.

The implications of the draft Budget allocations argue strongly for the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority. I remain totally committed to this vital reform.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister of Education for her assessment of the impact of her proposed changes to the Education and Skills Authority and educational administration on (i) staff morale of the Education and Library Boards; and (ii) the efficient delivery of services.

(AQW 5107/11)

Minister of Education: Tá mé tiomanta go daingean do bhunú an Údaráis Scileanna Oideachais (ESA);

I remain firmly committed to the establishment of the Education Skills Authority (ESA); however it is not yet in existence due to delays in the passage of the Education Bill. Consequently I have not proposed changes to the ESA.

I am mindful that this delay in implementation leaves staff in all the affected organisations, including the Education and Library Boards, in an uncertain position. Despite current uncertainties and pressures staff continue to work diligently to ensure the continuity of service.

ESA implementation remains the best way to deal with the uncertainty. It is the most effective way to rationalise educational administration in the north of Ireland and provide efficient and effective support for frontline services.

Extensive work is ongoing to identify potential areas where services can be effectively converged, thus removing duplication and maximising administrative efficiency. This will ensure that as much as

possible of the funding available to my department is directed to frontline services to children and young people.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Education for an update on the implementation of the plan to decentralise public sector jobs within her Department, and its agencies, since the publication of the Bain Report.

(AQW 5120/11)

Minister of Education: Níl aon phlean ann faoi láthair aon phost san earnáil phoiblí laistigh den Roinn Oideachais a dhílárú.

There are currently no plans to decentralise any public sector posts within the Department of Education.

The Bain Report recommended that the headquarters of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) ought to be a candidate for location outside Belfast.

I remain ready to establish the ESA, for which there is a financial and educational imperative. Decisions on the overall location strategy for the ESA would be subject, where appropriate, to equality impact assessment and consultation, as well as the normal requirements of business need, value for money and affordability.

Departmental Expenditure Limit Budget

Ms D Purvis asked the Minister of Education, for each of the last five years, to detail the annual cost to her departmental Expenditure Limit budget for a child's attendance at (i) a playgroup; and (ii) a nursery unit.

(AQW 5129/11)

Minister of Education:

- (i) Maoinítear áiteanna i ngrúpaí súgartha na hearnála deonaí agus na hearnála príobháidí ar bhonn costas in aghaidh na háite. Tá an costas seo méadaithe gach bliain acadúil.
- (ii) Places in the voluntary and private playgroup sector are funded on a cost per place basis which has increased each academic year.

The cost per place for each of the last 5 academic years is as follows:

2005/06	£1,335
2006/07	£1,370
2007/08	£1,405
2008/09	£1,445
2009/10	£1,485

The cost per place in the current academic year (2010/11) is £1,525.

- (ii) It is not possible to disaggregate the entire Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) budget to this level. Additionally, it is not possible to disaggregate the costs of pupils in nursery classes/units from those of primary pupils in Primary schools which have Nursery units attached. The data given for Primary Schools in response to AQW 4560/11 included costs for those primary schools which have nursery units within them.

Homework Support for the Chinese Community

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education what assistance her Department intends to provide in relation to homework support for the Chinese community.

(AQW 5137/11)

Minister of Education: Ní chuireann mo Roinn cuidiú sonrach ar fáil i dtaca le hobair baile de don phobal Síneach.

My Department does not provide specific assistance in relation to homework to the Chinese community. However, it does ensure that support is available for pupils from any community who face barriers to learning including, for example, where English or Irish is not the language spoken at home.

This includes providing funding for the regional Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS) to build capacity and provide schools with appropriate support through provision of diversity officers, in-service training, teaching resources and toolkits.

Interpreting and translation services are also available for parent/teacher meetings and this service is important in helping teachers to explain to parents how they might support their children's learning, including through support for homework.

Additionally, every school is required to have a written homework policy that is shared with, and explained to, parents and it is particularly important that schools take time to communicate that policy to parents who themselves do not speak English as their first language

After School Homework Clubs

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Education what provision has been made for after school homework clubs in the 2011/12 financial year.

(AQW 5138/11)

Minister of Education: Níl foráil faoi leith déanta ag an Roinn Oideachais maidir le clubanna obair baile.

The Department of Education (DE) does not make specific provision in respect of homework clubs. However, the Department's Extended Schools programme provides a recognised funding stream for those schools serving the most deprived and disadvantaged areas to provide for a wide range of services and activities outside of the traditional school day and this can include after schools learning support and homework clubs.

Tackling educational inequalities and disadvantage is a core priority for my Department and in determining my draft Budget proposals I have afforded protection to a number of important spending areas including Extended Schools.

Following the Executive's agreement of the Final Budget 2011-15 I am in the process of making final decisions on the allocation of resources for education and will confirm budgets at the earliest opportunity.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education to detail the independent audits that have been carried out on the Education and Training Inspectorate in each of the last three years, including who carried out each audit and the findings in each case.

(AQW 5168/11)

Minister of Education: Le feabhas leanúnach a áirithiú mar aon le hoscailteacht mhéadaithe, aimsíonn an Chigireacht Oideachais agus Oiliúna meastóireacht neamhspleách ar a cuid oibre ar bhonn bliantúil.

In order to ensure continuous improvement, and increased openness, the Education and Training Inspectorate secures an independent evaluation of its work on an annual basis. Up until 2008-09, this external evaluation had been conducted for a number of years by Price Waterhouse Coopers. From

2009-2010, to reduce costs involved, an independent, confidential, post-inspection evaluation has been conducted by the Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

In addition, a “Charter Mark Certification Review” relating to the Education and Training Inspectorate was undertaken in September 2007 by EMQC Ltd. The resulting report, which was very positive, ensured that ETI retained its Charter Mark award. In 2010, the DE Internal Audit Branch conducted an evaluation of the work of the Education and Training Inspectorate. The resulting evaluation report noted: “Internal Audit considers that the quality of the service provided by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) complies with best practice”.

“The Review highlighted a number of ETI’s strengths in each of the areas examined. The most notable of these are:

- The quality of documentation detailing ETI’s system processes
- The importance assigned by ETI management to the development of their staff
- The openness and transparency with which ETI shares its work with stakeholders
- The desire to continually improve the inspection service provided to its customers by being subject to an annual independent evaluation of the inspection process.”

In January 2011, the Education and Training Inspectorate was assessed by EMQC for the Customer Service Excellence Award which it was subsequently granted. The assessment concluded:

“The Education and Training Inspectorate is a highly customer focused organisation with a discrete balance between the rigorous assessment of educational and training establishments against educational policy and the support for these organisations to change and improve. Customers appreciate the rigour of the inspection process and the support to make positive change provided. Customers spoke highly at assessment of the approachability of Inspectors and the value added their advice and guidance provides in ensuring learners have the best opportunities for attainment. Policy makers at the Department of Education appreciate the objectiveness of reporting the ETI provides that enables clear measurement of improving standards in education.

There are no actions that require immediate attention and I am pleased to pass on to EMQC Ltd’s Certification Committee my recommendation that you are certificated as meeting the Customer Service Excellence Standard. Certification is valid for three years from the Certification Committee’s decision date and subject to ongoing annual monitoring.”

The key mission of the Education and Training Inspectorate is “to promote improvement in the interests of all learners”. This includes the promotion of improvement in its own procedures and practices.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education to detail (i) how often the Education and Training Inspectorate quality assures its work; (ii) the outcome of each quality assurance check; and (iii) any improvements that have been put in place as a result of these checks in each of the last three years. **(AQW 5169/11)**

Minister of Education:

- (i) Mar eagraíocht atá tiomanta d’fheabhsú leanúnach agus d’oscailteacht mhéadaithe, aimsíonn an Chigireacht Oideachais agus Oiliúna meastóireacht neamhspleách ar a cuid oibre ar bhonn bliantúil.
- (i) As an organisation committed to continuous improvement, and increased openness, the Education and Training Inspectorate secures an independent evaluation of its work on an annual basis. During the last three years, it has also been subject to Charter Mark Assessment, a DE Internal Audit Evaluation and a Customer Service Excellence Award assessment.
- (ii) All of these assessments of quality have reported very favourably on the organisation. Further details are available from the Annual Business Reports for each of the last three years which are available at www.etini.gov.uk.

- (iii) As a result of the outcomes of these assessments during the last three years, the ETI has made some changes, as appropriate. For example, it has made more formal its procedures relating to the declaration by individual inspectors that no conflict of interest exists for them in relation to the specific pieces of work they are asked to do. Also all inspectors have been given feedback annually on the independent evaluation to ensure that any ideas for improvements which might be prompted by the findings can be taken on board.

Education and Training Inspectorate

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Education how many complaints the Education and Training Inspectorate received in each of the last three years, and of these, how many were upheld.

(AQW 5170/11)

Minister of Education: Seo a leanas líon na ngearán atá faighte ag an Chigireacht Oideachais agus Oiliúna i ngach ceann de na trí bliana seo chuaigh thart:

The number of complaints the Education and Training Inspectorate received in each of the last three years are as follows:

2009/10	7
2008/09	2
2007/08	9

This information is publicly available on the Education and Training Inspectorate's website and can be accessed using the following link

<http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/support-material/support-material-general-documents-non-phase-related/support-material-general-documents-about-the-education-and-training-inspectorate.htm>

These complaints were all followed up systematically, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Inspectorate's Complaints Procedures.

New Build or Maintenance Schemes in Upper Bann

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education to detail the new build or maintenance schemes that are currently scheduled to take place in schools in the Upper Bann constituency in the next four years.

(AQW 5195/11)

Minister of Education: Tá seacht dtionscadal do scoileanna i dtoghcheantar na Banna Uachtair ar Phlean Seachadta Infheistíochta na Roinne (IDP).

There are seven projects for schools in the Upper Bann constituency on the Department's Investment Delivery Plan (IDP). The project for Banbridge Academy is currently under construction the other six projects (St Teresa's PS, Lurgan; Tannaghmore PS; Lurgan College; Portadown College; St Mary's PS, Banbridge; and St Patrick's College Banbridge) are at various stages in planning.

The Draft Budget 2011-15 highlighted significant reductions in the capital budget for Education over the next four years which would have a detrimental effect on my Department's ability to deliver the school building programme.

While I was successful in securing an additional £65.5 million of capital funding over the four year period in the Final Budget allocation, a gap still exists between the capital funding required to fully deliver the Department's capital programme and the amount allocated. Any investment in new builds, if at all possible, is therefore likely to be intermittent and limited until 2014-15.

The reduction in the capital allocation will require a comprehensive reassessment of how the limited capital funds available should be deployed on a strategic and prioritised basis to address the most

pressing needs. I will write to schools on the IDP, including the six in Upper Bann, to inform them of the position when this is finalised.

In regard to maintenance the SELB prepare planned maintenance programmes for their estate during April. Once a maintenance budget is confirmed, SELB will prepare a programme of work for the coming year.

Temporary Buildings

Lord Empey asked the Minister of Education how many children in (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary schools have been educated in temporary buildings in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) District Council area; and (b) Education and Library Board.

(AQW 5206/11)

Minister of Education: Níl aon eolas i seilbh mo Roinne ar líon na bpáistí a mhúintear i seomraí ranga soghluaiste agus bheadh costas díréireach ag baint leis an eolas seo a bhailiú.

My Department does not hold information on the number of children taught in mobile classrooms and to have this collected could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. In particular, in post primary schools it would be impossible to establish how many children use the classrooms at any given time depending on the subject the classroom is used for.

Temporary Buildings

Lord Empey asked the Minister of Education what proportion of (i) primary; and (ii) post-primary pupils were educated in temporary buildings in each of the last five years, broken down by (a) maintained; (b) controlled; (c) integrated; and (d) Irish medium schools.

(AQW 5207/11)

Minister of Education: Ní choinníonn mo Roinn aon eolas a bhaineann le líon na ndaltaí a mhúintear i seomraí ranga soghluaiste agus bheadh costais díréireach ag baint le bailiú an eolais seo. Maidir leis na hiarbhunscoileanna ach go háirithe, bheadh sé thar a bheith deacair an t-eolas a bhaineann le líon na bpáistí agus úsáid na seomraí ranga soghluaiste ag aon am amháin a fháil amach, agus é seo ag brath ar an ábhar atá á mhúineadh ann.

My Department does not hold information on the number of children taught in mobile classrooms and to have this collected could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost. In particular in post primary schools it would be impossible to establish how many children use the classrooms at any given time depending on the subject the classroom is used for.

Provisions for Opting Out of Religious Education

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the 2006 Equality Impact Assessment of the revised core syllabus and the provisions for opting out of religious education (i) what action her Department intends to take to assist schools in increasing awareness of the right to opt-out of religious education; (ii) how the Department intends to monitor schools' performance in this matter; and (iii) what action her Department has taken to ensure that all schools provide opt-outs which fulfil international standards.

(AQW 5208/11)

Minister of Education: Chuir mo Roinn scoileanna ar an eolas maidir lena gcuid riachtanas agus freagrachtaí faisnéis a fhoilsiú ina réamheolairí scoileanna, lena n-áirítear múineadh an Oideachais Reiligiúnaigh agus ceart na dtuismitheoirí a gcuid páistí a tharraingt siar.

My Department has informed schools of their requirements and responsibilities to publish information in their schools prospectuses, including the teaching of Religious Education and parents' right to withdraw their children.

Additionally, new guidance provided recently for school governors in the on-line guide 'Every School a Good School – The Governors' Role' includes a specific focus on the provision of religious education

and highlights specifically parents' right to withdraw their children along with governors' responsibilities in relation to the promotion of equality, good relations and diversity. In line with this guidance, I expect schools to ensure that parents are notified of the facility to opt out of religious education and the arrangements for making alternative provision for pupils.

Departmental Forward Work Programme

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Education to detail the work that is scheduled to take place within the next six months on collaboration, amalgamations and federations or confederations on a sectoral or cross-sectoral basis.

(AQW 5215/11)

Minister of Education: Caithfimid a chinntiú go gcuimsíonn soláthar oideachais líonra de scoileanna inmharthana inbhuanaithe a sholáthraíonn oideachas ardchaighdeáin do gach leanbh agus duine óg.

We need to ensure that education provision comprises a network of viable and sustainable schools providing high quality education for all children and young people. It will therefore be important, particularly in the current difficult budgetary position, that the education sector works together to explore innovative and creative solutions to maximise the impact of the limited resources, taking into consideration the statutory responsibilities of the school managing authorities.

There is considerable scope for a more coherent area based approach to planning education provision, including the potential for the amalgamation of schools and collaboration involving the sharing and collaboration across the education sectors. One model which has been suggested, primarily in the Bain Report and subsequently in the Irish Medium Review, is that of federations. My officials will be hosting a half day workshop on this concept for the school managing authorities in the near future, to scope the full range of issues that will require further consideration.

Irish-Medium and Integrated Education

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister of Education to outline her Department's position on the commitments made in the Good Friday Agreement in relation to Irish-medium and integrated education; and whether the commitments are legally enforceable.

(AQW 5219/11)

Minister of Education: Tá dualgas reachtúil ar an Roinn, oideachas comhtháite a spreagadh agus a éascú faoin Acht um Athchóiriú Oideachais (TÉ) 1989.

The Department has a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education under the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989. Following the Good Friday Agreement, which stressed the commitment in a new society, both to cultural diversity and the objective of breaking down the effects of division and segregation, the Education (NI) Order 1998 placed a statutory duty on the Department to also encourage and facilitate Irish-Medium education. My Department is whole-heartedly committed to fulfilling these statutory duties.

New Build for the Holy Family Primary School Newington, Belfast

Mr A Maginness asked the Minister of Education for an update on the new build for the Holy Family Primary School, Newington Avenue, Belfast.

(AQW 5231/11)

Minister of Education: Tá an mhórscéim chaipitil atá beartaithe do Bhunscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa ar cheann de na 114 scéim nach bhfuil fógartha ach atá ag céim staidéir fhéidearthachta agus measúnaithe eacnamaíoch agus a ceapadh le bheith ar an chéad chéim eile den infheistíocht chaipitil, nuair a bhí na scéimeanna sin ar an Phlean Seachadta Infheistíochta críochnaithe.

The proposed major capital scheme for Holy Family Primary School is one of 114 schemes which are not announced but which are at feasibility study and economic appraisal stage and were designed to

be the next phase of capital investment, once those schemes on the Investment Delivery Plan were completed.

As you are aware, the Draft Budget 2011-15 highlighted significant reductions in the capital budget for Education over the next four years which would have a detrimental effect on my Department's ability to deliver the school building programme. While I was successful in securing an additional £65.5 million of capital funding over the four year period in the Final Budget allocation, a gap still exists between the capital funding required to fully deliver the Department's capital programme and the amount allocated. I will continue to bid in-year for any capital funds that become available to the Executive.

In view of the current capital funding position, I am unable to provide a timeframe regarding progress of the proposed scheme for Holy Family Primary School, but my officials will keep the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools updated on any developments.

Voluntary Grammar Schools

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Education whether voluntary grammar schools are subject to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 when implementing changes to staff practices.
(AQW 5241/11)

Minister of Education: Baineann Alt 75 le húdaráis phoiblí atá sainithe chun críche an Achta amháin, agus ní bhaineann sé le scoileanna de chineál ar bith.

Section 75 applies only to public authorities designated for the purposes of the Act, and does not apply to schools of any type. However, voluntary grammar schools, as employers, ought to be mindful of their legal responsibilities under other equality and employment legislation.

Department for Employment and Learning

University Students

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to AQW 4456/11, to outline the reasons for an increase of almost 50% in the number of first year university students from the Republic of Ireland in 2009/10.

(AQW 4916/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning (Mr D Kennedy): I am advised by the University of Ulster that the majority of the increase in first year students from the Republic of Ireland was due to an increase in enrolments on its part-time Advanced Certificate in Credit Union Practice course. Enrolments on this course increased from 77 in the 2008/9 academic year to 406 in the 2009/10 academic year.

At Queen's University, the number of full-time first year students from the Republic of Ireland increased by 18.7% in the 2009/10 academic year. The University points out that this increase was most prevalent among postgraduate students and cites lower tuition fees and living costs in Northern Ireland as a reason for this. I understand the University has also undertaken targeted recruitment activity at Postgraduate Fairs in the Republic of Ireland.

St. Mary's University College, whilst acknowledging an increase in the number of first year students from the Republic of Ireland, cannot identify specific reasons for this increase.

Stranmillis University College advises that it has not experienced an increase in the number of first year students from the Republic of Ireland.

European Social Fund: Tranche 2

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, in relation to the successful applications made under Tranche 2 of the European Social Fund, to detail how many of these projects will operate in socially disadvantaged areas.

(AQW 4934/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: A second Call for applications under Priority 1 of the Northern Ireland European Social Fund (NIESF) Programme 2007-13 was launched on 23 September 2010. A total of 83 projects have been initially selected for funding subject to satisfactory further appraisal.

Of the 83 projects initially selected, 48 projects are located in areas of social disadvantage as defined by Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, 17 will operate throughout Northern Ireland with a likelihood of operating fully or partly in socially disadvantaged areas.

A further 18 projects, while not located in areas of social disadvantage, may provide for individual participants from a variety of geographical locations, including areas of social disadvantage and elsewhere.

Departmental Staff: Trips to North Carolina

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the number of trips that departmental staff have made to North Carolina in each of the last three years; and the associated costs of each trip.

(AQW 5000/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: The following table details the number of trips that departmental staff made to North Carolina in each of the last 3 full financial years, and the associated costs. These cover flight and hotel costs primarily. Where a trip included multiple destinations, the total flight costs have been divided by the number of destinations to provide an approximate cost for North Carolina.

Year	Number of Trips	Number of Officials	Associated Costs
2007/08	1	4	£5,103.59
2008/09	2	1	£1,217.09
		5	£8,899.10
2009/10	1	3	£6,108.40

Stranmillis College: Site

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the land at the Stranmillis College site which is zoned for conservation or heritage.

(AQW 5009/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: The entire Stranmillis College site, with the exception of that occupied by the refectory, halls of residence and the hockey pitches, lies within the Stranmillis Conservation Area.

Under the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan the entire college grounds are listed as a Historic Park, Garden and Demesne.

Stranmillis College: Site

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Employment and Learning for an estimate of the current capital value of the Stranmillis College site.

(AQW 5010/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: Stranmillis University College has reported in its last set of financial statements dated 31 July 2010, that its freehold land and buildings has a net book value of £54.7 million. This is the most up to date information available to my Department.

Stranmillis College: Stakeholder Forum

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the terms of reference for the proposed Stranmillis Stakeholder Forum.

(AQW 5011/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: As you are aware, it is proposed that a Stakeholder Forum is established at the Stranmillis School of Education at Queen's University on which interested parties such as the Transferor Representatives' Council will have guaranteed representation. The agreed principle is that the Forum will give key stakeholders an advisory and consultative voice in the governance of the new School. At this stage in the merger process detailed terms of reference have not been established. However, it is envisaged that it will be responsible for advising on a range of issues such as teacher education, the preparation of teachers to deliver the agreed Religious Education curriculum, and the development of responses to education policy issues. Should the merger proceed, the terms of reference will be developed and agreed by Stranmillis, Queen's and the key stakeholders.

Social Clause Requirements

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail (i) the social clause requirements in his Department's capital or current spend projects, including (a) the creation of apprenticeships; and (b) the employment of long-term unemployed persons; and (ii) any proposals his Department has to expand such opportunities.

(AQW 5029/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: One of my Department's conditions for further education colleges' capital grant funding is that they use standard contracts that have requirements for the employment of one Apprentice per £2m of Contract price, and one Long Term Unemployed person per £5m of Contract price. All current contracts have used these contracts, except in two cases where the issue of the tender documents pre-dated the introduction of this policy. No such conditions apply to the Department's recurrent grant. The Department is guided by, and will continue to take the advice of, its Centre of Procurement Excellence (DFP's Central Procurement Directorate) in relation to these matters.

ApprenticeshipsNI is a demand-led provision and, as such, employers determine the number of apprenticeship opportunities. However, my officials are proactively engaged with Central Procurement Directorate and other Departments to ensure contractors are fulfilling their social-clause requirements of employing apprentices in accordance with the level of contract awarded. In addition, my Department has been actively promoting the Steps to Work programmes as the vehicle for fulfilling social clause obligations in public sector contracts.

Stranmillis College and St Mary's College

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what consideration he has given to (i) a merger; or (ii) the sharing of services between St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College.

(AQW 5044/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College are both independent autonomous bodies. Any proposals made by the University Colleges to merge or share services would be considered by my Department. When Stranmillis University College was considering the options open to it when developing its business case for the merger with Queen's, a merger with St Mary's was an option that was considered. However, I understand that St Mary's indicated that it would not consider a merger with another institution at that time. Also, I am not aware of any proposals being made to share services between the two Colleges. I would, however, be generally supportive of any such proposals.

European Social Fund

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning (i) if funding is available for those projects that are successful under the European Social Fund after appeal; and (ii) whether his Department would consider funding those projects which it supports but have been unsuccessful under the European Social Fund.

(AQW 5244/11)

Minister for Employment and Learning: All available European Social Fund (ESF) monies and DEL Match funding under the second call for ESF Priority 1 has been allocated to 83 successful projects. On this basis I am not in a position to provide any additional ESF funding.

Furthermore, my Department's budget has been fully allocated over the incoming budget period for mainstream activities and I have no plans to support ESF Projects that did not secure funding in the second ESF call, where a total of £50 million was bid for by all applications against an available budget of £30 million.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Colin Area of Belfast

Ms J McCann asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail what percentage of her Department's budget was spent in the Colin area of Belfast, in each of the last four financial years.

(AQW 4757/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster): DETI does not have systems in place that would readily provide expenditure information at ward or neighbourhood level. To retrieve the necessary information would necessitate a significant manual exercise that could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Small Businesses

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any plans she has to assist small businesses in towns and villages experiencing the effects of the economic downturn and out-of-town retail multi-nationals.

(AQW 4946/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: My Department, through Invest NI, has sought to work proactively with local companies and entrepreneurs to help minimise the impact of the current economic downturn. As a direct response to the downturn, a number of new initiatives were introduced including the Short Term Aid Scheme, which has provided over £3.5 million of support to 31 businesses, and the Accelerated Support Fund, which provided over £5 million of financial support to 162 projects and practical help and advice to more than 500 businesses across Northern Ireland. Invest NI is now also in the process of developing a new £18 million Short Term Employment Scheme which is intended to create 4,000 new jobs over the next four years.

There continues to be a wide range of help and assistance available from Invest NI including export development programmes for both first-time and more experienced exporters, energy and environmental efficiency support, comprehensive business information services and information and communications technology support. The information website, nibusinessinfo.co.uk, which is openly available to all, also provides free access to over 5,000 pages of key information, advice and training.

Invest NI, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, in relation to Invest NI or its predecessors, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit, to detail (i) the number of financial assistance offers; (ii) the total amount of financial assistance provided; (iii)

the total amount of overall investment secured; and (iv) the number of new jobs created, broken down by constituency, in each year since 1998.

(AQW 4949/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Invest NI, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the total number of new jobs created; and (ii) the total number of jobs lost, by client companies of Invest NI or its predecessors, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit, broken down by constituency, in each year since 1998.

(AQW 4951/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Invest NI

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, for each constituency, to detail (i) the number of first-time inward investment projects; and (ii) the number of new jobs created, broken down by (a) foreign direct investors; and (b) other investors, which received assistance offers from Invest NI or its predecessors, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit, in each year since 1998.

(AQW 4954/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Belfast Harbour Estate

Mr P Maskey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) the total amount of financial assistance offered to companies or investors located within the boundaries of the Belfast Harbour Estate, broken down by (a) company name; (b) the number of jobs created; and (c) the amount of assistance offered by Invest NI or its predecessors, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit, in each year since 1998.

(AQW 4955/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Northern Ireland: An Enterprise Zone

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail any discussions her Department has had with the Secretary of State in relation to making Northern Ireland an enterprise zone.

(AQW 4957/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Coalition Government has committed to consider how Northern Ireland could be treated as an enterprise zone, in order to rebalance the economy away from its reliance on the public sector.

As part of this work, I and other Ministers have held meetings with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Her Majesty's Treasury. Most recently I had a video conference meeting with the Secretary of State and the Exchequer Secretary on Monday 7 March 2011 to discuss progress with the consultation paper on proposals to rebalance the Northern Ireland economy.

Town Centre Regeneration

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what measures her Department has taken to encourage town centre regeneration in relation to small local businesses.

(AQW 4958/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Department does not have a specific remit for town centre regeneration.

However InvestNI's Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) is aimed at start-up and existing small local businesses providing support for businesses across a range of sectors including many involved in retail and the provision of local services that typically operate in or near town centres. EDP offers an integrated range of guidance, signposting, training and mentoring aimed at attracting more people into starting and growing their own business and focuses on developing the capabilities of those which have the potential to make a significant economic impact.

In the year to March 2010 EDP delivered 2,149 start-up business plans across Northern Ireland including 203 from the Mid Ulster parliamentary constituency. This year to date 2,634 business plans have been delivered across Northern Ireland of which 256 are in the Mid Ulster parliamentary constituency.

Rose Energy Poultry Litter Incinerator

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many times she has brought the issue of the Rose Energy Poultry Litter Incinerator to the Executive in the last twelve months; and for an update on any progress made on the matter in each instance.

(AQW 5020/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: My department has not brought this issue to the executive within the last twelve months.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mrs M Bradley asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, for each of the last three years, to detail the number of public sector jobs within her Department and its agencies that have been (i) decentralised from Belfast to another location, broken down by the new location; and (ii) relocated to Belfast from another location, broken down by the original location.

(AQW 5095/11)

Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Department and its NDPBs have not, in the last three years, (i) decentralised any public sector jobs from Belfast to another location, or (ii) relocated any public sector jobs to Belfast from another location.

Department of the Environment

Road Vehicle Licences

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the total amount collected by the Driver and Vehicle Agency for road vehicle licences in the 2009/10 financial year.

(AQW 4998/11)

Minister of the Environment (Mr E Poots): The response below includes both vehicle excise duty (referred to as vehicle licensing) and road transport vehicle licensing income.

Vehicle licensing is an Excepted matter which is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Transport in Whitehall. It is administered in Northern Ireland by the Driver & Vehicle Agency under a formal agreement between the DoE and the Department for Transport. The amount of vehicle excise duty collected in the 2009/10 financial year was £164 million, of which £83 million was collected

through the Post Office. These sums were remitted to the Department for Transport as part of the U.K.'s vehicle excise revenues.

Under the Transport Act (NI) 1967, the Department, through the Road Transport Licensing Division of the Driver & Vehicle Agency, is responsible for the licensing of vehicles used to carry goods or passengers by road for reward. During the 2009/10 financial year, £608k was collected in road freight vehicle licensing income.

EU Nitrates Directive

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of the Environment how many times she has brought the issue of the EU Nitrates Directive and the problems with poultry litter disposal faced by the poultry industry to the Executive in the last twelve months; and for an update on any progress made on the matter in each instance.

(AQW 5021/11)

Minister of the Environment: Implementation of the EU Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland is the joint responsibility of my Department and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and, in the last twelve months, issues concerning it have been brought to the Executive twice.

In May 2010 I submitted a paper on behalf of the two Departments to the Executive requesting approval to issue a public consultation on review and revision of the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (the 2006 Regulations). The consultation included discussion of the temporary measure in the 2006 Regulations permitting storage of poultry litter in field heaps and outlined industry proposals for an alternative to land spreading of poultry litter explaining that land spreading of litter at current levels was not sustainable in the longer term. The temporary measure was due to expire on 31 December 2010 and the consultation proposed that the measure would not be renewed. The Executive gave approval for publication of the consultation which was issued in June 2010.

In November 2010, I submitted a further paper on behalf of the two Departments to the Executive requesting approval to make the 2010 NAP Regulations. The Executive gave approval and the Regulations were made in December 2010 and came into operation on 1 January 2011.

In light of consideration of responses to the consultation, and discussion with the EU Commission, the Regulations contain a revised measure to allow the continued storage of poultry litter in field heaps until 30 September 2011 to support the industry during the development of potential alternative temporary storage options for this action programme.

Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of the Environment to detail (i) the social clause requirements in his Department's capital or current spend projects, including (a) the creation of apprenticeships; and (b) the employment of long-term unemployed persons; and (ii) any proposals his Department has to expand such opportunities.

(AQW 5031/11)

Minister of the Environment: Given the nature of my Department's business activities, which in the main are regulatory as well as the provision of grants to District Councils and third parties, my Department's capital and current projects do not lend themselves to job creation.

Rose Energy's Incinerator Plant at Glenavy

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of the Environment to detail why, during the determination of the planning application for Rose Energy's incinerator plant at Glenavy, the Strategic Projects Unit did not request an economic appraisal of the project and instead went against the recommendations of the Planning Service's Economic Branch and requested an options appraisal.

(AQW 5069/11)

Minister of the Environment: During the determination of the planning application by Rose Energy for the development of a Biomass Fuelled Power Plant the Department's Economic Branch were consulted on the application, the accompanying environmental information and third party representations of support and objection. In their initial consultation response of 22 December 2008 Economic Branch made a request for a full economic appraisal to be provided by the applicant. Following an office meeting between Planning Service, Economic Branch and Rose Energy on 4 March 2009 Economic Branch clarified that they did not require a full economic appraisal and that the information they required would be more accurately described as an options appraisal.

Rose Energy submitted the required information to Planning Service as part of their submission of further environmental information on 12 June 2009 and the Economic Branch were re-consulted on 18 June 2009. In response to the re-consultation they concluded that, having examined the options appraisal submitted they were content that all potential options had been fully investigated and that a reasonable case had been provided to support the decision to progress with the decision to progress with the development of a biomass fuelled power plant.

Illegal Waste Activity at 67 Tullyrusk Road, Hannahstown, Belfast

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of the Environment what action his Department is taking in relation to illegal waste activity at 67, Tullyrusk Road, Hannahstown.

(AQW 5150/11)

Minister of the Environment: My officials are continuing to investigate this site following reports of alleged environmental offences.

Should serious offending be taking place, the case will be scheduled for investigation by the NIEA Environmental Crime Unit.

Department of Finance and Personnel

Rating on Vacant Properties

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 4610/11, what procedures does Land and Property Services have in place to allow ratepayers to challenge decisions made in relation to vacant properties, particularly the habitability of the property.

(AQW 5084/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr S Wilson): All properties that are capable of beneficial occupation are entered in the Valuation List. A challenge to an entry in the List can be made in the first instance to the District Valuer. Further rights of appeal exist to the Commissioner of Valuation and to the Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal.

Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the proposed value of the extension of the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

(AQW 5117/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: My Department will be bringing forward proposals that would significantly extend the small business rate relief (SBRR) scheme for the spending review period. The detail is currently being examined. This will include consideration of net annual value thresholds, the level of the relief and how it can be cross subsidised through a large retail levy. When clear and practicable options have been identified work will begin on a consultation paper, to seek views on the best way forward.

Around £7m is currently paid out under the SBRR scheme. The Executive would hope to be able to more than double the amount of overall total relief that is provided, while also significantly increasing the numbers that are eligible. The precise figures will depend on the chosen option.

It is hoped that both of these measures could be in place from 1 April 2012 if the Assembly is able to pass the legislation through without difficulty.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the implementation of the plan to decentralise public sector jobs within his Department, and its agencies, since the publication of the Bain Report.

(AQW 5121/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: There is currently no plan to decentralise public sector jobs within my Department, or its agencies.

Funding Allocations

Mr S Hamilton asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has made any further funding allocations since his February Monitoring statement.

(AQW 5155/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: Since my February Monitoring statement the Executive has agreed, through urgent procedure, a number of further allocations to departments for the remaining weeks of 2010/11.

This follows representations made to me from some Ministers that they could spend further resources in this financial year. The Executive agreed that these allocations should proceed, to ensure that any year-end underspend was minimised. The context for these further approvals was the UK Government-announced change to the End-Year Flexibility (EYF) scheme which now means that declared underspends by the Devolved Administrations cannot be carried into the next financial year.

The approved departmental allocations are presented in the attached table.

ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTAL ALLOCATIONS

£ million	Current	Capital
DARD	0.03	0.63
DCAL	0.11	0.47
DE	0.00	2.20
DETI Painthall*	0.00	3.40
DETI	1.85	0.84
DOE	1.15	0.00
DRD	3.00	3.20
DSD	5.00	6.15
Total	11.14	16.89

* The Painthall bid is conditional on a Special Purpose Vehicle being created in time to draw down funding in 2010-11. This allocation will only be made if this is progressed before the end of this financial year.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Mr B Armstrong asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to AQW 4922/11, whether he intends to implement a Cycle to Work Scheme; and if so, when the scheme is likely to start.

(AQW 5190/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: This matter is being considered following the completion of a pilot in the Department for Regional Development.

Apartment Development Management Reform Bill

Mr K McCarthy asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline any discussions he has had with the Law Commission of Northern Ireland in relation to progress on the Apartment Development Management Reform Bill.

(AQW 5197/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Northern Ireland Law Commission is currently undertaking research on multi-unit developments with a view to producing a consultation paper in late 2011 and its final report, with draft legislation, in 2012. My officials have discussed the research with the Commission and have also engaged with the Law Society of Northern Ireland, which has produced a discussion paper on the issues. It is envisaged that those discussions with the Commission and other interested stakeholders will continue as the Commission's work progresses

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked Minister of Finance and Personnel, for each of the last three years, to detail the number of public sector jobs within his Department and its agencies that have been (i) decentralised from Belfast to another location, broken down by the new location; and (ii) relocated to Belfast from another location, broken down by the original location.

(AQW 5214/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: There have been no public sector jobs either decentralised from Belfast to another location or relocated to Belfast from another location within my department and its agencies in the last three years.

Civil Service Equal Pay Claim

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the Civil Service equal pay claim.
(AQW 5275/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: As a result of the equal pay settlement agreed with NIPSA in late 2009, the majority of equal pay claims lodged with the Industrial Tribunal by NIPSA on behalf of female members of staff have been, or are in the process of being, withdrawn. Assimilation to new pay scales is now complete and lump sum payments have been made to just over 15,000 of the almost 16,000 individuals entitled to a settlement payment. Work is now underway on a comprehensive pay and grading review of the NICS, agreed as part of the equal pay settlement.

Legal Services Review Group

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the report of the Legal Services Review Group chaired by Sir George Bain and to outline his Department's engagement with the Group.

(AQO 1305/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Legal Services Review Group forwarded a total of 42 recommendations to Government on a range of issues relating to the regulation of lawyers in Northern Ireland. I have met with Professor Bain and officials have also engaged with him in relation to possible legislation.

While I agree with the general thrust of the report, and with some of the recommendations contained therein, I have concerns that other recommendations do not go far enough. In particular, in relation to how complaints are currently dealt with by the professional bodies, the Review Group identified gaps and weaknesses, but the recommendations it made in relation to them, would not, in my mind, create sufficient confidence for users of legal services.

I consider that a complaints handling system should be independent and well removed from the influence of the relevant professional bodies. While the Review Group brought forward recommendations that go some way to achieving that goal, my own view is that more is required. It will be a matter for the incoming Executive to make final decisions on the report and the way forward, but I would like to see a complaints system that consumers can have full confidence in.

Village, Belfast: Negative Equity

Mr J Spratt asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he can provide financial assistance to those people who are now in negative equity as a result of the regeneration of the Village area of South Belfast.

(AQO 1303/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: I met with Ministers Attwood and Murphy in November 2010 to discuss the issues that can arise where an acquiring authority purchase properties by vesting from owners who find themselves in negative equity. Whereas property can be compulsorily acquired by a number of departments in Northern Ireland, I am not aware of any legislative authority that would enable financial assistance to be provided where vesting has highlighted negative equity.

Enterprise Zone

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for an update on the plans to develop Northern Ireland as an enterprise zone and what practical measures are proposed to ensure that this happens.

(AQO 1306/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: We are discussing plans on developing Northern Ireland as an enterprise zone as part of the Coalition Government's paper on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. To this end, the First Minister, deputy First Minister, Enterprise Minister and I met with Exchequer Secretary David Gauke and Secretary of State Owen Paterson on 2 February and 7 March to discuss the draft paper. DFP, DETI and OFMDFM officials have been involved in ongoing discussions with their Treasury counterparts since receipt of the first draft paper in mid-December. Ministers and officials are currently liaising with their Whitehall counterparts on the contents of this draft paper with a view to it being published as soon as possible.

Budget 2011-15

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the impact the UK budget and the political negotiations to form a new Government in the Republic of Ireland will have on the Executive's budget settlement.

(AQO 1307/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: I presume the Member is referring to the UK Budget to be announced on 23 March. This will not have a major impact on the Executive's Budget since our 4 year funding envelope was determined at the time of the UK Spending Review, which was announced on 20 October last year. This resulted in a real terms reduction of 8% in terms of current expenditure and 40% in respect of capital investment by the end of 2014-15.

The discussions on a new Government in the Republic of Ireland will have no direct impact on our Budget. However, should the incoming Dublin Government decide to revisit existing commitments to cross border projects such as the A5 then there may be implications for our spending plans.

Budget 2011-15: Vulnerable People

Mr J Bell asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel for his assessment of the impact the budget will have on the most vulnerable people in our society.

(AQO 1308/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Executive's Final Budget is all about protecting and helping the most vulnerable in our society.

We have now afforded a significant degree of protection to the health spending element of DHSSPS.

In addition, we have created two new funds – the Social Investment Fund and the Social Protection Fund – aimed expressly at tackling disadvantage in our communities.

We have also provided funding towards a cross departmental childcare strategy, to help childminders and support provision of childcare in Northern Ireland. This will help to reduce barriers to employment and support economic activity and is consistent with the Executive's overarching priority of promoting economic growth.

Corporation Tax

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to outline the actions his Department has taken in relation to the introduction of legislation that would allow Northern Ireland to change its rate of corporation tax.

(AQO 1309/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: There has been no action to date regarding the introduction of legislation to enable us to vary our rate of Corporation Tax. However, we have been working alongside OFMDFM and DETI in commenting on the Coalition Government's draft paper on Rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy. This paper includes options around varying the rate of Corporation Tax.

Ministers and officials are currently liaising with their Whitehall counterparts on the contents of this draft paper with a view to it being published as soon as possible.

Economy: Rebalancing

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel whether he has had any further discussions with the British Government regarding its proposals to rebalance Northern Ireland's economy and to outline what progress has been made to date.

(AQO 1310/11)

Minister of Finance and Personnel: The First Minister, deputy First Minister, Enterprise Minister and I met with Exchequer Secretary David Gauke and Secretary of State Owen Paterson on 2 February and 7 March to discuss the Coalition Government's draft Rebalancing the Northern Ireland paper. DF, DETI and OFMDFM officials have been involved in ongoing discussions with their Treasury counterparts since receipt of the first draft paper in mid-December.

Ministers and officials are currently liaising with their Whitehall counterparts on the contents of this draft paper with a view to it being published as soon as possible.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Charging for Prescriptions

Mr J Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much revenue would have been raised from 1 April 2010 to date by charging for prescriptions at the previous rates of (i) £6.95; and (ii) £3.00.

(AQW 3747/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey): It is not possible to determine accurately how much revenue could have potentially been raised from 1 April 2010 to date by charging at the previous rates of £6.85 and £3.00. When these were operational approximately half the people in Northern Ireland were exempt from payment as a result of low income or because of their underlying medical condition. The number of people in these categories may have changed significantly since then.

Domiciliary, Residential and Nursing Care

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many older people in each Health and Social Care Trust area were assessed as needing (i) domiciliary; (ii) residential; and (iii) nursing care between September 2008 and December 2010.

(AQW 3793/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is presented in the tables below on the outcomes of care management assessments completed in the Elderly Programme of Care during quarter ending 30 September 2008 to quarter ending 30 September 2010 by Health and Social Care Trust. The outcome is the main form of care recommended. Information for quarter ending 31 December 2010 is not yet available.

(I) DOMICILIARY CARE

HSC Trust	Care Management Assessments Completed in the Elderly Programme of Care during the quarter which Recommended Domiciliary Care								
	30 Sep 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sep 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	30 Jun 2010	30 Sep 2010
Belfast	148	161	114	121	131	136	115	133	115
Northern	579	159	194	177	143	154	192	188	171
South Eastern	157	179	157	173	158	156	96	80	97
Southern	123	161	129	144	114	134	117	107	112
Western	63	74	65	59	72	52	56	62	28

Source: Community Information CC4 Return

(II) RESIDENTIAL CARE

HSC Trust	Care Management Assessments Completed in the Elderly Programme of Care during the quarter which Recommended Residential Care								
	30 Sep 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sep 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	30 Jun 2010	30 Sep 2010
Belfast	59	62	54	52	70	79	89	71	61
Northern	59	68	71	68	73	48	95	93	92
South Eastern	67	48	46	41	59	36	44	34	35
Southern	28	31	36	27	25	17	34	47	37
Western	8	8	3	16	21	10	12	12	4

Source: Community Information CC4 Return

(III) NURSING HOME CARE

HSC Trust	Care Manage 5,695,000 ment Assessments Completed in the Elderly Programme of Care during the quarter which Recommended Nursing Home Care								
	30 Sep 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sep 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	30 Jun 2010	30 Sep 2010
Belfast	101	100	86	93	102	93	84	95	88
Northern	117	134	135	127	117	147	181	156	171
South Eastern	143	147	139	107	93	117	113	94	94
Southern	89	104	95	90	52	78	92	67	93
Western	49	27	30	33	37	31	23	27	15

Source: Community Information CC4 Return

Domiciliary, Residential and Nursing Care

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many (i) domiciliary; (ii) residential; and (iii) nursing care packages for older people were put in place between September 2008 to December 2010, in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 3794/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) Information on domiciliary care packages which commenced in the Elderly Programme of Care is not collected centrally.
- (ii) & (iii) Information is presented in the tables below on the number of residential and nursing home care packages which commenced in the Elderly Programme of Care during quarter ending 30 September 2008 to quarter ending 30 September 2010 by Health and Social Care Trust. Information for quarter ending 31 December 2010 is not yet available.

HSC Trust	Residential Care Packages Commenced in the Elderly Programme of Care during quarter ending								
	30 Sep 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sep 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	30 Jun 2010	30 Sep 2010
Belfast	76	62	85	91	60	255	187	180	179
Northern	59	76	71	68	73	51	54	71	42
South Eastern	58	51	43	44	61	39	42	32	39
Southern	30	31	36	26	25	17	36	39	37
Western	17	15	8	16	20	10	10	10	5

Source: Community Information CC6 Return

HSC Trust	Nursing Home Care Packages Commenced in the Elderly Programme of Care during quarter ending								
	30 Sep 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sep 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	30 Jun 2010	30 Sep 2010
Belfast	136	126	173	155	80	283	217	208	208
Northern	117	147	135	127	117	146	143	133	121
South Eastern	137	143	140	118	91	107	115	95	95
Southern	96	103	97	91	57	86	94	77	94
Western	55	36	47	37	34	28	32	33	14
Northern Ireland	541	555	592	528	379	650	601	546	532

Source: Community Information CC6 Return

Older People Assessed for Care Needs

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many older people were assessed for care needs in each Health and Social Care Trust from September 2008 to December 2010.

(AQW 3830/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is presented in the table below on the number of care management assessments which were completed in the Elderly Programme of Care during quarter ending 30 September 2008 to quarter ending 30 September 2010 by Health and Social Care Trust. Information for quarter ending 31 December 2010 is not yet available.

HSC Trust	Care Management Assessments Completed in the Elderly Programme of Care during quarter ending								
	30 Sep 2008	31 Dec 2008	31 Mar 2009	30 Jun 2009	30 Sep 2009	31 Dec 2009	31 Mar 2010	30 Jun 2010	30 Sep 2010
Belfast	323	352	283	274	312	296	257	289	263
Northern	755	361	400	372	333	349	468	437	434
South Eastern	387	407	360	341	325	316	268	217	239
Southern	256	307	280	272	201	241	259	226	252
Western	144	125	114	119	145	114	99	110	55

Source: Community Information CC3 Return

Health and Social Care Trusts

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many investigations, reviews or similar studies are currently taking place into the running or management of Health and Social Care Trusts; and to identify those Trusts concerned.

(AQW 3832/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I announced on 7 February an inquiry into the issues that had arisen in relation to regional oral medicine services and on 22 February a review by RQIA into the concerns in relation to the reporting on x-rays.

There are currently no other ongoing investigations or reviews into the overall running or management of Health and Social Care Trusts.

As part of the normal business of running and managing HSC services, there are always a large number of studies of specific aspects of the operation of HSC Trusts, including RQIA reviews, Case Management Reviews, investigations on foot of the regulation of professional staff, Internal Audit studies, VFM audits and NIAO studies. Each of these categories of work has arrangements for reporting, as appropriate, to senior management, the Minister, the Assembly and the public.

All Trusts have risk management arrangements which provide assurance regarding the quality of patient care. Consistent with this duty of quality and commitment to clinical governance, Trusts, on an ongoing basis, examine and assess the services they provide and introduce service developments and improvements as appropriate.

Trusts also undertake specific investigations and reviews when a serious adverse incident (SAI) occurs. These reviews are conducted in accordance with governance arrangements and Departmental guidance, which was first issued in June 2004 and most recently updated in May 2010.

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA), and other regulatory bodies, undertake reviews and inspections in line with their responsibilities. Details of the RQIA programme of inspections can be accessed at www.rqia.org.uk/publications

Furthermore, reviews of a specific service area may be undertaken by the HSC Board, in conjunction with the Public Health Agency. These are normally set out in the joint commissioning plan issued by the Board and Agency. With the approval of DHSSPS and DFP, the HSCB has also drawn on management consultancy support in respect of aspects of Trusts' efficiency plans and financial planning and management

In addition to the above, my Department conducts audits and strategic and policy reviews across all areas of health and social care in Northern Ireland and also contributes to UK wide audits and reviews

Mixed-Sex Wards

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current number of mixed-sex wards in each Health and Social Care Trust, broken down by hospital; and what action he is taking to eradicate this practice.

(AQW 3850/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In Northern Ireland, all of our hospitals aim to accommodate patients in single sex ward areas as far as possible.

In January 2008 I announced that Trusts would be required to ensure that all new hospitals are planned on the basis of 100 percent single rooms and that the number of single rooms in existing facilities is maximised when carrying out major refurbishments. The implementation of this policy over time will facilitate an end to mixed sex ward areas.

Information on mixed sex accommodation within each hospital is not collected centrally by the Department.

Interim Management and Support Reports

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail all the Interim Management and Support reports on, or inquiries into, the Health Service in each of the last five years.

(AQW 3918/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: When I set up the HSC Board I gave it full responsibility for all performance management and service improvement across health and social care organisations. I also expect all Trusts to continuously look to improve how they deliver services to patients.

During 2009/10, the HSC Board worked with Trusts to secure improvement in performance against standards set for waiting times in A&E departments. As part of this process, additional external support for Trusts was made available in the form of the NHS IMAS Team. Use of this resource was left to the discretion of Trusts, to be accessed if and where they believed, this support would be useful.

At the request of the Trusts concerned, one day visits were made by the IMAS team to the A&E departments at Altnagelvin and the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. IMAS reported the findings of each visit in a letter to the respective Trusts.

Separate to this IMAS have also provided project management support to the Northern and Southern Trusts in respect of service reforms being implemented.

I also understand that IMAS is currently working with the HSC Board and Trusts in respect of the development of mental health services.

I do not need to be advised of all this work as it is normal business and should be treated as such.

I do expect and require that I am told of any serious issues or incidents. In each case, there were no significant issues which I needed to be aware of.

Increase in VAT

Mr T Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of how the recently imposed increase in VAT will impact upon his budget.

(AQW 3992/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: VAT paid on goods and services by government departments in Northern Ireland is largely recoverable from HMRC. This extends to most health and social care bodies with the exception of those which are classed as non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

Additional pressures will be faced by the NDPBs for which my Department is responsible, as they are unable to reclaim the VAT they incur. It is estimated that the proposed VAT change will cost an additional £553k per annum.

Health and Social Care Trust: Taxi Services

Mr T Gallagher asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much each Health and Social Care Trust spent on taxi services in the 2009/10 financial year.

(AQW 4656/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The table below shows expenditure on taxis by each Health and Social Care Trust in the financial year 2009/10.

Health and Social Care Trust	2009/10 £m
Belfast	0.9
Northern	1.2*
Southern	1.2
South Eastern	0.9
Western	0.8
NIAS	0.2

* includes expenditure on taxis, coaches and minibuses

The expenditure incurred is the result of the transport of patients and clients, e.g. the safe transportation of children in care; facilitating transport of patients to renal dialysis treatment; transporting clients to day centres etc. In addition there will be occasions where taxis are required for the transportation of blood, medical records, equipment and staff.

Reduce Suicide Rates

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether his Department will meet its commitment under the Programme for Government to reduce suicide rates.

(AQW 4879/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Ireland suicide prevention strategy "Protect Life" was launched in 2006, in the midst of an unprecedented increase in the recorded suicide rate, with the 15% reduction target based partially on the much lower numbers of recorded suicides prior to 2005/06. The sharp rises in 2006 and 2006 had an almost immediate impact on the potential for achieving the 15% reduction target and it is now highly unlikely that this will be achieved. In fact, evidence suggests that the current economic downturn will likely lead to a further increase in the local suicide rate.

The Protect Life strategy is currently being reviewed and refreshed, and consideration is being given to the development of a wider range of intermediate objectives for assessing the future impact of the strategy. However, it is important to note that prevalence rates are twice as high in deprived areas, which underscores the fact that suicide is a societal rather than solely a health issue.

Suicide Prevention Initiatives

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for a breakdown of the money spent on suicide prevention initiatives in each Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last four years.

(AQW 4880/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have detailed below a breakdown of the money spent to support local community suicide prevention initiatives by Health and Social Care Trust area.

Trust Area	07/08 Total by Trust	08/09 Total by Trust	09/10 Total by Trust	10/11 Total by Trust
BHSCT	525,789	628,705	776,160.50	800,127
NHSCT	343,096	410,991	310,901.66	617,250
WHSCT	102,799	183,826	183,692	155,815
SEHSCT	227,687	306,667	349,228	338,589
SHSCT	275,000	305,000	301,000	293,665
Total	1,474,371	1,835,189	1,920,982	2,205,446

In addition there is annual expenditure of around £1m on regional suicide prevention initiatives, such as public awareness programmes, training, research, self-harm pilot projects and All-Island cooperation. A further £3.5m is invested in the Lifeline service. Total expenditure on suicide prevention in 2009/10 was £6.7 million.

Legislation

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail all legislation, since May 2007, that has gone through, or is going through, the Assembly which devolves powers or responsibilities from his Department to local government authorities.

(AQW 4884/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Since May 2007, none of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety legislation that has either gone through, or is going through the Assembly, devolves powers or responsibilities from the Department to local government authorities.

Staff Mobile Phone Bills

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the expenditure incurred by each Health and Social Care Trust for staff mobile phone bills in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4888/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The expenditure incurred by each Health and Social Care Trust for staff mobile phone bills in each of the last three financial years is set out in the table below.

Health & Social Care Trust	2009/10 £	2008/09 £	2007/08 £
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	375,880	350,564	278,455
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	179,300	130,762	90,943
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	324,872	219,789	164,113
Western Health & Social Care Trust	118,330	88,942	34,715
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	145,757	100,583	62,596
NI Ambulance Service	131,835	122,525	62,281
Total	1,275,974	1,013,065	693,102

The costs relate to the rental of mobile phone handsets and phone lines and the calls/texts made by staff.

Employing Locums from Outside Northern Ireland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much has been spent by each Health and Social Care Trust in each of the last three years on employing locums from outside Northern Ireland.

(AQW 4890/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information regarding the cost to each Health and Social Care Trust of hiring locum doctors from outside N.I. in each of the last four years is not held centrally and could only be accessed at disproportionate cost.

Beltany House in Omagh

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he can give an assurance about the long-term future of Beltany House in Omagh, which provides respite services for adults with learning disabilities; and whether he has any plans to increase the number of beds at the care home.

(AQW 4891/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am advised by the Western Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust) that, apart from moving children's respite services to the new purpose-built residential respite unit on the grounds of the former Omagh General Hospital, it has no plans to change the service provided at Beltany House for adults within the next year. However, I understand that the Trust intends to take forward a review of adult learning disability respite services to ensure equity of access and to identify new ways of working to address the demand for respite in the area which will

include Beltany House. As part of this review the Trust will be fully engaging with families, staff and Trade Unions.

Travel Expenses for Carers

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his Department's position on the provision of travel expenses for carers, including those who travel regularly on rural roads.

(AQW 4892/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department does not pay travel expenses to Health and Social Care staff; these are paid by individual Health and Social Care employers. The rates of reimbursement are set out in Annex L to the NHS Terms and Conditions of Service Handbook a copy of which is available at - <http://www.nhsemployers.org/Pages/home.aspx>

Care Assistants (Band 3) who work in Adult Learning Disability Services

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when the Care Assistants (Band 3), who work in Adult Learning Disability Services within the Western Health and Social Care Trust on an ad hoc basis, will receive their due annual increments and holiday pay entitlements.

(AQW 4893/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am advised that the Western HSC Trust is aware of this issue through their formal Trade Union facilities arrangements. The Trust has given an undertaking to do a full analysis and to address any gaps in entitlement that are identified. This work is being prioritised within the Trust's overall workplan and will be completed in April 2011; any payments due will be made from the relevant effective date.

Psychiatric Care

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what level of psychiatric care is available in North Down for children under 16 years old.

(AQW 4896/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for the entire South Eastern Trust area are provided by the Belfast Trust.

Children in North Down have access to Tier 3 (Out-patient) CAMHS , which provide specialist psychiatric and psycho-therapeutic services to children and young people aged up to 18 years and their families/ carers for a range of complex Mental Health needs.

They also have access to:

- The Crisis Assessment and Intervention Team who provide services across Belfast and the South East Trust areas including to GPs in North Down and the Emergency Department at the Ulster Hospital;
- The Eating Disorder Youth Service who provide specialist services to children and young people with an Eating Disorder;
- The Drug and Alcohol Mental Health Service who provide specialist Mental Health Services for children and young people who have Mental Health needs of which drugs and alcohol are a major concern; and
- The Family Trauma Centre offering specialist psychotherapeutic support to children, young people and their families following trauma.

Out of Hours Services

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether his Department, or its agencies, has any proposals to introduce (a) a single database for Out of Hours services; or (b) a single phone number for Out of Hours services; (ii) what consultation was carried out with existing providers and stakeholders on such proposals; and (iii) whether a business case has been submitted and approved for each of these proposals.

(AQW 4902/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

Single database

The implementation of a single database for out of hours services is in progress. GP Out-of-Hours providers were involved at all stages of the process. The capital cost over a 7 year period is £480,000. Additional Revenue per year is: £82,274 (11/12) and £125,555 (from 12/13 onwards). A business case was approved.

Single phone number

At present no decision has been taken to implement a single telephone number, no money has been spent and no business case has been developed.

Out of Hours Services

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) for an estimate of the total cost associated with a (a) single database for Out of Hours services; and (b) a single phone number for Out of Hours services; and (ii) to detail the total amount spent on each proposal to date.

(AQW 4903/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

Single database

The implementation of a single database for out of hours services is in progress. GP Out-of-Hours providers were involved at all stages of the process. The capital cost over a 7 year period is £480,000. Additional Revenue per year is: £82,274 (11/12) and £125,555 (from 12/13 onwards). A business case was approved.

Single phone number

At present no decision has been taken to implement a single telephone number, no money has been spent and no business case has been developed.

Services for People Suffering from Personality Disorders

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how his Department has developed and raised awareness of its services for people suffering from personality disorders.

(AQW 4913/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In June 2010 my Department published a strategy "Personality Disorder: A Diagnosis for Inclusion" for the development of services to meet the needs of people with a personality disorder. This strategy has been underpinned by recurrent investment of £1.1m. The strategy can be found on my Department's website.

C Difficile

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to AQW 2399/11, to detail (i) the (a) secretarial; (b) accomodation; (c) contracted-out services; and (d) legal

costs associated with the inquiry into the C difficile outbreak; and (ii) the number and types of counsel employed on the inquiry.

(AQW 4923/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Further to my answer to AQW 2399/11, I can advise the following detail re Inquiry costs:

(i) See table below

(a) Secretarial	£305.3k
(b) Accommodation	£205.4k
(c) Contracted-out services	£246.5k
(d) Legal	£357.6k

(ii) The Inquiry has employed one counsel, namely Mr Frank O'Dongohue QC, Senior Counsel to the Inquiry.

The Inquiry report is due to be published shortly and this will include a breakdown of all expenditure incurred by the Inquiry.

Services for Stroke Victims

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the resources being deployed by his Department to develop services for stroke victims.

(AQW 4925/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I remain committed to the implementation of the Stroke Strategy and its 14 recommendations. Additional resources have been allocated to support the implementation of the strategy (£2m in 08/09, £3m in 09/10 and £1.75m in 10/11).

To date a number of service developments have been taken forward by the Regional Stroke Implementation Group across all Health and Social Care Trusts to improve stroke services. These include service re-organisation and re-design so that the whole system, including primary, community, secondary, voluntary and independent sectors work collaboratively to improve the range of treatment, care and support available to stroke sufferers, their families and carers.

A Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) service has been developed and all Trusts have established Early Supported Discharge teams with a recognised specialist stroke coordinator available to help coordinate all aspects of the discharge process. The discharge teams provide support to stroke sufferers and carers for up to 6 weeks post discharge. Stroke sufferers then have access to the usual mainstream services such as physiotherapy, day hospital and day care

In addition progress on Thrombolysis continues, and while it is currently being administered by all 5 Trusts as a 9 to 5 service on weekdays it is scheduled to progress to a full 24/7 service by the end of this month.

Fire and Rescue Service: East Londonderry

Mr G Campbell asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether he plans any changes in 2011 to the level of service cover provided by the Fire and Rescue Service in the East Londonderry constituency.

(AQW 4940/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have no plans to change the level of service cover provided by the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) in the East Londonderry constituency.

Renal Dialysis Beds

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number and location of renal dialysis beds in each Health and Social Care Trust; and how this figure compares to (i) five; and (ii) ten years ago.

(AQW 4961/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number and location of renal dialysis beds in each Health and Social Care Trust are as follows;

Hospital Site	Number of Renal Dialysis Beds		
	31/03/2000	31/03/2005	31/03/2010
Altnagelvin Hospital	0	0	17 ^a
Antrim Area Hospital	16	22	24
Belfast City Hospital	42	47	46
Daisy Hill Hospital	12	22	26
Tyrone County Hospital	16	24	24
Ulster Hospital	0	14	30

(a) One inpatient renal dialysis bed in Altnagelvin Hospital is only available 3 days per week.

Figures quoted include the number of inpatient renal dialysis beds and the number of haemodialysis stations.

Community Care Rapid Response Team

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is seeking to disband its Community Care Rapid Response Team.

(AQW 4972/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have assured me that they are not seeking to disband the Community Care Rapid Response Team.

The Trust has been working in partnership with UNISON colleagues to look at creating Specialist Teams within the workforce to improve support for the increasing complexities of the needs of older people requiring domiciliary support within the Trust area. The Rapid Response Team staff will be integral to these new developments and will have a central role to play.

The Trust is involved in initial discussions with staff, and their Trade Union Representatives, regarding their role and how their skills and expertise could be best used to meet the needs of service users.

Day Opportunites Scheme

Mr P Frew asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety who is responsible for monitoring the Day Opportunites Scheme and ensuring that it is delivering value for money.

(AQW 4976/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Health and Social Care Trusts enter into contracts with providers of day opportunity schemes and each side is bound by the parameters of that contract. Trusts have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Health and Social Care services they provide in their areas are both value for money and appropriately meet the needs of those people accessing those services. In addition, from 30 April 2007 the Regulation Quality and Improvement Authority became responsible for the regulation of all day care settings for adults.

Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the social clause requirements in his Department's capital or current spend projects, including (a) the creation of apprenticeships; and (b) the employment of long-term unemployed persons; and (ii) any proposals his Department has to expand such opportunities.

(AQW 4980/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The social clause requirements for capital construction contracts within the Health and Social Care and Public Safety sectors are as follows:

- (i) -
- (a) The contractor agrees to recruit one apprentice, either directly or through the supply chain, for each £2 million of project value.
- (b) The contractor agrees to secure the creation of employment opportunities for one long term unemployed person, either directly or through the supply chain, for each £5 million of project value.

In addition, the PFI contract for the new South West Hospital at Enniskillen incorporates a Social and Economic Regeneration Plan (SERP). This clearly identifies the deliverables that will create social and economic opportunities throughout the life of the project and as a minimum covers the following:

- Provision of skills training and placement opportunities
 - Tackling social exclusion and long term unemployment
 - Supply chain opportunities for social enterprise, micro organisation and SME's
 - Community engagement
- (ii) The Department will continue to collaborate with DFPNI, Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) in the development of revisions to the social clauses and will implement any future amendments when issued by CPD.

Dental Practices

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, given that from 1 April 2011 dentists will be required to register with the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, whether his Department will issue written guidance to dental practices on what needs to be done to comply with RQIA regulations and to help dental practices prepare for registration.

(AQW 5006/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department will not be issuing written guidance to private dental practices on compliance with regulations and preparation for registration with the RQIA.

RQIA, as the independent regulator, has responsibility for ensuring compliance with the regulations. RQIA has already issued comprehensive guidance to every dental practice in Northern Ireland, to be followed by a registration application pack before 1st April 2011.

Dentistry Budget

Mr B McElduff asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety whether there will be cuts to the dentistry budget over the 2011-15 budgetary period; and if so, where these cuts will be made.

(AQW 5007/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety budget for 2011-15 has not yet been agreed. Therefore it is not possible at this point to speculate on whether there will be cuts to the dentistry budget.

Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust: Funding

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) whether he intends to ring fence funding for the Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust; and (ii) if can give an assurance that his Department will provide financial assistance for other vital sensory services.

(AQW 5242/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I recognise the valuable and important role that The Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust plays in supporting the wellbeing of people with physical and sensory disabilities. Sensory services provide vital support to many people across Northern Ireland and will remain a priority area for my Department going forward. However, the final budget settlement provided to my Department is not adequate to meet pressures across health, social care and public safety. Indeed, the Draft Budget represented a shortfall of more than £800m against need, yet the final settlement only provides me with an additional £120m across the four year Budget plan.

I will explore all options available to me to ensure that funding is maximised to meet the needs of as many patients, clients and service users as possible. However, difficult decisions will need to be taken in order to deliver on the overall objectives for health, social care and public safety. In this context, I cannot provide assurances on specific services at this time. I now need to agree budget allocations across all HSC bodies/services to enable them to develop spending proposals in line with their Budget for my approval.

Podiatry Care

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the criteria used to determine whether a patient with sight loss is referred for routine podiatry care, free of charge.

(AQW 5243/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There is no specific access criterion which specifies that a person with sight loss should be referred for routine podiatry care. Referral to Podiatry is made on the basis that there is an underlying foot pathology, which would benefit from Podiatric assessment, advice and possible intervention. There is no cost to the patient for podiatry treatment.

Funding for Barnardo's Safe Choices Service

Miss M McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to detail the level of funding that has been allocated in the current financial year for vulnerable looked after children who go missing whilst in care; and (ii) whether funding will continue for Barnardo's Safe Choices Service after 31 March 2011.

(AQW 5249/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) Barnardo's was awarded funding by my Department for a period of three years from 1 April 2008 – 31 March 2011 for their 'Missing from Care' project. £86,315 has been allocated for 2010/2011 the final year of the project.

The specific detail of funding allocated to services for vulnerable looked after children who go missing is not held centrally by the Department but we have allocated over £13m in the current CSR period to cover family and children's services.

- (ii) The Health and Social Care Board is currently assessing its potential to meet this funding requirement.

Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust: Funding

Mr A Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any plans he has to protect the funding for the Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust.

(AQW 5252/11)

Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I recognise the valuable and important role that The Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust plays in supporting the wellbeing of people with physical and sensory disabilities. However, the final budget settlement provided to my Department is not adequate to meet pressures across health, social care and public safety. Indeed, the Draft Budget represented a shortfall of more than £800m against need, yet the final settlement only provides me with an additional £120m across the four year Budget plan.

I will explore all options available to me to ensure that funding is maximised to meet the needs of as many patients, clients and service users as possible. However, difficult decisions will need to be taken in order to deliver on the overall objectives for health, social care and public safety. In this context, I cannot provide assurances on specific services at this time. I now need to agree budget allocations across all HSC bodies/services to enable them to develop spending proposals in line with their Budget for my approval.

Department of Justice

Senior and Junior Counsels Representing Clients

Mr T Clarke asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last three years, to detail (i) the percentage of cases at (a) Crown Court; and (b) non-criminal courts which had senior and junior counsels representing clients; (ii) the annual cost for this counsel; (iii) if there are any plans to change the criteria used to determine whether to assign two counsel with legal aid.

(AQW 4956/11)

Minister of Justice (Mr D Ford): The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) does not maintain a record of legal representation by junior counsel and senior counsel in the form requested and therefore the case figures cannot be broken down in that way. A recent exercise has shown that two counsel were instructed in around 51% of Crown Court cases involving indictable offences during the period between 1 August 2010 and 31 January 2011. The Legal Services Commission (the Commission) holds information on the payments made to legal practitioners and the figures produced below set out the cost of junior and senior counsel for each of the three financial years requested.

The cost information set out in the table below is based on bills paid to counsel in Crown Court cases. Payments made to practitioners can be made at different times so the figures will not fully reconcile. The number of payments will exceed the number of cases due to the fact that a case may have multiple defendants and occasionally more than one defence team, for example where a defendant changes defence team during the trial. The percentage figures in the table below are derived by comparing the number of two counsel payments against the total number of payments made.

	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	Total
Total paid to lead counsel	£8,296,811	£6,239,716	£12,915,673	£27,452,200
Total paid to led counsel	£3,081,476	£4,498,654	£9,429,491	£17,009,621
Total paid to counsel	£11,378,287	£10,738,370	£22,345,161	£44,461,821
No. lead senior counsel payments crown court	870	913	805	2588
No. led junior counsel payments Crown Court	985	990	873	2758
Total Two Counsel payments Crown Court	1765	1903	1678	5346

	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	Total
Total payments to Counsel overall	2953	2959	2706	8618
% of cases involving payments to two Counsel	60%	64%	62%	

I intend to introduce new criteria to determine when two counsel can be instructed in criminal cases in the Crown Court.

It is not possible to provide a similar breakdown in respect of the non-criminal courts. In civil cases solicitors submit bills which include disbursements which include fees for counsel. The Commission does not report on payments made to counsel in these types of cases. However, it is the Commission's intention to introduce changes to the criteria to be applied when considering the grant of senior counsel in civil cases.

Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the social clause requirements in his Department's capital or current spend projects, including (a) the creation of apprenticeships; and (b) the employment of long-term unemployed persons; and (ii) any proposals his Department has to expand such opportunities.

(AQW 4984/11)

Minister of Justice: The Programme for Government (PfG) includes an objective (PSA11.4) to support the wider public sector in taking account of sustainable development principles when procuring works, supplies and services. Through the infrastructure procurement process the Executive will seek to promote social inclusion and equality of opportunity.

To assist Departments fulfil their requirements under the PfG, in May 2008 Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) published guidance on 'Equality of Opportunity and Sustainable Development in Public Procurement'.

A Construction Sustainability Task Group, acting under the auspices of the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland (CIFNI), developed proposals to promote the economic, social and environmental elements of sustainable development.

The Task Group's 'Proposals for Promoting Equality and Sustainable Development by Sustainable Procurement in Construction' were endorsed by CIFNI on the 17 June 2008 and all Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPE) with responsibility for construction procurement agreed to incorporate the Proposals into new construction contracts from December 2008.

Current Targets

Specific proposals, under the 'social' pillar of sustainability aim to encourage the economically inactive back into the work place and encourage training and skills development to build a sustainable construction industry. These proposals include a requirement that the main contractor recruits:

- one long-term unemployed person, either directly or through the supply chain, for each £5m of project value.
- one apprentice, either directly or through the supply chain, for each £2m of project value.

Contracting authorities have flexibility in setting their targets and therefore the discretion, depending upon the scope and nature of the project, to adjust the targets to reflect particular social or economic circumstances in relation to a specific project.

Revision of Targets

- The current targets are a baseline position and a reflection of the relatively buoyant state of the construction market at the time of their development. A CIFNI Task Group has been commissioned to identify key areas where further detailed work is required to refine the current measures in light of experience to date and the changing economic environment.
- Refined proposals currently being considered include:

Unemployed

- For every £0.5m of labour value the contractor would provide 26 person weeks of employment opportunities through DEL Steps to Work or equivalent.

Apprentices

- 5% of the contracting team's workforce is employed on formally recognised paid apprenticeships. (The contracting team consists of the contractor and first tier subcontractors.)

Student Work Placements (a new requirement)

- The Contractor would provide employment opportunities for student(s) on a University or Further Education College construction related course (40 person weeks minimum placement).
- One student placement to be included in contracts with a labour value of £2m to £5m; and two student placements for contracts with a labour value greater than £5m.

CPD is working with DEL to consider how the revised proposals integrate with wider Government programmes for employment and training. It is anticipated that once the revised targets have been agreed they will be piloted in construction contracts early in the new financial year.

The provision of supplies and services tends to be on the basis of relatively short term, lower value contracts. This limits the opportunities to integrate social clauses. However, CPD is working with the CoPEs in order to pilot the integration of social clauses in supplies and services contracts.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) was established on 12 April 2010. The Core Department does not currently include specific social clauses in capital or current spending projects. However, the Department recognises the benefits this could bring and will consider introducing such clauses in future contracts.

It is the Department's intention to use social clauses such as apprentices and long term unemployed in the capital contract for the Joint Services Training College at Desertcreat. The details will be developed as part of the procurement preparation stage.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service, an executive Agency of the DOJ, has utilised the following social clauses within two current contracts:

- Learning and Skills
- 120/20 Accommodation Blocks

The current clauses are applicable to every £2 million of expenditure on a given contract and will continue to be included on contracts of appropriate value.

Investigation into the Killing of Six Men at O'Toole's Bar in Loughinisland

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Justice (i) what discussions he has had with the police ombudsman regarding the investigation into the killing of six men at O'Toole's Bar in Loughinisland on 18 June 1994; (ii) to outline the nature of such discussions; and (iii) whether the discussions covered the findings of the investigation.

(AQW 5041/11)

Minister of Justice: I have not held any discussions with the Police Ombudsman regarding the investigation into the killing of six men at O'Toole's Bar in Loughinisland on 18 June 1994.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister of Justice for an update on the implementation of the plan to decentralise public sector jobs within his Department, and its agencies, since the publication of the Bain Report.

(AQW 5090/11)

Minister of Justice: The Department of Justice was established on 12 April 2010 and was not therefore in existence when the Bain Review was completed. Approximately 40% of DOJ jobs are currently located outside of Stormont/Central Belfast. The Department has no plans to decentralise other jobs. Any such decision would be subject to the normal requirements of business need, value for money and affordability.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mrs M Bradley asked the Minister of Justice, for each of the last three years, to detail the number of public sector jobs within his Department and its agencies that have been (i) decentralised from Belfast to another location, broken down by the new location; and (ii) relocated to Belfast from another location, broken down by the original location.

(AQW 5096/11)

Minister of Justice: The Department of Justice was established on 12 April 2010. The Department has not relocated any jobs since being set up.

Case Number 10/80754 and 11/16273

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the errors involved in Lisburn Magistrates Court case number 10/80754 which led to the case being dropped; and (ii) the cost accrued in taking case number (a) 10/80754; and (b) 11/16273 to Magistrates Court to date.

(AQW 5142/11)

Minister of Justice:

- (i) The issues associated with this case are a matter for the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). I have therefore forwarded your question and my reply to the PPS, who will respond to that element of your question directly.
- (ii)(a) Some of the costs associated with case number 10/80754 are not yet known - for example the legal aid costs may not be submitted for some months. Not all agencies hold cost information at case level and have therefore provided estimated costs.

It is understood from the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) that it is not possible to produce accurate costings for particular cases since the amount of time required to take individual decisions as to prosecutions will vary depending on a range of factors including the complexity of the case and the extent of the case papers. Some costs are however identifiable, for example, the fees paid to prosecuting counsel which are included in the table below.

The table below sets out the estimated costs associated with magistrates' court case number 10/80754.

ESTIMATED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CASE NUMBER 10/80754

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
PSNI Prosecution	£1037
PPS Prosecution	£150
Probation Board for Northern Ireland	£208
Defence (Legal Aid Costs)	£810

Cost Type	Estimated Cost
Court (Judiciary and Staff Costs)	£233
Facilities (e.g. Courtroom Accommodation)	£90
Total	£2528

- (ii)(b) Proceedings on case number 11/16273 have so far consisted of a preliminary hearing, which was on the same day as the original proceedings were deemed null and void. It is therefore not possible to estimate any additional costs associated with the new proceedings at this stage.

Legal costs of the Colin Howell Case and the Hazel Stewart Case.

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister of Justice to provide a breakdown of the legal costs of the (i) Colin Howell case; and (ii) Hazel Stewart case.

(AQW 5163/11)

Minister of Justice: Colin Howell was granted criminal legal aid for legal representation in the Magistrates' Court and in the Crown Court. To date, the bills received and paid for legal representation in the Magistrates' Court amount to £32,050.35 (excluding VAT of £4,507.30). All bills from counsel have not yet been submitted and therefore the final total cost will be greater.

The Legal Services Commission has not received any bills for assessment of Colin Howell's trial in the Crown Court. However, a provisional estimate indicates that the cost is unlikely to be less than £24,000 (including VAT).

Hazel Stewart was granted criminal legal aid for legal representation in the Magistrates' Court and in the Crown Court. The bills for legal representation in the Magistrates' Court have been assessed and paid and the total costs were £13,135.10 (excluding VAT of £2,298.64).

The Commission has not received any bills for assessment for the Crown Court trial. A provisional estimate suggests that the cost is unlikely to be less than £62,000 (including VAT).

Operation Mazurka

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 4332/11, to detail how many people have been convicted as a result of Operation Mazurka, as the Chief Constable has advised that the information requested is held by the Court Service.

(AQW 5172/11)

Minister of Justice: Further to the answer provided in AQW 4332/11, the information requested is not available. Court conviction data held by the Department does not contain background information in relation to offences committed, and it is therefore not possible to give the number of those convicted as a result of a specific operation.

Victims of Crime: Support

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Justice whether he can give an assurance that his Department will continue to liaise with his counterparts in the Irish Government with a view to maximising the provision of support for victims of crime.

(AQW 5198/11)

Minister of Justice: In my first week in office as Justice Minister, I discussed improving support to victims of crime with my (then) Irish counterpart, Dermot Ahern. This has continued to be a central theme in the regular meetings that take place, at both ministerial and official level, under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on north/south co-operation on criminal justice matters.

In addition, a Support for Victims of Crime Advisory Group, which brings together officials from the criminal justice organisations north and south, meets at least twice a year to exchange best practice and to strengthen the connections between support services in both jurisdictions. Informal exchanges also take place frequently.

I am very happy, therefore, to give an assurance that my Department will continue to liaise with counterparts in the Irish Government to maximise the provision of support to victims of crime. I recently met Alan Shatter TD and look forward to working with him in his Ministerial role.

Relocating the Compensation Agency to Antrim

Mr P Weir asked the Minister of Justice to outline the rationale for relocating the Compensation Agency to Antrim; and when will the Agency be relocated.

(AQW 5223/11)

Minister of Justice: The lease on the Compensation Agency's existing accommodation at Royston House will expire on 31 December 2011. The Agency is currently reviewing its accommodation requirements. No decision has been made on relocation at this time.

Victims of Crime

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Justice whether he can give an assurance that his Department will liaise with all the relevant agencies within the criminal justice system to seek a review of all the current provisions which support victims of crime.

(AQW 5236/11)

Minister of Justice: I am very happy to give an assurance that my Department will continue to liaise with all the relevant agencies within the criminal justice system to review the current provisions which support the victims of crime.

The Criminal Justice Delivery Group, which I chair, has recently commissioned work on a new strategy for victims and witnesses of crime. This work is being led by the Criminal Justice Board, whose membership includes senior level representatives of the justice agencies. It will encompass a critical review of the support already available and how this can be improved upon for the future. It will also take account of recommendations arising from a thematic inspection by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland of the care of victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system, the report of which is expected in the near future.

My Department will also engage with victims' representatives in the development of the new strategy to ensure it covers those issues which are of most importance to victims and witnesses.

Police Clearance Through Access NI

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the current waiting time for police clearance through Access NI; and (ii) whether he has any plans to review the process, given the current economic climate and that unemployed people cannot start jobs until they have received police clearance.

(AQW 5239/11)

Minister of Justice: The current average time to deliver an AccessNI certificate, that is from the time an application is received by AccessNI to the time it is returned is as set out in the table below.

Type of disclosure	No of days
Basic	8
Standard	8
Enhanced	11

This information is made available on the AccessNI web-site each week, at www.accessni@ani.x.gsi.gov.uk.

I have no plans to review AccessNI's performance, which I regard as very good, and at least as good as that of other UK disclosure bodies. On 10 March, however, I announced a review of the criminal record regime in Northern Ireland to be undertaken by Sunita Mason, the UK Government's Independent Advisor on Criminality Information Management. Part of this review will examine the processes in AccessNI with a view to seeing if these can be made simpler and more efficient. This review follows a similar review carried out by Mrs Mason in England and Wales. Mrs Mason is due to report on 30 June 2011.

Colin Howell: Legal Aid

Mr P Givan asked the Minister of Justice whether Colin Howell received legal aid to defend the criminal case against him; and if so, what was the total cost of the legal aid bill.

(AQW 5285/11)

Minister of Justice: Colin Howell was granted criminal legal aid for legal representation in the Magistrates' Court and in the Crown Court. To date, the bills received and paid for legal representation in the magistrates' court amount to £32,050.35 (excluding VAT of £4,507.30). All bills from counsel have not yet been submitted and therefore the total costs will be greater.

The Legal Services Commission has not received any bills for assessment for Colin Howell's trial in the Crown Court. However, a provisional estimate indicates that the cost is unlikely to be less than £24,000 (including VAT).

Department for Regional Development

Suicide Prevention

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline where suicide prevention sits within his Department's Programme for Government.

(AQW 4886/11)

Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy): I can advise that the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) has primary responsibility for Suicide Prevention and I am aware that Minister McGimpsey has initiated the "Protect Life" Suicide Prevention Strategy.

I can also advise that my Department's Roads Service has been liaising with DHSSPS regarding possible safety measures for prevention of suicides on the Foyle Bridge in Derry since October 2009, and remains committed to assisting in delivering the aims of the Protect Life Strategy.

Fraudulent Blue Badges

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of fraudulent Blue Badges that have been seized in each constituency in each of the last three years.

(AQW 4889/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that all applications for Blue Badges are subject to a stringent assessment against a number of set criteria. All applications are accompanied by two signed photographs, one of which is attached to the badge, which is then laminated. Each badge is numbered and also contains a hologram to make it easier to distinguish between genuine and possible counterfeit badges.

Traffic Attendants, who are employed under Roads Service's parking enforcement contract with NSL Services Group, can request to inspect a Blue Badge, and can issue a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) for a parking contravention if the badge being used is considered to be invalid or fraudulent. Only the PSNI has the power to seize or confiscate counterfeit badges and I am advised that Roads Service has not been notified of any seizures of fraudulent Blue Badges during the last three years.

I am further advised that invalid blue badges have, on occasions, been surrendered to Traffic Attendants during enforcement operations. This can be for a number of reasons, for example, the user indicated they were unaware that the badge was out of date, or, it was a badge previously reported as lost (for which a replacement was issued) but was subsequently found. During the last three years, very few counterfeit/fraudulent badges have been voluntarily surrendered to Roads Service. The most likely explanation for this is that drivers who are using such badges will not normally return to the vehicle when an attendant is in the vicinity.

New Sewerage Pipe for Millisle

Mr P Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development, given the problems around Millisle Presbyterian Church, what plans there are for a new sewerage pipe for Millisle.
(AQW 4899/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it is planning a capital investment of £2.2 million to upgrade the sewerage system in Millisle to meet EU Bathing Water standards and to reduce the risk of flooding to properties in the area. The first phase of construction is planned to commence in the Moss Road area of Millisle this Spring.

The work at Millisle Presbyterian Church will entail new gravity sewers, a new pumping station and a 300 metre long sea outfall to be laid under the beach. NIW is currently in consultation with the Church regarding this proposal and will be seeking planning permission in due course. Construction work is scheduled to commence in early 2012, subject to the availability of funding and the satisfactory completion of all statutory processes.

Dungiven By-Pass

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to detail the criteria used to postpone the Dungiven By-Pass; (ii) the specific reason for this postponement; and (iii) for his assessment of the impact that the postponement will have on the residents of Dungiven.
(AQW 4920/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that development work on the A6 Derry to Dungiven dualling scheme will continue during the draft budget period 2011–2015. It is anticipated that draft Statutory Orders will be published later this year, for public consultation. It is also expected that the consultation process will indicate the need for a public inquiry, which is likely to take place in late 2011/early 2012.

I am pleased to inform you that an additional £107 million has been allocated to my Department over this budget period. This additional funding will allow for the start of road improvements on the A6 and I believe the Dungiven Bypass will be given priority.

A6 Road Improvement Project

Mr J Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail how much funding has been allocated in the next four financial years for the A6 road improvement project; and the expected start date of the project.
(AQW 4945/11)

Minister for Regional Development: For the purposes of reply, I have assumed that the Member is referring to the A6 Derry to Dungiven dualling scheme.

My Department's Roads Service has advised that development work on this scheme will continue during the budget period 2011–2015. It is anticipated that draft Statutory Orders will be published later this year for public consultation and it is expected that the consultation process will indicate the need for a public inquiry, which is likely to take place in late 2011/early 2012.

The estimated cost of the scheme is within the range £350–£390 million and I am pleased to advise that an additional £107 million has been allocated to my Department over the budget period. This

additional funding will allow for the start of road improvements on the A6, with the Dungiven Bypass expected to be given priority.

Blue Badge: Entitlement Criteria

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail any changes that have been made to the entitlement criteria for a blue badge, since its introduction; and when these changes were introduced.

(AQW 4965/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I can advise that, since its introduction, the only changes to the entitlement criteria to the current Blue Badge scheme, administered under the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) Regulations (NI) 1993, were made to the descriptions of persons to whom a Blue Badge may be issued. These changes were made under the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 and came into operation on 1 April 2009, providing for Blue Badges to be issued in respect of:

- persons that drive a vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms and unable to operate, or has considerable difficulty operating, all or some types of parking meter; and
- children under the age of two, if they have a disability due to a medical condition and need to travel with bulky equipment, or to be close to a vehicle for emergency medical treatment.

Blue Badges issued in respect of children under the age of two, as outlined above, expire on the day after the child's 2nd birthday. However, an application can then be made on behalf of the child under the normal criteria.

The amended Regulations also provide for badges to be issued for periods of less than three years to persons in receipt of specified allowances, and in respect of children under the age of two.

The full details of these amendments can be viewed at www.legislation.gov.uk/search.

Blue Badge: Renewal

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development how many people who held a blue badge were refused a renewal in each of the last four years.

(AQW 4966/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the number of Blue Badge Renewals refused in the last four years is as detailed in the table below:

Year	Number of Renewals Refused
2007	106
2008	165
2009	160
2010	150

Consultation Documents

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development to list the number and titles of all consultation documents issued by his Department since May 2007.

(AQW 4996/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The Core of my Department has issued the consultation documents in the table below since May 2007.

Year (From 2007- To Date)	Number	Title Of Consultation Document
2007	2	Proposal for a Donaghadee (Harbour Area) Order (Northern Ireland) 2008
		Equality Consultation on Budget 2007-2010, ISNI & Programme for Government
2008	5	Proposals for a Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill
		Rapid Transit Strategic Outline case
		Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) 60+ Free Travel
		Proposed Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
		Proposed Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
2009	11	Notice of Fares Increase on Rathlin Ferry
		Guidance on the Preparation of Port Master Plans
		Social and Environmental Guidance for Water and Sewerage Services
		Draft Accessible Transport Strategy Action Plan 2009-2012
		Proposal for a River Bann Navigation Order (Northern Ireland) 2010
		Draft Rathlin Island Policy
		Proposal for a Donaghadee Harbour Order (Northern Ireland) 2010
		Proposed Airports (Sale of Aircraft) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010
		Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) Discussion document
		Belfast Rapid Transit Consultation
		Public Transport Reform Consultation
2010	9	Notice of Fares Increase on Rathlin Ferry
		Proposals for a Roads (Functions of District Councils) Bill
		Disability Action Plan 2010-2013
		Public Transport Reform Final Report and EQIA on Public Consultation
		Proposal for a Belfast International Airport (Control Over Land) Order (Northern Ireland)
		Proposal for a City of Derry Airport (Control Over Land) Order (Northern Ireland)
		Proposal for the Coleraine (Transfer of Harbour Undertaking) Order (Northern Ireland)
		Review of Financial Assistance for Domestic Properties not Served by a Water Main
		Draft EQIA Smartpass Return Journeys

Year (From 2007- To Date)	Number	Title Of Consultation Document
2011 to date	7	Consultation on the Review of the Regional Development Strategy 2025 (Shaping our Future) along with associated Assessments
		Equality Scheme, Audit of Inequalities and Action Plan 2011-2016
		Draft Budget 2011-15: Spending and Saving Proposals within Department for Regional Development
		Draft Budget 2011-15: Equality Impact Assessment Consultation
		Notice of Fares Increase on Rathlin Ferry
		Consultation on Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland – Framework for Collaboration
		Draft RTS and associated Assessments.

NI Water: Supply Infrastructure

Mr P McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) what evaluation NI Water has carried out on the supply infrastructure in the following areas (a) Ballinderry; (b) Ardboe; (c) Coagh; (d) Stewartstown; (e) Moneymore; (f) Cookstown (town); (g) Sandholes (Cookstown); (h) Pomeroy (Cookstown); (i) Coalisland; and (j) Brockagh (Dungannon); and (ii) if any measures are to be introduced to prevent the recurrence of loss of supply in these areas.

(AQW 5008/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that work to evaluate the water supply infrastructure in all of the areas that you have mentioned, has been undertaken since 2003 as part of the completion of a number of water distribution Zonal Studies.

The Zonal Studies were undertaken to assess the adequacy of the distribution systems in the areas and to identify the parts of the system that needed to be upgraded. As a result of these water distribution Zonal Studies, NIW identified a number of water mains in these areas which needed to be upgraded or replaced at a total cost of nearly £20 million. Work totalling £12 million has already been completed and the remaining is programmed to be undertaken during the current financial year. NIW is also taking in to account the performance of its water distribution systems following the recent freeze/thaw event and will take this in to account in the planning of future mains replacement work.

In addition, NIW is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the water available from all its sources in accordance with water industry best practice. This draft Water Resource Management Plan has recently been out to consultation and NIW is taking account of the responses before preparing the final Plan. The aim of this review is to ensure that there is sufficient water to meet demand and ensure continuity of water supply for customers across all areas of Northern Ireland until 2035.

I note that the recently published report by the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation in to the recent freeze/thaw incident identified the following key findings relating to the water infrastructure network:

Around 80% of the additional water demand caused by the freeze thaw leaked from domestic and business water pipes. The remainder was lost from NI Water's network.

There is no need for an immediate change in the mains infrastructure investment levels.

Railway Line: Knockmore, Lisburn, Lurgan

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the process used which determined that there should be no investment in his proposed budget for the railway line between Knockmore, Lisburn and Lurgan.

(AQW 5034/11)

Minister for Regional Development: In determining how to allocate the reduced capital budget available over the next four years, the first stage was to take account of all projects to which the Department was already contractually committed.

The other main factors that were utilised were the readiness to proceed of different projects, and their criticality, in terms of, for example, the physical state of different sections of track and the need for urgent remedial work.

The project to upgrade the railway line between Knockmore and Lurgan has been put on hold owing to the constraints on capital budgets and advice from Translink about the condition of this track relative to other parts of the network. Under the budget proposals, the project will not commence during this budget period. It is hoped to take the project forward when the necessary funding has been secured.

Belfast – Dublin Enterprise

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) how many speed restrictions operate on the Enterprise Express train route from Belfast to Dublin; (ii) where those restrictions operate on the line; and (iii) the total distance covered in each of those restricted speed zones.

(AQW 5035/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink advise that over the full route (113 rail miles) which has a maximum line speed of 90mph between Belfast Central and Dublin Connolly, there are a total of 32 permanent speed restrictions ranging from 15mph – 85mph and covering a distance of some 44 miles.

These permanent speed restrictions are due to either track geometry, topography or long-term structural condition of track, bridges and formation.

The full list of permanent speed restrictions is as follows:

Location	Mileposts	Speed (mph)
Belfast Central – City Hospital	113.25 – 112.25	40
City Hospital – City Junction	112.25 – 112.00	25
City Junction - Central Junction	112.00 – 111.25	25
Derriaghy – Hilden	106.75 – 106.00	80
Hilden – Knockmore	106.00 – 104.75	70
Knockmore- Trummery (UP & DOWN)	104.75 – 99.00	60
Trummery – Moira (UP&DOWN)	99.00 – 98.00	70
Lurgan (UP)	93.75 – 92.50	70
Lurgan – Portadown (UP)	88.75 – 87.75	80
Portadown Station	87.75 – 87.25	60
Portadown Station & Approach	87.25 – 86.75	40
Portadown – Scarva	86.75 – 85.50	70

Location	Mileposts	Speed (mph)
Portadown – Tandragee	85.50 – 85.25	60
Portadown – Scarva	85.25 – 84.75	70
Portadown – Scarva	84.75 – 79.75	85
Scarva - Poyntzpass	79.75 – 77.00	70
Poyntzpass Curves	77.00 – 76.50	45
Poyntzpass – Newry	76.50 – 70.75	70
Knockarney – Newry	70.75 – 70.25	60
Newry– Meigh	70.25 – 65.75	75
Newry – Meigh	65.75 – 64.75	60
Adavoyle – Border	62.00 – 61.75	70
Border – Dundalk	59.5 – 59.25	85
Approaching Boyne Viaduct	33.25 – 32.75	70
Approaching Boyne Viaduct	32.75 – 32.25	50
Across the Boyne Viaduct and through Drogheda Station	32.25 – 31.875	30
Drogheda	31.875 – 31.50	25
Through Malahide	9.25 – 8.75	50
Approaching Howth Junction - Connolly	5.25 – 1.50	70
Howth Junction - Connolly	1.50 – 1.00	45
Howth Junction - Connolly	1.00 – 0.75	30
Howth Junction – Connolly	0.75 – 0.00	20

Of the above, four could have their speeds increased through heavy maintenance or renewal. These locations are as follows:

CENTRAL STATION – DUBLIN:

Location	Line	Speed (mph)	Potential Speed	Total Distance	Reason
Knockmore - Trummery	Up & Down	60	90	5.75	Poor Ballast Condition
Trummery - Moira	Up & Down	70	90	1.00	Poor Ballast Condition
Terryhoogan Bog	Up & Down	60	70	0.25	Embankment formation
Adavoyle Bog	Up & Down	70	85	0.25	Embankment formation

The other 28 locations are classified as permanent speed restrictions which have no readily available maintenance solution. For example those around Belfast Central, City Hospital, City Junction, and Central Junction are due to track curvature and points/crossings on the tracks. These speeds cannot be easily increased except through major redesign and reconstruction.

Finally there are an additional 8 temporary speed restrictions at various locations, for reasons outlined in the table below, which are likely to be addressed in the short to medium term, depending on progress with ongoing projects, access and/or funding.

CENTRAL STATION – DUBLIN

Location	Line	Speed (mph)	Total distance	Reason
Balmoral	Up	20	0.50	Platform Extension Works
Lisburn	Up	20	0.25	Bridge Works
Lake Street, Lurgan	Up & Down	50	0.25	Crossing Condition
Dundalk Station	Down	70	0.125	Track Condition
Laytown	Up & Down	10	0.125	Track Condition
Rush & Lusk	Up	50	0.25	Track Condition
Clongriffin	Up	25	0.25	Track Condition
Howth Junction	Down	25	0.375	Track Condition

Rail Line Between Lisburn and Lurgan

Mr S Gardiner asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the number of rail passengers who used the rail line between Lisburn and Lurgan in the last available year, broken down by station of entry. **(AQW 5036/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: Translink advise that the attached figures for the financial year 2009/10 have been derived from NIR Wayfarer ticket data.

	Alighting at Lisburn	Alighting at Moira	Alighting at Lurgan
Boarding at Lisburn	N/A	8,149	42,077
Boarding at Moira	6,570	N/A	1,275
Boarding at Lurgan	41,353	1,290	N/A

The figures above represent passenger journeys and excludes group contracts and pupil tickets.

Belfast Harbour Commissioners

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development what discussions have taken place with the Attorney General regarding the legislative changes which would be required to enable Belfast Harbour Commissioners to provide financial resources to the Executive.

(AQW 5039/11)

Minister for Regional Development: It is the convention that Ministers do not confirm whether or not the advice of the Attorney General has been sought.

Trust Port Legislation

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development what progress has been made in bringing forward Trust port legislation.

(AQW 5040/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I refer the Member to my earlier answer to AQW 4642/11 tabled by Miss Michelle McIlveen and answered on 4 March 2011.

NI Water Infrastructure Extension Modifications

Mr B McCrea asked the Minister for Regional Development how many NI Water infrastructure extension modifications, to meet the need for anticipated developments, have been completed in each of the last three years.

(AQW 5050/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that the number of infrastructure extensions or upgrades undertaken for proposed developments during the past three years, is as set out in the table below.

Year	Number Of Extensions/Upgrades
2008/09	84
2009/10	62
2010/11	43
Total	189

Ulster Bus Services

Mr D Kinahan asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) why cross route through tickets are not available on Ulster Bus services; and (ii) whether Translink has any plans to introduce such ticketing flexibility.

(AQW 5052/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink has advised me that cross- route through tickets are already available on many key Ulsterbus services where it is aware that there is a demand for a through ticket to stages on another route. Also additional fare stages can be added to existing Ulsterbus routes in response to customer demand.

However Translink advises me that because of the large number of fare stages for Ulsterbus - approximately 6, 000 – and the combinations that would be generated, it would be impractical to add every single fare stage as a cross-route transfer on every route.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mrs M Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development, for each of the last three years, to detail the number of public sector jobs within his Department and its agencies that have been (i) decentralised from Belfast to another location, broken down by the new location; and (ii) relocated to Belfast from another location, broken down by the original location.

(AQW 5093/11)

Minister for Regional Development: During the years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 (to date), no jobs within DRD have been decentralised from Belfast to other locations or relocated to Belfast.

Footpath Between Ballymena and Cullybackey

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the incomplete footpath between Ballymena and Cullybackey, to detail (i) the length to be completed; (ii) the length which already has an adequate verge on which to place a footpath; (iii) whether any necessary land has been acquired; (iv) whether there are any significant engineering problems on the outstanding section; and (v) the current plans for completion of the project.

(AQW 5114/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, in relation to the footpath between Ballymena and Cullybackey:

- (i) the length of footway to be completed is approximately 770m;
- (ii) the length that already has an adequate verge on which to place a footway is approximately 50m;
- (iii) negotiations are ongoing to acquire the land required to complete this section of the scheme;
- (iv) there are no significant engineering problems on the outstanding section; and
- (v) the remainder of the scheme is currently programmed to be completed in two stages. Stage 3 is provisionally programmed for 2011/12 financial year while Stage 4 is provisionally programmed for 2012/13 financial year with progression in both instances dependent upon the availability of funding and successful land acquisition.

Footpath Between Cargan and GAC Con Magee Entrance

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the incomplete footpath between Cargan and the Con Magee GAC entrance, to detail (i) the length to be completed; (ii) the length which already has an adequate verge on which to place a footpath; (iii) whether any necessary land has been acquired; (iv) whether there are any significant engineering problems on the outstanding section; and (v) the current plans for completion of the project.

(AQW 5115/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, in relation to the footpath between Cargan the Con Magee GAC entrance:

- (i) the length of footway to be completed is approximately 340m;
- (ii) none of this section has an adequate verge on which to place a footway;
- (iii) negotiations are ongoing to acquire the land required to complete this section of the scheme;
- (iv) while the engineering issues may not be significant, work in the vicinity of the bridge at the village side will be challenging; and
- (v) the remainder of the scheme is, at present, provisionally programmed for the 2011/12 financial year, subject to the availability of funding and the successful acquisition of land.

Footpath Between Martinstown Village and the Church of Mary Queen of Peace, Martinstown

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister for Regional Development, in relation to the proposed footpath between Martinstown village and the Church of Mary Queen of Peace, Martinstown, to detail (i) the length to be completed; (ii) the length which already has an adequate verge on which to place a footpath; (iii) whether any necessary land has been acquired; (iv) whether there are any significant engineering problems on the outstanding section; and (v) the current plans for completion of the project.

(AQW 5116/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that, in relation to the proposed footpath between Martinstown village and the Church of Mary Queen of Peace, Martinstown:-

- (i) the length of footway to be completed is approximately 846m;
- (ii) none of this section has an adequate verge on which to place a footway;
- (iii) proposals for this scheme are at preliminary design stage, therefore, details of the land take required for its completion have not yet been identified;
- (iv) any significant engineering problems will only be identified when the detailed design has been completed; and
- (v) the proposed footway is currently included in a pool with other similarly listed schemes which compete for funding and inclusion in future years' programmes. At present, the earliest envisaged

date for progression of the scheme, which is likely to be completed on a staged basis, is the 2013/14 financial year. However, progress will be subject to the availability of funding and successful acquisition of land.

New CAF 4000 Trains to NI Railway Services

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the timescale for the introduction of the new CAF 4000 trains to NI Railway services.

(AQW 5174/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink have informed me that the first unit was unloaded in Belfast Docks on Monday 14th March 2011. It will be required to go through an extensive range of type tests, static and dynamic, prior to formal authorisation for entry into passenger service around September 2011.

Thereafter units will enter service at the rate of approximately 2 units per month, with the final unit likely to enter service by July 2012.

Replacing Lead Supply Pipes

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail NI Water's policy on replacing a lead supply pipe to a property's copper internal plumbing connection.

(AQW 5176/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the part of the service pipe from the customer's tap to the property boundary, which is known as the supply pipe, is the responsibility of the customer while responsibility for the part of the pipe from the property boundary to the water main, which is known as the communication pipe, rests with NIW.

Under its current policy NIW will, at the request of a customer, replace a lead communication pipe provided the customer replaces the private supply pipe. If the property is a domestic dwelling (and not undergoing re-development for commercial gain) the cost of excavating the road and replacing the lead communication pipe will be borne by NIW.

A5:Traffic Levels

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development, pursuant to AQW 4588/11, (i) to provide an estimate of the traffic levels on the A5 between (a) Aughnacloy and Ballygawley; (b) Ballygawley and Omagh; (c) Omagh and Strabane; and (d) Strabane and Londonderry; and (ii) to detail how the road design is related to the traffic volume.

(AQW 5188/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) flow in 2007 and an estimate of the AADT for 2015 and 2030, for the various sections of the A5, are as follows:-

Section of A5	Annual Average Daily Traffic (taken from Environmental Statement for A5 Western Transport Corridor)		
	2007	2015* (Estimated)	2030* (Estimated)
Ballygawley – Aughnacloy	6,800	8,900	11,000
A5 Ballygawley to Omagh	12,290	13,200	16,300
A5 Omagh to Strabane	13,850	16,800	21,800
A5 Strabane to Londonderry	12,030	22,200	26,600

* rounded up or down to the nearest 100. The site for the 2015 and 2030 AADT may differ from the site in 2007.

Traffic flow levels and carriageway standards, as contained in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, recommend, that at the year of opening, the Annual Average Daily Traffic flow for a two lane dual carriageway should lie between a minimum of 11,000 and a maximum of 39,000 vehicles per day.

With the exception of the Aughnacloy to Ballygawley section, traffic flows on the A5 fall into this category. However, it is recognised that there are safety benefits in providing a consistent standard of road along the entire length of a route.

NI Water: Priority Register

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Regional Development when water supply is disrupted as a result of maintenance work, whether NI Water can amend its policy in relation to the Priority Register, to include households with a new born baby.

(AQW 5226/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that where planned work is likely to cause an interruption to water supplies, prior notice is provided to customers. However, on occasion, unforeseen problems can arise which can result in an unplanned interruption, and in such circumstances NIW is unable to provide prior warning.

A revised Customer Care Register was launched by NIW during Autumn 2010, aimed at older customers and customers with serious medical conditions. It is intended to provide additional services to those customers who would generally be considered to be vulnerable or impaired. There are no plans to review the policy to include customers with a temporary need for support.

Water Shortage Crisis

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the estimated amount of water lost (a) from the mains water network; and (b) private properties following the severe winter weather conditions; and (ii) whether the investment programme for renewing the mains network has altered as a result of the water shortage crisis, so that similar disruptions will not occur again.

(AQW 5228/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that (i) from 26 December 2010 to 5 January 2011, the estimated additional average water lost was (a) 33 million litres per day attributable to the mains water network; and (b) 75 million litres per day attributable to private properties.

The recently published review by the NIAUR found that the water mains in the North are relatively new compared with other parts of Britain, performed as well as could be expected, and there was no need for an immediate change in the mains infrastructure investment levels. The replacement of water mains is an ongoing and continuous process. It is carried out in both a planned way targeting water distribution zones for reasons of serviceability (e.g. leakage or low water pressure) or water quality (e.g. rusty water) and in a reactive way to deal with bursts.

NIW will invest about £30 million per annum on the replacement or rehabilitation of its water mains network during the period 2010-13. This equates to approximately 300 kilometres of water mains to be renewed each year out of approximately 26,600 kilometres of operational water mains, or 1.1% per year.

Introduction of Carparking Charges

Mr T Gallagher asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the towns in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone area which will be subject to a departmental consultation on the introduction of car parking charges during the 2011-15 period.

(AQW 5237/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I can advise that a commitment has been made within my Department's current Budget 2011-15 Savings Delivery Plans to extend on-street parking charges beyond the three cities where on-street charging is already in place, namely Belfast, Lisburn and Newry.

It is proposed that the extension of on-street charging will apply to all towns and cities covered by the Sub Regional Transport Plan (SRTP) and the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP).

As a result, on-street parking charges will be extended to all major towns in the North to provide a fair and equitable system that charges a reasonable fee for prime parking locations in all towns. This will also generate a turnover of spaces and therefore allow more vehicles and people to use town centres.

The towns in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone area that are covered by the SRTP include Enniskillen and Dungannon, however, towns not included in the SRTP will also be assessed to gauge the viability of implementing on-street parking charges. A similar assessment will also be carried out for all towns across the North which are not included in the SRTP.

Translink: Larne

Mr R Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on plans by Translink, or another provider, to introduce an evening bus service to link the leisure and retail areas at Redlands, Larne, with the local community.

(AQW 5238/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Translink has a licence to provide a service to and from Redlands in Larne and is currently operating in the area. An operator, Acorn Coaches, is also providing a service.

Both operators have applied to provide evening bus services to Redlands.

The Department of the Environment is the licensing authority for the bus industry in the North and performs this function under the provisions of the Transport Act (NI) 1967.

Acorn Coaches' application has been approved and the application from Translink is currently under consideration.

Road Maintenance Network: South Down

Ms M Ritchie asked the Minister for Regional Development if he has any plans to review the road maintenance network in the South Down area, particularly rural roads, given the extensive damage to roads last winter.

(AQW 5253/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the South Down area is covered by its Down and Newry & Mourne Section Offices and in excess of £2.2m of additional funding has been allocated to these offices since January 2011. This funding has enabled priority to be given to the repair of the most severely affected roads.

Extensive road patching and resurfacing works have already been completed, with further works planned to repair the damage caused to the roads and improve the overall condition of the road network.

Roads Service will continue to monitor the condition of the road network in the South Down area to ensure that all roads are adequately maintained and, in these circumstances, I have no plans to carry out any specific reviews of the road maintenance network in the area.

NI Water: Expenditure

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development, given its classification as a non-departmental public body, how much of NI Water's expenditure will score against his resource and capital Departmental Expenditure Limit in (i) 2010/11; (ii) 2011/12; (iii) 2012/13; and (iv) 2013/14.

(AQW 5257/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The table below outlines the approved February Monitoring position for 2010/11 and the final Budget 2010 allocations for NI Water's resource and capital Departmental Expenditure Limit for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
DEL Resource	170,470	201,864	191,904	191,904
DEL Capital	159,742	189,000	147,600	151,300
Total	330,212	390,864	339,504	343,204

NI Water

Mr C McDevitt asked the Minister for Regional Development how much money would be available for the 2011-15 budget period if NI Water were to become a mutual company with its own independent revenue streams, as recommended by the Independent Water Review Panel.

(AQW 5269/11)

Minister for Regional Development: The amount of money that could be raised during this period by the introduction of any independent revenue stream would depend on what basis the Executive agreed to introduce it. A number of factors including an assessment of any existing revenue contributions that were deemed to be in place, the level of Executive support for low income households and the period over which any revenue stream might be phased in would have a significant impact.

It is also the case that it would take time and money to transform NI Water into a mutual company as it would require legislative changes, specialist advice and, assuming revenue was provided by consumers, the implementation of a billing system. Therefore, given all these factors, the amount of money secured by the end of the 2011-15 budget period would be limited in terms of the Executive's overall budget.

Roads Maintenance

Mrs M O'Neill asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline Roads Service's maintenance and resurfacing spending plans for 2011/12.

(AQO 1258/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that as the budgets for 2011/12 have yet to be confirmed, it is unable to outline its maintenance and resurfacing spending plans at this time.

I can confirm that when resources made available for road maintenance are being distributed, allocations will be made to the four Roads Service Divisions on the basis of need, using a range of weighted indicators tailored to each maintenance activity (i.e. resurfacing, patching, gully emptying, grass cutting etc). Divisions will use these indicators when apportioning across council areas to ensure, as far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds across the whole of the North.

DRD: Procurement

Mr P Doherty asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps his Department has taken to promote social clauses in relation to procurement.

(AQO 1260/11)

Minister for Regional Development: Since April 2009 construction contracts awarded by my Department and its Arms Length Bodies have included a number of social inclusion clauses.

The majority of these clauses include a requirement to recruit one apprentice for every £2 million of project construction value. In a smaller number of contracts, voluntary agreements have been sought on the numbers of apprentices to be recruited.

36 apprentices have been engaged on construction projects awarded by my Department or its Arms Length Bodies.

The majority of clauses in construction contracts also include a requirement to create employment opportunities for one long-term unemployed person for each £5 million of project construction value. Again, a smaller number of voluntary agreements have been sought.

8 long-term unemployed persons have been recruited on construction projects awarded by my Department or its Arms Length Bodies.

As well as the recruitment of apprentices and the long-term unemployed, the contracts include clauses requiring contractors to provide opportunities for employees to develop essential skills.

Over 1,100 people have benefited under this requirement in construction contracts awarded by my Department or its Arms Length Bodies.

Construction contracts also include a number of other clauses that set out requirements on:

- the application of fair employment, equalities of treatment and anti-discrimination legislation;
- fair trade policies and embracing the procurement of fair trade goods and services; and
- meeting with health and safety requirements.

DRD and NI Water: Christmas 2010

Mr P Givan asked the Minister for Regional Development what measures have been taken to ensure that the failings of his Department and NI Water during the cold spell over Christmas are not repeated. **(AQO 1261/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: In early January 2010 the Executive agreed the terms of reference for a review by the Utility Regulator and two external reviewers appointed by FMDFM into the recent freeze/thaw incident. The Review's report was published on 3 March and I made a Statement to the Assembly on the report's conclusions on 8 March.

The review found that both I and my Department had discharged their roles effectively and in a manner consistent with governance arrangements.

The composite report contains over sixty detailed conclusions. I will work with NIW and stakeholders to ensure that recommendations are implemented.

Prior to the conclusion of the review I had already asked NIW to take action in respect of its emergency response to avoid any immediate repetition of the loss of supplies experienced in the freeze/thaw. I asked that public sector bodies involved in the wider response to the incident to set out what was needed to make immediate improvements and I asked for NIW's emergency plan to be reviewed. I reported on this to the Executive on 6 January 2011.

A5 Road Scheme

Mrs C McGill asked the Minister for Regional Development for an update on the Irish Government's commitment to the A5 road scheme. **(AQO 1262/11)**

Minister for Regional Development: The Irish Government confirmed its commitment in 2007 to make a £400 million contribution to the A5 and A8 schemes, and the Executive agreed, to take both projects forward.

This commitment was re-affirmed by the Irish Government most recently at a Plenary of the North South Ministerial Council, on 21 January 2011.

DRD: Revenue

Mr M McLaughlin asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the work being taken forward by his Department to generate further revenue over the 2011-15 budget period.

(AQO 1263/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department is taking forward a number of programmes to generate further income over the Budget period 2011-15. These include:

- Increasing existing car park tariffs by an average of 15% in each of the Budget years - raising around £20 million over the Budget period;
- Increasing the penalty for parking illegally- raising around £7.5 million over the Budget period; and
- Introducing on-street parking charges to all towns and cities in the North covered by the Sub Regional Transport Plan and Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan and extend the charging hours for all car parks and on-street parking places- raising around £9 million over the Budget period.

My Department's Budget also includes £20 million in 2013/14 and 2014/15 to be released from Belfast Harbour Commissioners. I am currently considering options, excluding privatisation, on how best to achieve such a release of resources. These considerations will include possible legislative requirements.

NI Water

Mr D O'Loan asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the findings of the composite report by the Independent Utility Regulator and Philip Holder and Heather Moorhead into NI Water.

(AQO 1264/11)

Minister for Regional Development: I made a statement to the Assembly on 8 March in which I provided my assessment of the conclusions of the review into the major interruption to water supplies over the Christmas and New Year Period.

I said that the composite report contains a number of detailed conclusions. NIW and stakeholders will need to absorb these and respond to them in a vigorous and positive way.

I am content that the report concluded that I had performed all of my roles effectively and in a manner consistent with governance requirements.

A32 Improvement Schemes

Mr T Buchanan asked the Minister for Regional Development what priority will be given to the implementation of the three major improvement schemes on the A32 between Omagh and Enniskillen in the 2011-15 budget period.

(AQO 1265/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service is currently developing several improvement schemes along the A32 between Omagh and Enniskillen.

Advance site works for carriageway widening were carried out in 2009/10 at Drumskinny. Draft statutory orders have recently been published for carriageway realignment at Shannaragh and it is anticipated that a Preferred Option will be established for improvements at Cornamuck later this year.

Roads Service remains committed to delivering a programme of improvement works along this route at the earliest opportunity. However, these improvement works will be subject to satisfactory progression through the statutory processes, procurement and the availability of funding.

Speed Limits: Schools

Mr C Lyttle asked the Minister for Regional Development whether he intends to extend variable speed limits outside schools in areas where it is needed.

(AQO 1266/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department's review of speed management policy, published in April 2010, has provision for the use of variable speed limits at schools. Roads Service initiated three pilot projects, which were subsequently assessed over a one year period. Initial results have shown that there is clear evidence that 20 mph part-time speed limits are very effective at reducing vehicle speed outside schools, whenever pupils are arriving or leaving.

However, a number of issues have been raised regarding the high scheme costs and my Department is currently considering cheaper alternatives. Appropriate criteria are also being determined to establish site priority, as each proposed scheme will be assessed on its merits, should this initiative proceed.

At this stage, it is envisaged that, subject to the availability of funding, any scheme prioritisation will be focus on schools on single carriageway rural roads, where the 60 mph national speed limit applies, with those schools, where the highest recorded mean vehicle speeds are recorded, being targeted first.

DRD: Investment

Mr P Butler asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the level of investment his Department intends to make in the North West region in the 2011-15 budget period.

(AQO 1267/11)

Minister for Regional Development: My Department currently plans to invest around £736 million on roads, £25 million on transport and £72 million on water and sewerage totalling around £833 million in the North West over the Budget period 2011-15.

This will allow for the start of improvements to the Coleraine to Derry rail track, construction of the dual carriageway on the A5 between Derry and Aughnacloy and road improvements on the A6 where I believe the Dungiven Bypass will be the priority. In addition work on the Benone Area Sewerage project should be completed.

Department for Social Development

Improvement Works for the Dunclug Area

Mr D McKay asked the Minister for Social Development to outline the improvement works his Department has planned for the Dunclug area over the next four years.

(AQW 4912/11)

Minister for Social Development (Mr A Attwood): When the budget for 2011-15 is finalised, I will be pleased to advise on the future work planned for Dunclug.

However there has already been considerable investment across the estate in the past years with over £1.1m spent on a variety of improvement schemes such as kitchen and heating replacement work and some external cyclical improvements.

In addition between 2008 and 2009 all of the medium rise flats in Dunclug were demolished. This removed the older unsightly properties from the area, improved the physical environment for residents and has had a significant impact in reducing Anti-Social Behaviour in Dunclug.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr I McCre asked the Minister for Social Development why the receipt of incapacity benefit by a person is not included in the criteria for applications for (i) Community Care Grants; (ii) Crisis Loans;

and (iii) Winter Fuel Payments; and whether he has any plans to include incapacity benefit receipt in the criteria for each of these applications.

(AQW 5033/11)

Minister for Social Development:

- (i) Community care grants are paid out of the social fund which is specifically targeted at people in receipt of an income-related benefit, for example, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance or pension credit. This ensures that limited funds are targeted at those who are least able to meet essential expenses. Incapacity benefit is a flat-rate National Insurance benefit and, as such, does not take account of a person's particular financial needs. As it is not an income-related benefit, it is not included in the criteria for applications for community care grants. Depending on the individual circumstances, certain income-related benefits are available to incapacity benefit claimants to top-up the level of income and provide entitlement to community care grants.
- (ii) Applications for crisis loans are decided on an individual's needs and incapacity benefit claimants are not excluded from making crisis loan applications.
- (iii) The only qualifying criteria for receipt of a winter fuel payment is that the person has reached the qualifying age and are resident in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Girdwood Barracks Site in Belfast

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister for Social Development when the newbuild will commence on the Girdwood Barracks site in Belfast.

(AQW 5071/11)

Minister for Social Development: We have appointed a Housing Association to deliver 200 new homes on Girdwood over the next 2 years.

I will make the funding available to deliver this in 2 phases. The first phase of 100 new homes will start in 2011/12 with the second phase of another 100 new homes starting in 2012/13.

This new housing will of course require full community consultation alongside the usual approvals needed for a development of this scale. It represents a significant opportunity to deliver substantial new housing in an area of high housing need and alongside the wider work we are already committed to in Upper Long Streets and the Glen, this underlines my commitment to increasing the quality and quantity of housing in that part of the City.

Nelson Street Site in Belfast

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister for Social Development whether he is supporting the Social Housing Development Programme new build scheme for 66 homes on the Nelson Street site in Belfast.

(AQW 5157/11)

Minister for Social Development: North Belfast is an area of significant housing need. As a result my Department and the Housing Executive have attempted to identify sites for housing use. Nelson Street could be one such site – if a scheme can be advanced for the site, I would give it fullest consideration in response to local housing need.

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the implementation of the plan to decentralise public sector jobs within his Department, and its agencies, since the publication of the Bain Report.

(AQW 5212/11)

Minister for Social Development: My Department's commitment to decentralisation of public sector jobs is already evident with 27% of Departmental jobs and most of those in the public

bodies it sponsors already well dispersed throughout Northern Ireland. In light of this the scope for further decentralisation is limited, however I am committed to the approach and in line with the recommendations within the Bain report, I will proceed in a prudent manner towards relocation, when opportunities arise and it is the right thing to do, especially, as was the case with the Charity Commission, when I am considering any new services or functions. I am actively looking at possible measures in the near future to decentralise future jobs.

Housing Executive: Repairs

Mr S Anderson asked the Minister for Social Development what quality proofing measures are in place to ensure that repairs to Housing Executive properties are of an acceptable standard.

(AQO 1274/11)

Minister for Social Development: The Housing Executive has in relation to Response Maintenance, a number of quality control systems in place for all work carried out by measured term contracts. Quality inspections are carried out by maintenance inspectors following completion of work. Inspections are set out in three bands:

The first band is high risk and includes jobs with a value over £750, for example, work in relation to Change of Tenancy and adaptations for people with disability. The Inspection Rate is 100%. The second band is medium risk jobs with a value greater than £100 but less than £750. These are inspected at a variable level to bring all inspections up to 20%. Finally, the third band is categorised as low risk jobs with a value of less than £100 – currently the sample size for inspections is 2% post inspected.

In all post inspections where a tenant is in residence, a tenant survey is carried out on site by the inspector or by Customer Service Unit staff. Quality is further monitored by the District Office using Key Performance Indicators which are measured and reported upon monthly. This is reported to the Chief Executive's Performance Review Group. There are also Repairs Inspection Unit quality audits for each District Office, carried out at least annually.

In relation to the recent freeze, which raised response maintenance works orders to a level previously unprecedented, I have already instructed that there is a full and deep evaluation of the work; the response of contractors; and that there should be accountability in relation to performance.

I am not satisfied that quality control systems of sufficient scale and rigour have been in place and systems require significant upgrade. The Assembly will be aware of the Gateway Review on contract performance and my statement to the Assembly on 25 January 2011. That is the intention and shall be the outcome of the implementation of the Gateway recommendations. As a consequence of this, a new tender process will be commenced in relation to a number of maintenance contracts. The contracts that will be awarded late in 2011 shall have performance terms, conditions and enforcement embedded in the contracts.

Housing: North Belfast

Ms C Ní Chuilín asked the Minister for Social Development how many properties, in the last three years, have been built in the North Belfast area to tackle the housing waiting list.

(AQO 1275/11)

Minister for Social Development: Between April 2007 and March 2010 we delivered 644 new homes across North Belfast for those in greatest need. This year, we will go even further again and will deliver a further 278 new homes that will support those on the waiting list get into a new home sooner than would have otherwise been the case. That represents nearly 1,000 new homes since April 2007 and vindicates the priority my predecessor and I have given to improving both the quantity and quality of housing in this part of the City.

Small Pockets of Deprivation Programme

Mr M Storey asked the Minister for Social Development if he intends to continue funding the Small Pockets of Deprivation scheme in the 2011/12 financial year.

(AQO 1276/11)

Minister for Social Development: It is my intention to continue funding the Small Pockets of Deprivation scheme in the 2011/12 financial year. I am strongly committed to the principle that people in areas of need should be protected going forward and I have bid for the necessary resources to enable me to continue the Small Pockets of Deprivation programme. I am actively considering how to protect, indeed enhance, relevant funding programmes.

Village, Belfast: Vesting

Ms A Lo asked the Minister for Social Development to outline any discussions he has had with the Attorney General in relation to the vesting of homes in negative equity in the Village regeneration area of Belfast.

(AQO 1277/11)

Minister for Social Development: I have had a number of discussions with the Attorney General in relation to negative equity and officials from my Department have also met with the Attorney General's staff on two further occasions.

These discussions have helped identify what I believe could be a way forward not just for those in the Village but in other vesting scenarios where the issue of negative equity may arise. As these are cross cutting issues and will potentially impact on the work of Executive Colleagues, I have sought an urgent meeting with the Finance Minister to see how this can be taken forward.

Regeneration: Masterplans

Dr S Farry asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on the development of Masterplans for towns.

(AQO 1278/11)

Minister for Social Development: The development of masterplans for towns is a key component in my Department's urban regeneration brief. It enables us to develop a broad vision for the development of our towns and cities, and to draw up three-dimensional proposals to turn this vision into reality.

- Masterplans have now been completed in Antrim, Armagh, Ballymena, Ballycastle, Carrickfergus, Craigavon, Downpatrick, Dungannon, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownards, Omagh and Strabane
- Masterplans are underway in Ballyclare, Bangor, Coleraine, Cookstown, Enniskillen, Glengormley, Limavady, Magherafelt and Newry
- Masterplans are planned or under consideration in the South Down towns (Newcastle, Kilkeel, Warrenpoint), Ballymoney and Ballynahinch

Public Realm Schemes: Dungannon

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Social Development for an update on Phase 1 of the Public Realm Scheme for Dungannon Town Centre.

(AQO 1279/11)

Minister for Social Development: The Dungannon Town Centre Public Realm Scheme was one of the schemes delayed by the moratorium on capital expenditure introduced last summer. However, the scheme is the Department's top priority urban regeneration project outside Belfast or Derry and it has been fully worked up to tender stage. As soon as the Department's budget for 2011/2012 is confirmed by the Assembly, the tender documents will be released and I expect that this will result in a contractor being appointed by June.

City of Culture 2013

Mr Pól Callaghan asked the Minister for Social Development what support his Department intends to provide for the Derry-Londonderry City of Culture 2013.

(AQO 1281/11)

Minister for Social Development: I was the only Minister who bid for new capital monies for the City of Culture 2013 and the Executive has provisionally allocated £5 million in each of the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 from Invest to Save funds. My Department also anticipates providing at least £1.1 million resource monies through Ilex towards City of Culture 2013. Departmental officials are engaging with a number of bodies including Ilex Urban Regeneration Company and Derry City Council to develop proposals for City of Culture projects. My intended financial support for Derry-Londonderry City of Culture 2013 is of course dependant on final decisions taken by the Executive in terms of the budget.

Northern Ireland Assembly Commission

Maintenance for Parliament Buildings

Mr J Dallat asked the Assembly Commission to detail the cost of (i) repairs and maintenance; (ii) upgrades to heating, electrical and IT systems; and (iii) ground maintenance for Parliament Buildings in each of the last three years,

(AQW 4944/11)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Mr S Neeson): The cost for repairs and maintenance is as follows;

2008-2009	£608,962.61
2009-2010	£637,646.54
present	£630,104.54

(ii) There have been no upgrades in relation to heating in the past 3 years.

In relation to electrical upgrades, the total cost for the past 3 years is £70,013.86. This figure includes the upgrading of the lighting to the Assembly Chamber and the Senate Chamber as well as Committee Rooms 21, 29 and 30.

In respect of the IS Office the following costs are applicable:

Financial Year	Repairs & Maintenance	Upgrades to IT Systems
09-10	£219,940	-
08-09	£147,342	-
07-08	£161,277	£1,130,970 **
Totals	£528,559	£1,130,970

** Breakdown of Upgrade Costs in the 07-08 Year:-

- ICT Replacement Project i.e. Replacement of all Members and Staff Desktops, Portables, Printers etc at a cost of £833,599
- Project to upgrade the IT Network equipment - replacement of switches & router along with provision of Wlan - £290,978
- Upgrade to Adobe Acrobat Professional - £6,393
- No money has been spent in relation to upgrades to heating and electrical system

(iii) The cost for grounds maintenance is as follows;

2008-2009	£23,891.93
2009-2010	£24,324.70
2010 to present	£9,246.89

Revised Written Answers

Friday 18 March 2011

(AQW 4074/11)

The details on overseas training courses for staff from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development are attached at Annex A.

Training has been provided to professional staff to allow them to maintain and enhance knowledge and experience in their specialist field.

Training has also been provided to staff in senior management posts to allow them to apply leadership skills and to work at a strategic level going forward.

The Leaders for Tomorrow programme, which a small number of staff attended each year, is no longer funded due to budget constraints.

Information has been provided at Directorate level as Branch level may identify individual members of staff.

APPENDIX A

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11
Number of Training courses which DARD staff have attended overseas in each of the last 5 years	Name of the course/ purpose of the training	When course took place	Duration of each course	How many members of staff took part on each course	The grade and branch of each member of staff who took part	In which country the courses took place (excluding UK & ROI)	The cost of fees for each course and each individual attendee	The travel expenses incurred by each attendee of each course	The accommodation costs incurred by each attendee of each course	The specific name and location of places where each attendee stayed during their travel and attendance on each course
2006/07 (1 course)	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	14/1 - 3/2/07	3 weeks	1	DP Service Delivery Group	USA	£6,368	£427	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow - leadership development for middle management	14/1 - 3/2/07	3 weeks	1	DP Central Services Group	USA	£6,368	£427	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow - leadership development for middle management	14/1 - 3/2/07	3 weeks	1	SO Central Policy Group	USA	£6,368	£427	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA

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2007/8 (4 courses)	Leaders For Tomorrow - leadership development for middle management	27/1 - 14/2/08	3 weeks	1	DP Central Policy Group	USA	£5,817	£608	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow - leadership development for middle management	27/1 - 14/2/08	3 weeks	1	DP Central Policy Group	USA	£5,817	£608	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow - leadership development for middle management	27/1 - 14/2/08	3 weeks	1	SPTO Rivers Agency	USA	£5,817	£608	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA

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	Leadership in a Changing World - development programme for newly appointed Senior Civil Servants	4/11 - 9/11 07	6 days	1	Grade 5 Service Delivery Group	USA	£3,823	£693 plus €56	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	European Study Visit - enhance/ consolidate learning on working with EU institutions	28/1 - 1/2/08	5 days	1	EO1 Central Services Group	Belgium	£449	£86	Accommodation charges and bus transport within Belgium are included in the fees.	Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe Janseniusstraat 1 3000 Leuven Belgium

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	European Study Visit – enhance/ consolidate learning on working with EU institutions	28/1 - 1/2/08	5 days	1	EO1 Central Services Group	Belgium	£449	£86	Accommodation charges and bus transport within Belgium are included in the fees.	Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe Jansenusstraat 1 3000 Leuven Belgium
	Workshop on Disease Outbreak Management – to develop knowledge of outbreak management	21/5 – 25/5/07	5 days	1	DVO Veterinary Service	Denmark	£731	£508	£671	Crown Plaza, Copenhagen

Q1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 5	Q 6	Q 7	Q 8	Q 9	Q 10	Q 11
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2008/09 (3 courses)	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	18/1/ - 6/2/09	3 weeks	1	DP Service Delivery Group	USA	£7,520	£538	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	18/1/ - 6/2/09	3 weeks	1	DP Central Services Group	USA	£7,520	£538	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	18/1/ - 6/2/09	3 weeks	1	S0 Central Policy Group	USA	£7,520	£538	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA

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	Leadership in a Changing World - development programme for newly appointed Senior Civil Servants	2/11 - 7/11/08	6 days	1	Grade 5 Central Services Group	USA	£5,375	£473	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Workshop on Disease Outbreak Management -- to develop knowledge of outbreak management	5/5 - 9/5/08	5 days	2	DVO and VO Veterinary Service	Denmark	£1,727 - total cost for 2 staff £863.50 per attendee	£1,084 - total cost for 2 staff £544 for 1 attendee £540 for 1 attendee	£1,342 - total cost for 2 staff £671 per attendee	Copenhagen (hotel name unknown)

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2009/10 (3 courses)	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	17/1/ - 29/1/10	2 weeks	1	SO Central Policy Group	USA	£6,782	£437	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	17/1/ - 29/1/10	2 weeks	1	SO Central Services Group	USA	£6,782	£437	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA
	Leaders For Tomorrow – leadership development for middle management	17/1/ - 29/1/10	2 weeks	1	Grade II Service Delivery Group	USA	£6,782	£437	Campus accommodation charges for this programme were included in the fees.	Campus Accommodation Soldiers Field Park Apartments, Harvard, Cambridge MA

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	Workshop on Disease Outbreak Management - - to develop knowledge of outbreak management	8/6 – 12/6/09	5 days	2	2 X VO Veterinary Service	Denmark	£1,919 – total cost for 2 staff. £959.50 per attendee	£962 – total cost for 2 staff £481 per attendee	£1,282 – total cost for 2 staff £683 for one attendee £599 for 1 attendee.	Zleep, Copenhagen
	Animal Health Economics – to improve knowledge of economics and how this relates to DARD.	15/3 – 19/3/10	5 days	1	VO Veterinary Service	Denmark	£1,544	£116	£702	Radisson Blu, Copenhagen

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2010/11 (6 courses)	Workshop on Disease Outbreak Management - - to develop knowledge of outbreak management	3/5 – 7/5/10	5 days	1	DVO Veterinary Service	Denmark	£965	£332	£703	Radisson Blu, Copenhagen
	EU Foot and Mouth Disease – knowledge on diagnosis and investigation	18/10 – 21/10/10	4	1	SPVO Veterinary Service	Turkey	Nil	£364	Nil	Palan Hotel, Erzurum

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	Entomology	22/9/10	1	2	Grade III Service Delivery Group	Netherlands	Nil	£506 – total cost for 2 attendees £204 for 1 attendee £302 for 1 attendee	Nil	Koppert HQ, Rotterdam
	Plant Health Controls	6/12 – 10/12/10	5	1	Forest Officer III Forest Service	Portugal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Lisbon

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	MTU Engine level QL1	14/7-16/7/10	3 days	4	Fisheries Officer 1, 3 Fisheries Officers 2 Central Policy Group	Germany	€ 4,320 – total cost for 4 attendees. €1,080 per attendee	£1,836 – total cost for 4 attendees £459 per attendee	£780 – total cost for 4 attendees £195 per attendee	Lindner Hotel, Oberstaufen
	Implementation of Council Directive 2006/88	3/11-5/11/10	3 days	1	Senior Fisheries Officer Central Policy Group	Spain	Nil	Nil	Nil	Vigo

(AQW 4426/11)

- (i) Ó mhí na Bealtaine 2007, tá 42 comhairliúchán déanta ag mo Roinn.
- (i) Since May 2007 my Department has carried out 42 consultations.
- (ii) The cost of each consultation is detailed below. A number of the consultations were carried by electronic means, resulting in nil cost other than staff costs, which could not readily be disaggregated for individual consultations. Costs associated with the other consultations resulted primarily from translations, printing of documents and hire of premises for public meetings.
- (iii)
1. EQIA consultation on funding for Transfer interviews - £3790.73
 2. DE Draft Budget 2011-2015 - £3942.22
 3. Draft Early Years (0-6) Strategy Consultation - £18665.26
 4. Disability Action Plan 2010-2013 - £4750.00
 5. Community Relations, Equality & Diversity in Education Policy - £15000.00
 6. Teacher Education in a Climate of Change – The Way Forward - £6767.92
 7. Draft Government STEM Strategy £2670.24
 8. Consultation on draft Education (School Development Plans) Regulations (NI) 2010 - £400.00
 9. Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the Proposal to withdraw Funding from Preparatory Departments of Grammar schools - £616.68
 10. Common Funding Formula Consultation January 2010 - £419.88
 11. Consultation on EMA policy and pupils with Asperger's Syndrome (Focussed consultation to a small number of organisations) – NIL COST
 12. Guidance to schools on school uniform related policies – NIL COST
 13. DE Staff Transfer Scheme – NIL COST
 14. Every School A Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion - £23418.00
 15. Consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) of the Teachers' (Compensation for Redundancy and Premature Retirement) Regulations (NI) 2010 and complementing amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Regulations (NI) 1998 - £2092.80
 16. Consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) Every School A Good School – School Improvement Policy - £393.00
 17. Education and Skills Authority Implementation Team Consultation on 'The Education Sector Staff Transfer Scheme' – NIL COST
 18. Food in Schools Policy - £4910.03
 19. School Circular – The Education of Children and Young People from the Traveller Community – NIL COST
 20. School Admissions (Exceptional Circumstances) Regulations 2010 - £3306.35
 21. Consultation on the Review of Public Administration – NIL COST
 22. Education and Skills Authority - Director structure consultation – NIL COST
 23. RPA Policy Paper 19: Education Advisory Forum – NIL COST
 24. Equality Impact Assessment of the Transfer 2010 Guidance - £6086.99
 25. Transfer 2010 Guidance - £8925.15
 26. Consultation on the draft teachers' (Compensation for Redundancy and Premature Retirement) Regulations (NI) 2009 - £1857.89
 27. The Recruitment, Redeployment and Voluntary Severance (RRVS) Strategy - NIL COST
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28. Consultation on Draft Pupil Records and Reporting Regulations and Levels of Progression - £13541.00
 29. RPA Policy Paper 20: Publicly owned schools - Ownership and Representation - NIL COST
 30. Review of Irish-medium Education - £46447.65
 31. Local Management of Schools - Common Funding Formula - £717.12
 32. The Teachers' Pensions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (NI) 2008 - NIL COST
 33. Review of Literacy and Numeracy Strategy- £22827.00
 34. Local Management of Schools - Common Funding Formula – NIL COST
 35. Every School A Good School – School Improvement Policy - £3357.00
 36. Consultation on the Area-based Planning Policy - £761.85
 37. Public Consultation on Building a Better Future - £1863.86
 38. RPA/Paper 5 Governance and Accountability – NIL COST
 39. Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance Strategy – NIL COST
 40. Consultation on Draft Regulations to Prohibit Discrimination by General Qualifications Bodies on the Grounds of Disability - £1780.00
 41. Consultation on Draft Amendment Regulations to Prohibit Discrimination by General Qualifications Bodies on the Grounds of Disability - £1800.00
 42. Policy on Supporting Ethnic-Minority Children and Young People who have English as an Additional Language - £24131.00
- (iv) All responses to consultations are fully considered in formulating final policies. In addition, a number of major policy areas are still under development following the consultations. These include; the Review of Irish-medium Education, Every School a Good school – The Way forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion, Draft early Years Strategy and the Review of Literacy and Numeracy Strategy.
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Written Answers Index

Department for Regional Development	182	Social Clause Requirements	153
A5 Road Scheme	196	Stranmillis College and St Mary's College	153
A5:Traffic Levels	192	Stranmillis College: Site	152
A6 Road Improvement Project	183	Stranmillis College: Site	152
A32 Improvement Schemes	197	Stranmillis College: Stakeholder Forum	153
Belfast – Dublin Enterprise	187	University Students	151
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	189		
Blue Badge: Entitlement Criteria	184	Department for Social Development	198
Blue Badge: Renewal	184	City of Culture 2013	202
Consultation Documents	184	Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	199
Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	190	Girdwood Barracks Site in Belfast	199
DRD and NI Water: Christmas 2010	196	Housing Executive: Repairs	200
DRD: Investment	198	Housing: North Belfast	200
DRD: Procurement	195	Improvement Works for the Dunclug Area	198
DRD: Revenue	197	Incapacity Benefit	198
Dungiven By-Pass	183	Nelson Street Site in Belfast	199
Footpath Between Ballymena and Cullybackey	190	Public Realm Schemes: Dungannon	201
Footpath Between Cargan and GAC Con Magee Entrance	191	Regeneration: Masterplans	201
Footpath Between Martinstown Village and the Church of Mary Queen of Peace, Martinstown	191	Small Pockets of Deprivation Programme	201
Fraudulent Blue Badges	182	Village, Belfast: Vesting	201
Introduction of Carparking Charges	193		
New CAF 4000 Trains to NI Railway Services	192	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	98
New Sewerage Pipe for Millisle	183	Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis	107
NI Water	195	Brucellosis: Keady	108
NI Water	197	Consultation Documents	98
NI Water: Expenditure	194	EU Nitrates Directive	106
NI Water Infrastructure Extension Modifications	190	Farm Moderisation Programme: South Antrim	108
NI Water: Priority Register	193	Farm Modernisation Programme	107
NI Water: Supply Infrastructure	186	Ireland: GM-free Zone	107
Rail Line Between Lisburn and Lurgan	189	Rural Communities	108
Railway Line: Knockmore, Lisburn, Lurgan	187	Rural Development Programme	109
Replacing Lead Supply Pipes	192		
Road Maintenance Network: South Down	194	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure	109
Roads Maintenance	195	2010/11 In-Year Monitoring Rounds	109
Speed Limits: Schools	198	Additional Funding for Libraries	112
Suicide Prevention	182	Amateur Boxing	113
Translink: Larne	194	Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	111
Trust Port Legislation	189	Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	111
Ulster Bus Services	190	Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects	110
Water Shortage Crisis	193	Funding to Boxing Clubs	113
		Funds Allocated to the Three Regional Sports Stadia	111
Department for Employment and Learning	151	Irish Amateur Boxing Association	114
Departmental Staff:		Irish Cricket Team	112
Trips to North Carolina	152	Lough Neagh Navigation Marker System	111
European Social Fund	154		
European Social Fund: Tranche 2	152	Department of Education	114
		After School Homework Clubs	146
		Boards of Governors	141

Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	145	Invest NI, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit	154
Departmental Budget	115	Invest NI, the Industrial Development Board and the Local Enterprise Development Unit	155
Departmental Expenditure Limit Budget	145	Northern Ireland: An Enterprise Zone	155
Departmental Forward Work Programme	150	Rose Energy Poultry Litter Incinerator	156
Development of a Strategic Plan for Schools	143	Small Businesses	154
Education and Skills Authority	144	Town Centre Regeneration	156
Education and Skills Authority	144	Department of Finance and Personnel	158
Education and Training Inspectorate	135	Apartment Development Management Reform Bill	160
Education and Training Inspectorate	139	Budget 2011-15	161
Education and Training Inspectorate	143	Budget 2011-15: Vulnerable People	162
Education and Training Inspectorate	146	Civil Service Equal Pay Claim	160
Education and Training Inspectorate	147	Corporation Tax	162
Education and Training Inspectorate	148	Cycle to Work Scheme	160
Education and Training Inspectorate: Membership	142	Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	159
Education and Training Inspectorate: Travel Costs	143	Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	160
Education Training Inspectorate	141	Economy: Rebalancing	162
Formal Intervention Programme	136	Enterprise Zone	161
Free School Meal Entitlement	131	Funding Allocations	159
GCSE and GCE A Level Irish	115	Legal Services Review Group	160
Head Teachers: Restrictions	137	Rating on Vacant Properties	158
Homework Support for the Chinese Community	146	Small Business Rate Relief Scheme	158
Impact of Draft Budget: Upper Bann	114	Village, Belfast: Negative Equity	161
Irish-Medium and Integrated Education	150	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	162
Irish Medium School: Castlederg	135	Beltany House in Omagh	169
New Build for the Holy Family Primary School Newington, Belfast	150	Care Assistants (Band 3) who work in Adult Learning Disability Services	170
New Build or Maintenance Schemes in Upper Bann	148	C Difficile	171
Primary Schools that Currently Teach Irish and Spanish	121	Charging for Prescriptions	162
Professional Development For Teachers	140	Community Care Rapid Response Team	173
Provisions for Opting Out of Religious Education	149	Day Opportunites Scheme	173
Rural Outreach Workers	138	Dental Practices	174
School Inspections	140	Dentistry Budget	174
School Inspections	141	Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects	174
Social Clause Requirements	137	Domiciliary, Residential and Nursing Care	163
South Eastern Education and Library Board	135	Domiciliary, Residential and Nursing Care	164
Suicide Prevention	134	Employing Locums from Outside Northern Ireland	169
Temporary Buildings	149	Fire and Rescue Service: East Londonderry	172
Temporary Buildings	149	Funding for Barnardo's Safe Choices Service	175
Voluntary Grammar Schools	151	Health and Social Care Trusts	165
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	154	Health and Social Care Trust: Taxi Services	167
Belfast Harbour Estate	155	Increase in VAT	167
Colin Area of Belfast	154	Interim Management and Support Reports	166
Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	156		
Invest NI	155		

Legislation	168	Department of the Environment	156
Mixed-Sex Wards	166	Department's Capital or Current Spend	
Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust: Funding	175	Projects	157
Northern Ireland Music Therapy Trust: Funding	175	EU Nitrates Directive	157
Older People Assessed for Care Needs	165	Illegal Waste Activity at 67 Tullyrusk Road, Hannahstown, Belfast	158
Out of Hours Services	171	Road Vehicle Licences	156
Out of Hours Services	171	Rose Energy's Incinerator Plant at Glenavy	157
Podiatry Care	175	Northern Ireland Assembly Commission	202
Psychiatric Care	170	Maintenance for Parliament Buildings	202
Reduce Suicide Rates	168	Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister	95
Renal Dialysis Beds	173	Appointment of a New High Court Judge	97
Services for People Suffering from Personality Disorders	171	Arms-Length Bodies	95
Services for Stroke Victims	172	Child Poverty Act	96
Staff Mobile Phone Bills	169	Child Poverty Strategy	95
Suicide Prevention Initiatives	168	Child Poverty Strategy	96
Travel Expenses for Carers	170	Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	97
Department of Justice	176	European Micro-Loan Funding	97
Case Number 10/80754 and 11/16273	179	Playboard: Funding	97
Colin Howell: Legal Aid	182	Severe Child Poverty in Northern Ireland	96
Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	179		
Decentralisation of Public Sector Jobs	179		
Department's Capital or Current Spend Projects	177		
Investigation into the Killing of Six Men at O'Toole's Bar in Loughinisland	178		
Legal costs of the Colin Howell Case and the Hazel Stewart Case.	180		
Operation Mazurka	180		
Police Clearance Through Access NI	181		
Relocating the Compensation Agency to Antrim	181		
Senior and Junior Counsels Representing Clients	176		
Victims of Crime	181		
Victims of Crime: Support	180		



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