
OFFICIAL REPORT

(HANSARD)

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NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Friday 2 January 2009

Written Answers to Questions

OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

Child Poverty

Mr Shannon asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister what action it is taking to assist LifeStart and other similar bodies as part of its strategy to address child poverty. (AQW 2716/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister (Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness): The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), by way of the Children's Fund, supported the costs associated with the Lifestart Westville Family Resource Centre, Enniskillen, from April 2003 to March 2008. In that time, it received grant assistance in the region of £82,900.

Since March 2008, DHSSPS has continued to fund the project and will be making available funding of around £20,500 up until 31 March 2009. Decisions about funding after this date will be based on a review of the project's performance, and the extent to which its activities continue to contribute to key children's service planning priorities in the Western Board area.

Key actions within the draft DHSSPS parenting strategy 'Families Matter' include increasing the provision of parenting education programmes to assist with child health and development, household management and stress management; reducing the negative impact of parental separation on children by developing and expanding family mediation services; and providing a fully responsive regional help-line to enable parents to obtain timely advice and support.

We welcome and endorse all the work that Departments carry out which contributes to meeting the Executive's targets for eliminating child poverty and is consistent with its anti-poverty strategy 'Lifetime Opportunities'.

Children's Health

Mr Beggs asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister what part walking and cycling initiatives play in the Department's policies for improving children's health. (AQW 3088/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has lead responsibility for developing policies to improve children's health and we understand that you have also submitted your question to him.

Civic Forum

Mr Craig asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister how many responses were received to the consultation on the future of the Civic Forum. (AQW 3226/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: A total of 60 written responses were received to the consultation on the Review of the Civic Forum. These responses are available to view on the Review website at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/civic-forum-review.

Strategy for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration

Mrs D Kelly asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, given the continuing delays in bringing the strategy for cohesion, sharing and integration before the Assembly Committee, what assurance can it give that this strategy remains a priority. (AQW 3314/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: As we have stated previously, the Executive is fully committed to a vision for the future of all of the people who live here, to moving society forward and making a real difference to the lives of all our people. We are, and continue to be, fully committed to challenging sectarianism and racism and have indicated that our vision is for a future based on tolerance, equality, mutual respect and respect for the law.

The Programme for Government, including the key goals and associated PSA framework, was developed with a focus on addressing the key challenges and seizing the opportunities to deliver a shared and better future.

We met with the Committee for OFMDFM in October and stated that we would bring the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration before it by the Halloween recess. That has not been possible as work is still ongoing. However, it is our intention to bring forward these proposals to the Committee and to the Assembly as soon as practicably possible.

We would wish, however, to draw attention to the emphasis in the Executive's Programme for Government and Budget which quite clearly confirms our commitment to tackling racism and sectarianism. We are giving a clear lead and endorsing ongoing work on the ground which is proving so successful in building new relationships within and between communities. We have committed an additional £7.5m direct expenditure over the next three years – 2008/2011, with a total investment of approximately £29m on good relations and good race relations.

Transfer of Policing and Justice

Mr Burnside asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister if it has had discussions with the UK Government about the transfer of Policing and Justice powers to the Assembly and Executive; and if this included a commitment to be made by all MLAs and the Executive to cooperate fully in all particulars, if requested, with the Historic Enquiries Team. (AQW 3330/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: There have been discussions at Ministerial level with the UK Government on the devolution of policing and justice powers. There has also been engagement at official level in the context of administrative preparations for the transfer of these responsibilities.

Maze Prison Site

Mr Craig asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister what progress has been made in relation to the development of the Maze site. (AQW 3432/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: At present, an extensive programme to demolish buildings and structures is under way and this will be completed in this calendar year. The first phase of substantial remediation work to remove contamination at part of the site is also near completion.

Recently, we approved a £3.5 million second-stage remediation programme that is essential to prepare the site for future use. As the funding suggests, second-stage remediation is extensive and will entail, for example, the removal of diesel oil spillages and contaminates from other parts of the site.

We are acutely aware that a redevelopment of this size will impact directly on the Lisburn and the wider community and can confirm that it is our desire to see a decision about the redevelopment of Maze/Long Kesh reached as speedily as possible.

Interface Violence

Mr A Maskey asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the programmes it is carrying out in relation to the prevention of interface violence in (i) primary schools; (ii) post primary schools, in Belfast and what plans does it have to introduce such programmes if none exist. (AQW 3486/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: Our department does not currently directly operate any programmes designed specifically to address the issues of interface violence within primary or post primary schools. However, funding of £400,000 per annum is provided by OFMDFM to the Department of Education for the provision of a range of Summer Intervention Programmes, which are delivered by the Education and Library Boards through the youth service. The Belfast Education and Library Board has received £160k of this funding. A further £100k has been provided to the North Belfast Community Action Unit for youth diversionary programmes to help reduce tensions over the summer months.

European Policies and Legislation

Mr Shannon asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister which Department (i) has direct responsibility; and (ii) is accountable, for the implementation of policies and legislation originating from Europe. (AQW 3586/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: Each Department is responsible and accountable for the implementation of European policies and legislation that fall within its devolved responsibilities.

Ebrington Regeneration

Mr Durkan asked the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2966/09, to detail (i) the reasons for its proposed surrender in the December 2008 Monitoring Round of £0.998 million in relation to capital requirements at the Ebrington regeneration site; (ii) the nature of, and reasons for the delays; and (iii) the measures being taken to ensure progress is expedited in the future. (AQW 3665/09)

The First Minister and deputy First Minister: Amounts surrendered from Ebrington and other projects free up funds for other necessary investment. The earlier this is done before the end of the financial year, the greater the chance that the funds can be used elsewhere. Ilex has a range of key regeneration projects underway at the former Ebrington Barracks which are at various stages in the process of delivery. The surrender of funds represents a re-adjustment in the timing of a number of these projects to all of which Ilex remain committed. Some indeed are ahead of schedule and none should be significantly delayed.

Measures being taken to ensure progress is expedited include the recent appointment of programme management consultants to accelerate activity and work to improve turnaround times for departmental approval of business cases.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what actions her Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects, to help address the economic downturn. (AQW 3010/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (Ms M Gildernew): The Department's capital budgets for 2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11 were set as part of Budget 2007 and the capital programme was outlined in Investment Strategy Northern Ireland (ISNI), with further details contained in the Department's Investment Delivery Plans published on 3 July 2008.

The Department is concentrating on delivering its agreed capital investment programme in full within the resources available.

Cereal Growers

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the action she has taken to assist cereal growers, following increased costs of production, a drop in prices for cereal crops and the poor weather of 2008, that prevented harvesting of crops. (AQW 3047/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department is continuing to assist cereal producers in a range of ways aimed at improving efficiency and reducing input costs.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) provides a range of education and training programmes and encourages cereal farms here to adopt cost-efficient technologies through its technology transfer projects. CAFRE also offers benchmarking to the cereal sector to help them identify areas for potential improvement.

The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) provides information on reduced nutrient and pesticide inputs to help meet the industry's environmental and economic objectives.

In addition, as a targeted measure to aid those who have suffered loss as a consequence of the flooding of 16th of August 2008, I have submitted proposals to make hardship payments to cereal and potato growers, to my Executive colleagues for consideration.

Dairy Farmers

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action she has taken to assist dairy farmers as a result of falling prices being paid for their produce.[R] (AQW 3048/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: In recognition of the deteriorating market situation I have been working hard to try and achieve a re-introduction of export refunds for dairy products. Following the sharp drop in prices at the October United Dairy Farmers' milk auction I immediately spoke to the DEFRA Secretary of State to seek his support on the matter. Subsequently the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment and I issued a joint letter to Hilary Benn pressing the case for the local dairy industry and making clear our view that Britain should be taking the initiative within the EU by requesting early re-introduction of export refunds. We are also seeking a meeting with the European Commissioner, Marianne Fischer Boel, to ensure that she is aware of the seriousness of the situation. In addition the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, at my request, have written to the Prime Minister to lobby his support on the matter. The Finance Minister, Nigel Dodds, and I subsequently had a meeting with Hilary Benn to impress upon him further the challenges being faced by the sector. This followed a meeting I had with industry representatives when they outlined the case for export refunds to be re-introduced. The dairy industry makes an important contribution to the agri-food industry and I will continue to do what I can to support it in these difficult times.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what contribution her Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3050/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Since January 2007, officials within OFMdfM have taken the lead in preparing for implementation here of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As part of this process DARD has had the opportunity at several stages to consider its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check its compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and we do not have any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what preparations her Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.(AQW 3052/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Since January 2007, officials within OFMdfM have taken the lead in preparing for implementation here of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As part of this process DARD has had the opportunity at several stages to consider its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check its compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and we do not have any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention.

On a general note the Department is doing good work in promoting and raising awareness of disability issues. We have appointed a Disability Champion whose role is to support and promote disability equality across all aspects of our business.

DARD's Disability Forum was launched in 2002 and aims to provide an opportunity for staff with disabilities to have a voice, to develop confidence and to express their views directly to decision makers. The Forum has been kept informed of developments in relation to the Convention.

The Department has developed close links with Disability Action and in January 2008, they formally agreed to work with DARD to help raise awareness of disability equality including the new duties.

Five members of DARD staff attended a recent panel debate on the Convention, organised by Disability Action. Panel members included representatives from the Equality Commission for NI and the NI Human Rights Commission.

One member of Equality Branch staff is completing a Human Rights Course with a specific focus on disability.

Benchmarking

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farmers have taken up benchmarking in Mid Ulster, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3053/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department does not record details of the number of farmers benchmarking on a Constituency basis. The figures given relate to the Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt District Council areas. In each of the last three years the number of farmers undertaking either physical or financial benchmarking, or both, from within these Council areas is: -

2005/06 – 107

2006/07 – 93

2007/08 – 99

Fishing Industry

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if her Department has access to all records of terms and conditions of employment for foreign workers being offered work in the fishing industry. (AQW 3142/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department has no access to these records. They are a commercial matter between the fishing businesses, workers and the employment agencies involved.

Fishing Industry

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she is aware of any alleged mistreatment of foreign workers employed in the fishing industry. (AQW 3143/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My officials have briefed me on meetings they have had with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, International Transport Federation and the Council for Ethnic Communities which took place to hear their concerns about the treatment of Philippino fishermen in the local industry.

I condemn totally any exploitation of workers in whatever way and I have asked my Department to work with those organisations, representations of the local industry and other agencies which have statutory responsibilities in this area to address the concerns raised.

Fishing Industry

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the of the contracts issued to workers from the Philippine Islands who are employed in the fishing industry. (AQW 3144/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I have no access to those contracts but I understand that a variety of arrangements exist depending on the employment agency used by the fishing business and agreements made between the fishing business and the Filipino fishermen themselves.

Fishing Industry

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she will undertake a study to ensure that all foreign workers employed in the fishing industry are treated with the equality afforded to indigenous workers. (AQW 3145/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I don't believe a study is necessary. A fundamental change that is needed is to ensure that foreign workers involved in our fishing industry are here under the authority of a work permit which will guarantee their employment rights. The Borders Agency which is responsible for the immigration arrangements for migrant workers is aware of the important contribution these workers make to our fishing industry has agreed to consider the visa status of migrant fishermen from outside the EU.

Hunting with Dogs

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what consideration she has given to introducing a ban on hunting with dogs, similar to the Hunting Act 2004 that applies in England and Wales. (AQW 3162/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: There has been very little public and political debate on hunting in the North. Any decision to introduce a ban on hunting here would have to be taken in conjunction with other Ministerial colleagues at the Executive and is not solely a matter for my Department. However, my party position is that we are opposed to bloodsports.

My Department has no powers to prohibit or regulate hunting or coursing with dogs as its' responsibilities towards animals in the wild are very limited. The Department does have responsibility for the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 1972, Section 15 of which specifically exempts from its' provisions the coursing or hunting of any animal, other than a domestic animal.

This provision does not legitimise hunting or coursing, it simply precludes enforcers from making use of the offences of cruelty contained within the Act in respect of these activities.

However, it should be noted that the hunting exemption in the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 1972 does not apply if unnecessary suffering is caused to an animal or if the animal is released in an injured, mutilated or exhausted condition. Similarly, the exemption does not apply if an animal is hunted in an enclosed space from which it has no reasonable chance of escape.

Therefore, unlike in Britain, if sufficient evidence is forthcoming that unnecessary suffering has been caused to an animal during a hunt, a prosecution can be taken under existing legislation.

Flood Prevention

Mr Butler asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) to provide details of her Department's investigation into the problems of flooding; and (ii) what measures her Department is taking to prevent future flooding, on the A26 between Glenavy and Moira. (AQW 3204/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Following investigation DARD Rivers Agency has established that the heavy flooding that was experienced on the A26 road was as a result of the exceptional levels of rainfall in August 2008. In order to reduce the risk of future flooding DARD Rivers Agency has carried out maintenance works during late October – early November 2008 to the designated section of the County Drain, which the A26 road drainage system discharges into.

Animal Diseases' Testing

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to report on the nature of the additional cost pressures of £16.8m and £18m anticipated in 2009/10 and 2010/11, respectively, in relation to animal diseases' testing and compensation. (AQW 3221/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Approximately half of the bid reflects the historic underprovision in the animal disease compensation baselines. The balance is to improve the testing regimes

for TB and Brucellosis in order to detect and remove potentially infected animals earlier, and to promote better biosecurity on farms. These measures will reduce the risks of spreading disease

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to detail the total revenue generated through her Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3264/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The Department and its Forest Service Agency generated revenue of £130,000 for the period 8 May 2007 to 8 December 2008.

Fisheries Meeting

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development who will be accompanying her to the fisheries meeting in Brussels in December 2008, broken down by (i) officials; and (ii) representatives of fishing organisations. (AQW 3275/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I will be accompanied by my Special Advisor, Personal Secretary and 4 officials to the Fisheries Council in December. During Council I will be meeting with representatives from the local industry to keep them apprised of developments. The NI Fish Producers Organisation and the Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation usually send 2 representatives each to Brussels.

Fishing Fleet

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if she has had discussions with her counterpart in the Republic of Ireland on assistance that can be given to the Northern Ireland Fishing Fleet at the EU fisheries meeting in Brussels in December 2008. (AQW 3276/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I met with Brendan Smith TD in September when we discussed a range of issues that had the potential to impact on fishing opportunities for both our fleets in the Irish Sea and we agreed that there was a good deal of common ground. By way of follow up to that meeting my colleague Conor Murphy, who attended the November Council on my behalf also met with Fisheries Minister Tony Killeen TD.

The purpose of that meeting was to confirm our priorities in the Brussels negotiations for Irish Sea stocks and ensure there was a consistent message given to the Commission about the unacceptability of its proposals to cut Irish Sea stocks, such as Nephrops when the science confirmed that they were being fished sustainably.

Fisheries Meeting

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what discussions she has had with DEFRA before the fisheries meeting in Brussels in December 2008. (AQW 3277/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: While I was on leave my colleague, Conor Murphy, Minister for Regional Development participated in 2 meetings with Huw Irranca Davies the DEFRA Fisheries Minister. I also have had several discussions with Huw Irranca Davies to impress on him my priorities for the December Fisheries Council and further discussion with Hilary Benn on Wednesday 10th Dec in London.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development which policies and practices within her Department have been changed to deliver the 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11. (AQW 3292/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department has in place 12 Efficiency Delivery Plans (EDPs) in place to deliver the 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11. Policies and practices have changed in respect of in respect of 5 of our EDPs as follows:

- **Forest Service Receipts:**

This EDP relates to the achievement of additional receipts from timber sales through adjusting the balance between higher value roadside sales, as opposed to standing sales.

- **Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Grant in Aid reductions:**

AFBI will seek to attract additional non-DARD funding and further savings will be delivered through centralising procurement activities throughout the organisation.

- **TB (Tb) and Brucellosis (Br) Control Programmes:**

The Department has modified its Tb and Br disease management process mainly by extending the use of key performance indicators. This is aimed at improving the management and delivery of critical elements of the programmes.

- **Identification, Registration and Movement of Animals Procedures:**

The Department has assisted market operators and meat plants to fulfil their responsibilities for movement notification of cattle and sheep, thereby allowing the release of the Department's own staff for other duties.

- **The NI Rural Development Programme (NIRDP)**

The majority of measures under Axis 1 and all of the measures under Axis 3 of the NIRDP 2007 - 2013 will be delivered by third party agents on behalf of the Department. One delivery agent will deliver a range of measures under Axis 1 of the Programme, while Axis 3 measures will be delivered by groups of councils and local action groups (LAGs) working together. This represents a change from previous Rural Development Programmes where DARD was more directly involved in delivering schemes and in managing LAGs.

Those DARD staff previously involved in delivery will now manage contracts with delivery agents, once all the new procedures are set up.

Forestry Planting

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for the number of new hectares of forestry planted in the private sector in each year since 1970.[R] (AQW 3297/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Records of private planting, supported by grant administered by Forest Service, are held dating back to 1979/80. Details are provided below.

Year	New planting on private land supported by grant administered by Forest Service (hectares)
1979/80	12
1980/81	100
1981/82	165
1982/83	8
1983/84	42
1984/85	54
1985/86	36
1986/87	240
1987/88	306
1988/89	140
1989/90	1065
1990/91	620
1991/92	466

Year	New planting on private land supported by grant administered by Forest Service (hectares)
1992/93	883
1993/94	908
1994/95	599
1995/96	812
1996/97	615
1997/98	519
1998/99	628
1999/2000	646
2000/01	588
2001/02	625
2002/03	513
2003/04	414
2004/05	342
2005/06	592
2007/07	549
2007/08	537

Short Rotation Coppice

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for the number of new hectares of short rotation coppice planted in the private sector by each year since 1995. (AQW 3298/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:

Year Planted	Hectares Planted
1995-2005	48.09
2005	176.30
2006	212.90
2007	305.7
2008 to date	38.1
Total	781.09

The Department only holds information relating to planting of Short Rotation Coppice carried out in the private sector which it has grant-aided. Figures refer to planting completed and for which grant aid has been paid between January and December of the given year. Prior to 2005, standard grant payments were available for SRC under the Woodland Grant Scheme. The Short Rotation Coppice Challenge Fund commenced in 2005.

Forestry Planting

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what targets have been set for forestry planting in each year since 1970 by the (i) Forest Service; and (ii) private sector.[R] (AQW 3299/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: Formal targets were not set before the Forest Service Agency was established in April 1998. Since then, afforestation targets have been set and published each year in the Agency's annual Business Plan. Details are shown in the table below.

Year	New Planting Targets (hectares) for Forest Service managed land	New Planting Targets (hectares) for private land supported by grant administered by Forest Service	Combined new planting target (hectares)
1998/99	200	600	800
1999/2000	200	600	800
2000/01	100	600	700
2001/02	50	650	700
2002/03			650*
2003/04			500*
2004/05			500*
2005/06			500*
2006/07			500, including 100 ha of Short Rotation Coppice (Willow)
2007/08			550, including 100 ha of Short Rotation Coppice (Willow)
2008/09			550*

* An overall target only was set

Lost Livestock

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures she has sought, or provided, to compensate farmers for livestock lost directly as a consequence of severe flooding in August 2008. (AQW 3337/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: There is no compensation available for the loss of livestock due to the severe flooding in August 2008.

The flooding damage assessment carried out by my Department showed that the greatest losses were suffered by the potato and cereals farmers, with losses estimated at around £1 million. Given significant budgetary constraints, I have had to focus my proposals for government intervention on those worst affected.

Countryside Management Scheme

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (i) how many farm visits took place during the assessment of applications for the Countryside Management Scheme this year; and (ii) if every farm business that applied from within a prioritised area, received a farm visit. (AQW 3364/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development:

- (i) Countryside Management Scheme farm visits to applicants with land in designated sites (prioritised areas) are currently being made and almost 1000 farms have been visited to date (12/12/08).
- (ii) Approximately 300 farm businesses remain to be visited.

Dioxin Contamination

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures are being taken to ensure that pig farms do not have their products banned as a result of the dioxin scare. (AQW 3376/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The information we received on Friday 5th December from the authorities in Dublin was promptly acted upon. We became aware that the farms notified to us by DAFF as recipients of the affected material did not have pigs on them; however we did have to establish that there were

no forward movements of that material from those farms to any pig herds here. Our traceability system was absolutely key to the prompt action taken.

It is our detailed investigations that have provided the necessary confidence to inform the FSA statement that our pork and pigmeat products are safe. I welcome the fact that in such a short space of time those products were back on supermarket shelves and the industry was again moving.

We moved very rapidly, in a period of just 3 days, from a position where the safety of our pork was in question to one where the clear message from the FSA is that pork from pigs born and reared in the North of Ireland is safe.

Processing quickly resumed at our pork factories and our pigmeat is again on supermarket shelves.

The action to withdraw local pork and pigmeat products from sale on Monday 8th December was absolutely essential to protect the industry from the very real risk of Brussels closing our pig production and processing industry.

Contaminated Pigs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action has been taken to isolate the farms that are contaminated with dioxin in pigs. (AQW 3377/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: You are aware that on 5th December 2008 the authorities in the South notified my staff about concerns in relation to nine premises that had received feed potentially contaminated with dioxins.

My staff immediately identified farm premises from the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) and restricted those premises until further investigations could be carried out. Herd owners were contacted and informed why this action was necessary. Animals on restricted sites were flagged on APHIS to ensure they could not enter the food chain until investigations were completed.

Tracing was also carried out to identify any pigs that had come here from the South either for direct slaughter or for breeding and production since 1st September which was the earliest date potentially contaminated feed was in use.

Any potentially infected herds were restricted and animals were not allowed to move off. In light of the nature of this case there was no need to isolate farms.

Contaminated Pigs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what action has been taken to identify the farms that have been effected by the dioxin contamination in pigs (AQW 3378/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: You are aware that on 5th December 2008 the authorities in the South notified my staff about concerns in relation to nine premises that had received feed potentially contaminated with dioxins.

My staff immediately identified farm premises from the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS) and restricted those premises until further investigations could be carried out. Herd owners were contacted and informed why this action was necessary. Animals on restricted sites were flagged on APHIS to ensure they could not enter the food chain until investigations were completed.

Tracing was also carried out to identify any pigs that had come here from the South either for direct slaughter or for breeding and production since 1st September which was the earliest date potentially contaminated feed was in use.

Any potentially infected herds were restricted and animals were not allowed to move off. In light of the nature of this case there was no need to isolate farms.

Pork Industry

Mr Savage asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps (i) have been taken; and (ii) will be taken to ensure the protection of the pork industry at this time. (AQW 3424/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My officials have taken swift action to ascertain if pigs were present on any of the premises which received potentially contaminated feed from the South and I am pleased to be able to confirm that none of the premises contained pigs. Officials have, however, identified 5 consignments of live pigs which were imported to the North from the South since 1 September 2008. It has now been confirmed that none of these consignments came from an affected herd.

The following outlines the steps my Department has taken to protect the pork industry here.

On Friday 5 December, affected herds on the Department's traceability system (APHIS) were restricted, herd owners contacted and the measures explained to them. Meat inspection staff were put on alert in case animals from the affected herds were presented for slaughter. The Department's Quality Assurance Branch (QAB), which is responsible for animal feed, was also alerted. Information was shared with the FSA concerning advice on potential risk to consumers and actions taken by DARD.

Over the weekend of 6/7 December, I held meetings with senior Departmental officials. Veterinary officers also met representatives of the FSA and informed the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association of implications for them. Tracings continued to identify potentially affected animals and notify herd owners.

On Monday 8 December meat plants were updated as further information became available. Tracing of potential infected feed continued with appropriate restrictions being placed on premises to ensure potentially contaminated meat could not enter the food chain. Further meetings were held with the FSA following which I made a statement to the Assembly. A Press Release was subsequently issued advising that the FSA had confirmed that there was no risk from pigs born and bred here.

On Tuesday 9 December meat plants recommenced the slaughter of pigs and I made a further statement to update the Assembly. I also issued a press announcement to give a clear message that there is no risk from pork or pork products sourced from the North.

I believe that the foregoing amply demonstrates that the Department can act swiftly and comprehensively in an emergency situation. My officials maintain regular contacts with their colleagues in the South and with the industry here to ensure that all available relevant information is shared at the earliest opportunity. The Department is also supporting the pig industry through the provision of export trade certificates.

Monitoring of the current situation will continue and I will continue to take such steps as are necessary in the future to protect the pork industry here.

Pork Industry

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if compensation will be available for those who lost pigs and pork produce due to feedstuff coming from the Irish Republic. (AQW 3472/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: The issue of compensation is an evolving one and I have raised with the DAF Minister, Brendan Smith, the question of access to the compensation package recently announced in the South. Officials are currently liaising with DAFF on the details of the scheme.

Following the announcement on Thursday of the EU approval for Private Storage Aid for the South I lobbied the Defra Minister for a similar scheme for the North. I felt strongly that our industry should not be put at any economic disadvantage to their southern counterparts. A formal written request has been made to Commissioner Fischer-Boel and we await her response.

Pork Industry

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development why officials from her Department and FSA were not available over the weekend of 6 and 7 December 2008, when her Department was aware that the problems with pork were unfolding. (AQW 3473/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I assure you that I and my officials were available over the weekend of the 6th and 7th of December.

Over the weekend of 6/7 December, I held discussions with senior Departmental officials. Veterinary officers also met representatives of the FSA and contacted the NI Meat Exporters Association to inform them of implications for them.

The extent of the incident unfolded throughout the weekend and I believe that our actions amply demonstrate that the Department can act swiftly and comprehensively in an emergency situation.

Milk Prices

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what steps she is taking to support dairy farmers following the downfall in milk prices. (AQW 3540/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: In recognition of the deteriorating market situation I have been working hard to try and achieve a re-introduction of export refunds for dairy products. Following the sharp drop in prices at the October United Dairy Farmers' milk auction I immediately spoke to the DEFRA Secretary of State to seek his support on the matter. Subsequently the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Investment and I issued a joint letter to Hilary Benn pressing the case for the local dairy industry and making clear our view that Britain should be taking the initiative within the EU by requesting early re-introduction of export refunds. We are also seeking a meeting with the European Commissioner, Marianne Fischer Boel, to ensure that she is aware of the seriousness of the situation. In addition the First Minister and deputy First Minister, at my request, have written to the Prime Minister to lobby his support on the matter. The Finance Minister, Nigel Dodds and I (supported by Dr David Dobbin, Dairy UK (NI)) subsequently had a meeting with Hilary Benn to impress upon him further the challenges being faced by the sector. This followed a meeting I had with industry representatives when they outlined the case for export refunds to be re-introduced. The dairy industry makes an important contribution to the agri-food industry and I will continue to do what I can to support it in these difficult times.

Contaminated Pigs

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development if her Department was able to trace the pigs that were allegedly contaminated with dioxins. (AQW 3542/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: We have traced all pigs imported from the South through the EU Traces system both for further keep and for direct slaughter. There are considerable numbers of direct slaughter pigs identified and a smaller number of pigs for further keep. The plants involved in the slaughter of the direct slaughter pigs have been provided with this information to help them identify any product containing pork from these animals. The industry has withdrawn that product from sale.

The authorities in the South provided my Department with a comprehensive list of all business premises that received potentially contaminated feed. Following investigations we were able to confirm to the FSA that no pigs in the North had been fed contaminated feed.

Contaminated Pigs

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what measures she is taking to ensure stakeholders will not be affected, financially or commercially, by the recent pork, and other livestock, contamination. (AQW 3556/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My priority is to get the industry moving again and to rebuild consumer confidence in relation to the safety of food produced on farms in the north. To that end I was successful in securing Private Storage Aid in line with the south.

Immediately on hearing that the EU had approved the PSA scheme in the south, I lobbied the Defra Minister, Hilary Benn, for a similar scheme here, making a strong case that our pig industry should not be placed at any economic disadvantage to that in the south. A formal written request was made to Commissioner Fischer-Boel and, at the Commission's meeting on 18 December, it was agreed to extend Private Storage Aid to pigmeat from the north. It is estimated that this could be worth £6m to the industry here.

You will appreciate that the issue of compensation is an evolving one and I have raised with Brendan Smith, the DAFF Minister, the question of access to the compensation package recently announced in the south. I have also written to him jointly with Arlene Foster, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Discussions between us are ongoing.

In conjunction with Invest NI, I am also exploring options to provide additional assistance to processors to raise awareness of pork quality and to increase consumer confidence in pork produce. The breakfast reception which I hosted jointly with the Health and Economy Ministers, on Monday 15th will, I hope, also send out a clear message to the public that pork in the north of Ireland is a healthy and nutritious product which is safe to eat. My Department is also supporting the industry through the provision of Export Trade Certificates.

Regarding other livestock, there are no concerns over milk and milk products in the north of Ireland. Sheep and poultry remain unaffected and 8 beef herds have been restricted to ensure that no animals from these herds can enter the food chain.

Rural Poverty Strategy

Mr Burns asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development which projects she intends to fund as part of the rural poverty strategy, in the South Antrim constituency. (AQW 3598/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: My Department is currently developing a policy framework for addressing poverty and social exclusion in rural areas. Several priority areas for action have been identified, including rural fuel poverty, rural childcare, rural transport, rural community development and a challenge fund for projects that address poverty and social exclusion in rural areas.

As some further consultation with stakeholders will take place over the coming months it is too early at this time to say which projects will be funded.

However, it is my intention to provide an opportunity for rural dwellers right across the North to benefit from projects under the different strands of this framework.

Countryside Management Scheme

Mr Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development how many farm businesses were admitted into the Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme up to 1 December 2008. (AQW 3601/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: At the 1 December 2008, there were 8700 farm businesses in the existing Countryside Management Scheme.

On 15 September 2008, farm visits for the new Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) commenced. At 1 December 2008, 904 farm visits had been completed. It is anticipated that in early 2009 up to 1300 farm businesses will be accepted into NICMS upon signing Scheme agreements. Therefore to date no farm businesses have yet been accepted into the new Countryside Management Scheme.

Local Action Groups Plan

Mr Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to outline the progress made in implementing each Local Action Groups' action plans under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. (AQW 3602/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: I can advise that since initial receipt of the strategies all clusters were advised of general weaknesses and afforded the opportunity to review their respective strategies in the light of same. The revised strategies have now all been assessed as complete with written notification of this along with confirmation of 1st tranche funding having issued to all Joint Committees on 12th December.

Farm Modernisation Programme

Mr Bresland asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development what progress has been made in implementing the Farm Modernisation Programme. (AQW 3603/09)

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development: At its meeting on 7 October 2008 I advised the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee that the Farm Modernisation Programme will open for applications in January 2009, which is still the case.

When the Programme is opened an information pack comprising the following guidance will be available from a range of DARD offices across the north of Ireland:

- An Explanatory Booklet detailing the Programme requirements
- A List of Eligible Items with maximum amount of financial support allowable per item
- An Application Form
- An Information Leaflet detailing the location of the DARD offices and the date and arrangements for receipt of application forms.

These information packs will be available for 1-2 weeks before the Programme opens for receipt of application forms.

CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

Maritime Industry Museum

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what plans his Department has to establish a maritime industry museum in the Titanic Quarter. (AQW 2796/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (Mr G Campbell): The Executive has recently announced their support for the Titanic Signature Project (TSP). The TSP will tell the story of the maritime and industrial heritage of Belfast and the wider region, focussed to a large extent around the Titanic story.

My Department, through National Museums Northern Ireland, is committed to reviewing the future interpretation of our maritime and industrial heritage collections. This includes the option of a national maritime and industrial heritage museum but will have to acknowledge other developments including the TSP offering and exhibitions.

In light of these developments I intend meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of National Museums in the New Year to discuss how best this matter can be progressed.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what contribution his Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3060/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In January 2007, my Department was asked by OFMDFM to scrutinise its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. In September 2008 we were also asked to confirm whether we had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention. After consultation with our business areas and Arms Length Bodies (ALBs) we concluded that we had no concerns on being able to fulfil the requirements of the Convention.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what preparations his Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3061/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In preparation for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has scrutinised its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention.

Re-Imaging Communities Programme

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure how much has been spent (i) in total; and (ii) for each scheme, on the Re-Imaging Communities Programme in the North Antrim area, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3170/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Listed below is the total spent on the Re-Imaging Communities Programme in the North Antrim Area and amount spent on each scheme.

- (i) The total spent on the Re-Imaging Communities Programme in the North Antrim Area over the last three years is £131,295. There has been no spend to date in 2007/08 or 08/09.
- (ii) Amount spent on each scheme:

Group	Year	Money Spent
Dunclug Partnership	2006/07	£5,500
Broughshane and District Community Association	2006/07	£8,623
Moyle District Council	2006/07	£9,180
Harryville Partnership Initiative	2006/07	£15,000
Broughshane and District Community Association Ltd	2006/07	£22,690
Mosside Development Group	2006/07	£56,052
Kells and Connor Improvement Association	2006/07	£14,250
		£131,295

Irish Language Events

Mr Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to his answer to AQW 771/09, how many Irish language events he has (i) been invited to; and (ii) attended, since becoming Minister; and (iii) declined invitations and the reasons why. (AQW 3203/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Since becoming Minister I have received two invitations to Irish language events but have been unable to attend due to diary commitments.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the total revenue generated through his Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3262/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Department has received no revenue from leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts during the past 5 years.

Executive Meetings

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what proposals he put forward, at the Executive Meeting on 27 November 2008 to help stimulate the economy. (AQW 3326/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I am unable to discuss details of any proposals put to the Executive Committee as Executive business is confidential.

Soccer Advisory Panel

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to provide an update on the implementation of (i) the recommendations from the Soccer Advisory Panel; and (ii) the Soccer Strategy. (AQW 3384/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Primary responsibility for implementing the recommendations from the Soccer Advisory Panel and the Soccer Strategy rests with the Irish Football Association (IFA). The IFA has made considerable progress over the past 4 years in this regard. Progress has included:

- The setting up of a new, more streamlined and competence based Executive Board;
- The merger of the IFA and Irish Football League;
- The appointment, by open recruitment, of external members to the Board to provide independent expertise;
- The appointment, by open recruitment, of a Chief Executive, accountable to the Board, with suitable business management acumen and skills. This post is currently vacant but will be filled again by open recruitment; and
- The development of youth and facilities strategies .

However, a number of issues relating to governance and accountability remain to be addressed. Work on these issues is ongoing.

Soccer Strategy

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) how much funding has been designated under the Soccer Strategy for the development of Junior Soccer; (ii) how much of that funding has been spent to date; and (iii) what proposals he has for future investment in Junior Soccer. (AQW 3385/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: No funding has been designated under the Soccer Strategy specifically for the development Junior Soccer. Football clubs can, however, seek financial assistance from Sport Northern Ireland through other funding programmes.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what policies and practices in his Department have changed in delivering the 3% efficiency savings required by the 2008-11 Budget. (AQW 3410/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The Department has a target to deliver cash releasing efficiencies of £3.6m, £7.0m and £10.4m over the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

It will do this by:

- Reducing administration costs both in the Department and in its sponsored bodies. This will be achieved through a variety of means including: reducing staff numbers through natural wastage; transferring staff to front line operations from back office support; market testing more services to drive down costs; and reducing the number of consultancy assignments. For instance, Museums Branch has made no spend on consultancy this year to date. The establishment of the Northern Ireland Library Authority will also deliver efficiency gains in administration costs by concentrating the public library functions of the five existing Education and Library Boards in one body.
- Reviewing funding requirements across a number of areas. Several of the Department's programmes are time-bounded - for example, the Smithsonian Festival - and do not require funding through the CSR period. In other cases, Ministerial commitments to funding have been delivered in full or in part by the start of the CSR period and so budgets can be reduced accordingly.

A further saving was planned to be generated through increasing trading receipts at Ordnance Survey NI (OSNI). In recent years OSNI has moved towards self sufficiency and so has required less budget support from this Department. At the point at which the efficiency savings for the CSR period were calculated and published, OSNI was still an agency of DCAL and so its anticipated savings were amalgamated with the Department's.

Since OSNI has now moved to the new Land and Properties Agency (LPA), subsequent to the CSR exercise, the savings will now be delivered through that Agency and its parent Department, DFP.

Ulster-Scots Language Society

Mr McCausland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if (i) Foras na Gaeilge; (ii) the Ulster-Scots Agency; (iii) Pobal; and (iv) the Ulster-Scots Language Society are included on the list of Departmental consultees. (AQW 3417/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: All of the above organisations are included on the Departmental consultation list.

Board of Foras na Gaeilge

Mr McCausland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he will ensure that the minutes of the Board of Foras na Gaeilge are placed on its website in English, within two weeks from when they were approved. (AQW 3418/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: In 2007 Minister Poots asked the Foras na Gaeilge Board to consider placing an English version of their Board minutes in the public domain. The proposal was rejected at a Foras na Gaeilge Board meeting in November 2007 on the basis that Irish is the working language of the agency.

Given the need for transparency and accountability in arms length bodies, which are in receipt of significant amounts of public funds, I intend to pursue this as a matter of urgency with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the Republic of Ireland.

Arm's Length Bodies

Mr McCausland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for a breakdown of the (i) reason for travel; (ii) class of air travel for each journey; and (iii) grade of the person travelling, for all foreign travel undertaken by his Department's arm's length bodies, in each of the last two years. (AQW 3420/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: I would refer the Member to the information provided in the tables attached. I also attach a glossary, explaining job titles, for the Member's convenience.

1 APRIL 2006 – 31 MARCH 2007

NATIONAL MUSEUMS NORTHERN IRELAND (NMNI)

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NMNI	Attend European Association of Fisheries Economists (EAFE) Conference	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Attend International Marine Biology conference	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Attend International Marine Biology conference	Economy	Cur F
NMNI	Lecture at Ulster American Heritage Symposium	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Attend European World of Bluegrass (EWOB) Conference in preparation for Bluegrass Festival at Ulster American Folk Park	Economy	Cur E
NMNI	Attend European World of Bluegrass (EWOB) Conference in preparation for Bluegrass Festival at Ulster American Folk Park	Economy	MSG1
NMNI	Lecture at Ulster American Heritage Symposium	Economy	Cur E
NMNI	Lecture at Ulster American Heritage Symposium	Economy	UG7

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NMNI	Attend International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) in preparation for Bluegrass Festival at Ulster American Folk Park	Economy	MSG2
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Business	Cur D
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Business	UG6
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	UG3

W5

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class Of Air Travel For Each Journey	Grade Of Person Travelling
W5	Speaker at Science conference	Economy	Chief Executive

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Armagh Planetarium	Attend International Planetarium Society annual conference	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Planetarium	European Space Agency meeting	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Planetarium	European Space Agency meeting	Economy	Curatorial Grade D
Armagh Planetarium	Digistar Users Group meeting	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Planetarium	Digistar Users Group meeting	Economy	Curatorial Grade D
Armagh Planetarium	European Space Agency Education Department conference	Economy	Grade 6

ARMAGH OBSERVATORY

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting/Present Results	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting/Present Results	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Present Proposal	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Workshop	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Workshop	Economy	PDRA
Armagh Observatory	Workshop	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	PDRA
Armagh Observatory	Attend Workshop	Economy	Student

NORTHERN IRELAND MUSEUMS COUNCIL (NIMC)

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NIMC	NIMC Training - Museum Study Tour	Economy	SO

NORTHERN IRELAND EVENTS COMPANY (NIEC)

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NIEC	Sport Accord	Economy and Business	Chairman of NIEC Board
NIEC	Sport Accord	Economy and Business	Senior Events Manager
NIEC	Sport Accord	Economy and Business	Marketing Manager
NIEC	World Police and Fire-fighter Games	Business	Acting Chief Executive
NIEC	World Transplant Games Bid	Economy and Business	Acting Chief Executive
NIEC	World Transplant Games Bid	Economy and Business	Chairman of NIEC Board
NIEC	World Transplant Games Bid	Economy and Business	Chief Executive of Sport NI
NIEC	Motocross of Nations 2007	Economy	Marketing Manager
NIEC	Motocross of Nations 2007	Economy	Events Manager
NIEC	Motocross of Nations 2007	Economy	Acting Chief Executive

WATERWAYS IRELAND

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Waterways Ireland	Meet Consultants re Automatic Lift Bridges	Economy	Dir 2
Waterways Ireland	Meet Consultants re Automatic Lift Bridges	Economy	P2
Waterways Ireland	Meet Consultants re Automatic Lift Bridges	Economy	P2
Waterways Ireland	World Canal Conference - Representative	Economy	A3

FORAS NA GAEILGE

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	Assistant Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Assistant Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	Assistant Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	Assistant Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Programme Manager
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Senior Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Programme Manager
Foras Na Gaeilge	Irish Fair	Economy	HEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Irish Fair	Economy	HEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Director
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Director

NI SCREEN

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Production
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Production
NI Screen	Course	Economy	Production Coordinator
NI Screen	Marketing & Distribution Training	Economy	Production Coordinator
NI Screen	Media meeting	Economy	Media Manager
NI Screen	Media meeting	Economy	Media Manager
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Media Manager
NI Screen	Animation Market	Economy	Media Manager
NI Screen	Animation Market	Economy	Media Manager
NI Screen	Course	Economy	Funding Programmes Manager
NI Screen	B Canal event	Economy	Director of Policy Development
NI Screen	Creative Entrepreneur	Economy	Director of Policy Development
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Finance
NI Screen	Course	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Chief Executive

ARTS COUNCIL NORTHERN IRELAND (ACNI)

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
ACNI	Folk Life Festival	Economy	CE
ACNI	Irish Festival	Economy	CE
ACNI	Architecture Biennale	Economy	DP
ACNI	Smithsonian Launch	Premium Economy Flexible	Chair of Council
ACNI	Smithsonian Festival	Premium Economy Flexible	SCS

SPORT NI

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Sport NI	Cricket World Cup	Economy	Grade 5
Sport NI	Cricket World Cup	Business	Council Member

1 APRIL 2007 – 31 MARCH 2008**NATIONAL MUSEUMS NORTHERN IRELAND (NMNI)**

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NMNI	Attend International Natural Science Symposium	Economy	Cur E
NMNI	Attend & give lecture at 5th European Association of Fisheries Economists (EAFE)	Economy	Cur D

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	UG6
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	UG7
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	UG7
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at European World of Bluegrass (EWOB) Conference for Bluegrass Festival at Ulster American Folk Park	Economy	Cur E
NMNI	Research for a prospective collections acquisition	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Business	UG6
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	MSG4
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	MSG4
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	MSG4
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	UG7
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Business	UG3
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	MSG4
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	MSG4
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Economy	MSG4
NMNI	Preparation & attendance at Rediscover NI at Smithsonian Festival	Business	PTO
NMNI	Research relating to a prospective collections acquisition	Economy	Cur D
NMNI	Course	Business	UG3
NMNI	Attendance at Fundraising Event	Business	UG7
NMNI	Attendance at Fundraising Event	Business	UG3

W5

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
W5	Speaker at Science conference	Economy	Senior Manager

ARMAGH PLANETARIUM

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Armagh Planetarium	European Space Agency meeting	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Planetarium	International Planetarium Society meeting	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Planetarium	Official opening of Cork Observatory	Economy	Grade 6
Armagh Planetarium	Official opening of Cork Observatory	Economy	Curatorial Grade D x 2

ARMAGH OBSERVATORY

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meetings	Economy	Research Fellow
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference/Present Paper	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference/Present Results	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference/Present Results	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Observing	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Observing	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Observing	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Collaborative Research	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference	Economy	PDRA
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference / Seminars	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Meeting	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Observing	Economy	Staff Officer
Armagh Observatory	Attend Workshop	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Conference	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Attend Workshop	Economy	Grade 7
Armagh Observatory	Observing	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Attend Workshop	Economy	Student
Armagh Observatory	Observing	Economy	Staff Officer

ULSTER SCOTS AGENCY

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Ulster Scots Agency	Board Meeting	Economy	Board Member
Ulster Scots Agency	Board Meeting	Economy	Board Member
Ulster Scots Agency	Board Meeting	Economy	Board Member
Ulster Scots Agency	Board Meeting	Economy	Board Member
Ulster Scots Agency	Language Conference	Economy	Director

WATERWAYS IRELAND

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Waterways Ireland	VNE (Voies Navigables d'Europe) Project Meeting	Economy	A2

FORAS NA GAEILGE

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Programme Manager
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Director/Deputy CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	Director/Deputy CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Meeting	Economy	Director/Deputy CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Director/Deputy CEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Book Fair	Economy	Senior Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Book Fair	Economy	Senior Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Assistant Principal
Foras Na Gaeilge	Conference	Economy	Assistant Principal
Foras Na Gaeilge	Training course	Economy	Assistant Principal
Foras Na Gaeilge	Training course	Economy	Assistant Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Training course	Economy	Editor
Foras Na Gaeilge	Irish Fair	Economy	HEO
Foras Na Gaeilge	Irish Fair	Economy	CO

NI SCREEN

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NI Screen	Creative Entrepreneur Programme	Economy	Director of Policy Development
NI Screen	Training	Economy	Production Coordinator
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Chief Executive
NI Screen	Paint Hall Production	Economy	Head of Production
NI Screen	Paint Hall Production	Economy	Head of Production
NI Screen	Creative Entrepreneur Programme	Economy	Director of Policy Development
NI Screen	Training	Economy	Production Coordinator
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Paint Hall Production	Economy	Chief Executive
NI Screen	Paint Hall Production	Economy	Head of Production
NI Screen	Media Conference	Economy	Media Manager
NI Screen	Training	Economy	Production Coordinator

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Film Festival	Economy	Head of Marketing
NI Screen	Paint Hall Production	Economy	Chief Executive
NI Screen	Paint Hall Production	Economy	Head of Production

ARTS COUNCIL NORTHERN IRELAND (ACNI)

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
ACNI	Art Exhibition	Economy	SCS
ACNI	Art Exhibition	Economy	Chair of Council
ACNI	Art Exhibition	Economy	Grade 7
ACNI	Desire Conference	Regular Fare	DP
ACNI	Art Exhibition	Economy	CE
ACNI	Art Exhibition	Economy	SO
ACNI	Smithsonian Festival	Economy / Coach Class	Grade 7
ACNI	South by South West Festival	Economy	CE
ACNI	Exhibition	Economy	CE
ACNI	International Theatre Festival	Economy	CE

SPORT NI

Arms Length Body	Reason for Travel	Class of Air Travel for each Journey	Grade of Person Travelling
Sport NI	Sport Accord Conference – attempting to attract sporting events to NI	Economy	Grade 7
Sport NI	Sport Accord Conference – attempting to attract sporting events to NI	Economy	SO
Sport NI	International Mountain Leader Award	Economy	Instructor
Sport NI	World Rowing Championships	Economy	SO
Sport NI	European Association for Sport Management Conference – Speaker at conference	Economy	DP
Sport NI	Tour of Ireland – Cycling	Economy	SO
Sport NI	Tour of Ireland – Cycling	Economy	Grade 7
Sport NI	World Rugby Championships	Economy	Council member
Sport NI	World Rugby Championships	Economy	Council member
Sport NI	World Rugby Championships	Economy	Grade 7
Sport NI	World Rally Championships	Economy	Grade 7
Sport NI	World Rally Championships	Economy	SO
Sport NI	Meeting with Coaching Ireland and Irish Sports Council re preparation of Coaching Strategy for Ireland	Economy	DP
Sport NI	International Sports Symposium	Economy	SO

Glossary:

- **Con** - Conservation Grade
- **PTO** - Professional Technical Officer
- **Cur** - Curatorial Grade
- **MSG** - Messenger Grade
- **UG** - Unified Grade
- **SO** - Staff Officer
- **DP** - Deputy Principal
- **CE** - Chief Executive
- **CEO** - Chief Executive Officer
- **HEO** - Higher Executive Officer
- **UG** - Unified Grade
- **A3** - Analogous to Staff Officer
- **A2** - Analogous to Staff Officer / Deputy Principal
- **Dir 2** - Analogous to Grade 7
- **P2** - Senior Engineer
- **SCS** - Senior Civil Service
- **PDRA** - Post – Doctoral Research Assistant

European Charter on Minority Languages

Mr Butler asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to demonstrate how his Department and its arms length bodies, have applied, in practice, the European Charter on Minority Languages in relation to the Irish language. (AQW 3459/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Northern Ireland is currently in full compliance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The details of the steps taken by my Department to implement the Charter are contained in a paper, entitled 'Northern Ireland's input to the UK's Third Periodical Report to the Council of Europe', which is awaiting Executive consideration. Once the paper has Executive approval a copy will be laid in the Assembly's library.

Sport NI

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if mixed Martial Arts (Cage Fighting) is recognised by Sport NI as a legitimate sport. (AQW 3464/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland is responsible for the development of sport in Northern Ireland and has advised that it does not currently recognise mixed Martial Arts (Cage Fighting) as a sporting activity.

Minority Languages

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he asked the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to include questions about minority languages in the 2011 Census. (AQW 3465/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: My Department has engaged with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency to include questions on minority languages in the 2011 Census.

Minority Languages

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure if he has figures for the number of (i) native speakers of all minority languages; and (ii) people using sign language; and to reference the sources for these figures. (AQW 3466/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: There are over 70 minority languages spoken in Northern Ireland (Holder, 2003). The Department does not have accurate contemporary statistic for the number of native speakers of each. The statistics available to the Department and the relevant sources are detailed in table format below:

1. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SPEAKERS OF IRISH AND ULSTER-SCOTS:

Language	Speakers	Source and comments
Irish	106,844	Persons aged three and over (NI census, 2001). In total 167,490 persons have 'some knowledge' of Irish
Ulster-Scots	35,000	Estimate based on 2 per cent of population. (NI Life and Times Survey, 1999)

2. ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF PEOPLE USING SIGN LANGUAGE:

British Sign Language	5,000	Estimate: Sign Language Partnership (Deaf Organisations Represented)
Irish Sign Language	1,500	Estimate: Sign Language Partnership (Deaf Organisations Represented)

3. ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF SPEAKERS OF OTHER MINORITY LANGUAGE:

Language	Speakers	Source and comment
Chinese	4,200	Various dialects are spoken. NI census (2001) recorded 4,200 people of Chinese ethnic origin. Holder (2003) estimates 8,000
Cant/Shelta/Gammon	1,700	Oral languages of the Irish Traveller Community Holder (2003), Kirk and O Baoill (2002)
Arabic	1,000–1,500	Holder (2003), Modern Standard Arabic, also including speakers of Western and Eastern Arabic
Portuguese	1,000+	Holder (2003)
Tagalog	600	Holder (2003) (National Language of the Philippines)
Bengali	450–500	Holder (2003)
Hindi or Punjabi	1,700	Holder (2003)
Southern Indian Languages	500	Holder (2003) includes Tamil, Kannada, Kanta, Malay ala, Marati, Oriya and Telugu
Farsi	350	Holder (2003)

There are also speakers of other European, African and Asian languages in Northern Ireland not detailed above as figures are not available for these.

Ulster-Scots and Irish Language

Mr F McCann asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure to detail the nine official publications drafted about Ulster-Scots and the Irish Language in the past five years, including (i) dates; (ii) subject matter; and (iii) where they can be accessed. (AQW 3561/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The nine official publications drafted in relation to Ulster-Scots and the Irish Language in the past five years with relevant details are as shown in the table below:-

Date	Title/Subject	Accessed
June 2004	Policy on Provision of financial Support for Irish language Film & Television Production in Northern Ireland (including EQIA)	By emailing cldpb@dcalni.gov.uk
Oct 2004	Establishing the demand for Services and activities in the Ulster-Scots Language	By emailing lob@dcalni.gov.uk

Date	Title/Subject	Accessed
Dec 2004	Irish Language Broadcast Fund summary of responses to the public consultation on proposed policy provision	By emailing cldpb@dcalni.gov.uk
15 Dec 2005	Gaeltacht Quarter – The establishment of a Development board and related Issues	By emailing cldpb@dcalni.gov.uk
13 Dec 2006	Consultation paper on proposed Irish language Legislation in Northern Ireland	www.dcalni.gov.uk
19 Jan 2007	Proposed Irish Language Legislation - Consultation on Equality Impact Assessment	www.dcalni.gov.uk
13 Mar 2007	Irish Language Legislation for NI – A Consultation by DCAL, NI – 13 March 2007	www.dcalni.gov.uk
July 2007	Public Consultation on proposals for an Ulster-Scots Academy	www.dcalni.gov.uk
Sept 2008	The Synopses from the Public Consultation on proposals for an Ulster-Scots Academy	www.dcalni.gov.uk

Sports Grounds

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure what interaction his Department has had with local councils about health and safety training and specifications at local sports grounds. (AQW 3584/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) is responsible for providing of advice and guidance on health and safety matters at sports grounds. Three years ago a working group was established involving representatives of the District Councils and SNI to consider how the Safety of Sports Grounds (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 should be implemented. It also discussed technical and administrative issues relating to safety at sporting venues.

District Councils were also represented on the working party (chaired by SNI) which drafted the first edition of the Northern Ireland Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (the Red Guide), published by DCAL in July 2007. The representation included both Building Control and Environmental Health Officers and copies of the Red Guide were issued to all 26 District Councils.

More recently, the newly established overseeing body has met with the District Councils to discuss plans for the implementation of the certification scheme and the associated training needs of council staff.

Sports Stewards

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure (i) how many sports stewards have completed safety training at each of the three levels in each sport; and (ii) how much money his Department has made available for steward training in each of those sports. (AQW 3585/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: The planned sports ground safety certification scheme, as detailed in the Safety of Sports Grounds (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and related guidance, will require stewards to be trained to NVQ Level 2, 3 and 4. Sport Northern Ireland, which has responsibility for the safety of sports grounds overseeing function, is currently consulting with Skills Active, accrediting organisations and colleges of Higher and Further Education over the provision of this training which is expected to commence in the 2009/10 academic year.

Since the launch of its Safety Management Programme in 2000, SNI has awarded approximately £749,000 for safety management, which includes steward training, as follows:

Sport	Soccer	GAA	Rugby
Funding	£490,000	£212,000	£47,000

Public Record Office at Titanic Quarter

Mr McCausland asked the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2687/09 and AQW 2688/09, why his Department did not carry out a site specific flood risk assessment before deciding, in August 2007, to locate the new Public Record Office at Titanic Quarter. (AQW 3623/09)

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure: As part of the tender submission in June 2007, Titanic Quarter Ltd (TQL) provided details of a flood risk assessment carried out by RPS Consulting Engineers for Phase 2 of the Titanic Quarter development, covering an area of 39 acres in close proximity to the PRONI site. The information contained in this assessment provided sufficient assurance to allow TQL to be appointed as the preferred bidder in August 2007, which enabled TQL to develop their design proposals in greater detail. This appointment required TQL to obtain full Planning Permission, which included approval of a site specific flood risk assessment in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 15. The granting of Planning Permission for the Titanic Quarter site was a condition precedent to PRONI entering into the development and land purchase agreement in November 2008.

EDUCATION

School Maintenance Programme

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Education to detail the works that have been delayed in the Schools Maintenance Programme in (i) the Derry City Council area; and (ii) the Foyle constituency, broken down by school. (AQW 2622/09)

The Minister of Education (Ms C Ruane): Tá sé socraithe agam go gcuirfear an t-eolas a iarradh i Leabharlann an Tionóil.

I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Assembly Library

School Maintenance Programme

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the works that have been delayed in the schools maintenance programme, broken down by schools, in the North Down constituency, (AQW 2671/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá sé socraithe agam go gcuirfear an t-eolas a iarradh i Leabharlann an Tionóil.

I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Capital New Build Schemes

Mr O'Dowd asked the Minister of Education if construction work for the capital new build schemes at St Mary's Primary School and St Patrick's College, Banbridge, are on schedule to proceed in the 2008-09 financial year; and when work will start. (AQW 2771/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá an Roinn fós ag fanacht ar iarrtais Chéim D (sracphleananna agus costais deiridh) don dá thionscadal ó na comhairleoirí deartha scoile faoi seach.

Stage D submissions (final sketch plans and costs) for both projects are still awaited by the department from the schools' respective design consultants. In light of this it is estimated that construction work on both projects will now start in 2009/10 rather than this year and complete in 2011/12. This is subject to all the necessary planning and building processes being completed satisfactorily, and the availability of resources in any particular year.

Overhead Power Cables

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education how many schools within the Southern Education and Library Board area are sited within 200 metres of overhead power cables. (AQW 2838/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá 3 scoil i limistéar Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Deiscirt suite taobh istigh de 200 méadar ó cháblaí leictreachais lastuas.

3 schools within the Southern Education and Library Board are sited within 200 metres of overhead power cables.

Temporary Teaching Positions

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Education how many teachers have taken early retirement and subsequently taken temporary teaching positions, in each of the last 3 years. (AQW 2889/09)

The Minister of Education: Seo a leanas líon na múinteoirí a chuaigh ar luathscor agus a chuaigh isteach i bpost sealadach teagaisc ina dhiaidh sin, i ngach bliain le 3 bliana anuas:

The number of teachers who have taken early retirement and subsequently taken temporary teaching positions, in each of the last 3 years is as follows:

Financial Year	Number of teachers retiring on grounds of redundancy or efficient discharge	Number of teachers who subsequently became re-employed
2005/06	581	384
2006/07	550	311
2007/08	557	277

The Department has advised employers that retired teachers should only be re-employed to provide short-term cover where newly qualified teachers or experienced non-retired teachers are unavailable.

Classroom Assistants

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Education what action she is taking to provide funding for the job evaluation of classroom assistants in the grant maintained integrated sector. (AQW 2920/09)

The Minister of Education: The recent agreement on the outcome of the Job Evaluation was for Classroom Assistants for whom the Education and Library Boards are the employing authorities, and in this context this agreement does not have a direct read across to employees of other employing authorities. Any decision within grant-maintained integrated or voluntary grammar schools to implement rates of pay in line with the outcome of the Job Evaluation process in the Education and Library Boards in respect of particular categories of staff is a matter for individual schools' Board of Governors as employing authorities to consider within the constraints of the total resources available to the school.

Cé gur saincheist í seo a bhaineann le Boird Gobharnóirí mar údaráis fostóra, d'éist mé leis na hábhair inní a d'ardaigh scoileanna faoi na himpleachtaí féideartha airgeadais do scoileanna imeasctha faoi chothabháil stáit agus do scoileanna deonacha gramadaí agus bhreathnaigh mé iad.

Although this is an issue for Boards of Governors as employing authorities, I have listened and taken on board the concerns raised by schools about the potential financial implications for grant-maintained integrated and voluntary grammar schools. I had sought additional resources in the September monitoring round to help alleviate the impact on school budgets, but in light of the overall constrained financial position at that time the bid was not successful. However, I have asked for this bid to be reconsidered as a part of the December monitoring round and I will continue to use my best endeavours to secure additional resources.

School Maintenance Programme

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education what funding was allocated to each Education and Library Board for school maintenance in each of the last 3 financial years. (AQW 2974/09)

The Minister of Education: Tugtar blocdheontas do na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne (ELBs) ag tús na bliana airgeadais lena thacú le soláthar réimse seirbhísí, cothabháil tiarna talaimh san áireamh.

The Education and Library Boards' (ELBs) are provided with a block grant at the beginning of the financial year to support the delivery of a range of services, including landlord maintenance. The ELBs have the discretion to determine the amount of the block grant they wish to attribute to their landlord maintenance budget, taking into consideration the level of backlog maintenance and health and safety risks in their Board area, along with other budgetary pressures.

The following additional allocations for maintenance were made to ELBs over and above their block grant allocation in each of the last three financial years:

£000S

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Belfast Education and Library Board	334	100	1,222
North Eastern Education and Library Board	428	100	100
South Eastern Education and Library Board	382	100	545
Southern Education and Library Board	449	100	200
Western Education and Library Board	358	100	100
Total	1,959	500	2,167

School Maintenance Programme

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education to detail the maintenance work carried out in schools, including the cost of the work, in each of the last 3 financial years, broken down by (i) school; and (ii) Education and Library Board area. (AQW 2975/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá socraithe agam go gcuirfear an t-eolas a iarradh i Leabharlann an Tionóil.

I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Education what actions her Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects, to help address the economic downturn. (AQW 3012/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá mé sásta gur tháinig an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin ar chomhaontú chun £4 mhilliún sa bhreis a chur ar fáil fá choinne cothabhála scoile mar chuid de phacáiste chun deileáil leis an mheathlú geilleagraich.

I am pleased that the Executive has agreed to provide an additional £4 million for school maintenance as part of a package to deal with the economic downturn.

I am fully aware of the importance of the construction industry to the local economy. Earlier this month, work commenced on a project to provide two new girls' colleges in Derry. This will provide much needed support for the local construction industry. In addition there are currently 23 major works projects currently on site.

In regard to future major school building projects the implications of the High Court judgement on the Major Works Framework is currently being assessed, and in the meantime my Department is drawing up an alternative procurement approach, outside the framework, to avoid prolonged delays in delivering projects which are ready to enter the procurement stage.

Special Needs Requirements

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Education if it is standard procedure that only two pupils per school be assessed for numeracy special needs requirements per year. (AQW 3029/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Príomhfheidhmeannaigh na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne dom nach gnáthchleachtas é nach ndéantar measúnú ach ar bheirt daltaí in aghaidh na scoile le mhagaidh ceanglas a bhaineann le riachtanais speisialta uimhearthachta agus/nó litearthachta in aghaidh na bliana.

I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards that it is not standard procedure that only two pupils per school be assessed for numeracy and/or literacy special needs requirements per year. All Boards, with the exception of the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB), use a Time Allocation model of service delivery which gives schools access to a fair allocation of educational psychology service time.

Using this system each school has its own waiting list of referrals to the Boards' educational psychology services. It is, therefore, the schools which prioritise the pupils whom they deem to be most in need of assessment, usually through discussion with the Boards' educational psychology services. This model allows schools to appraise the needs of pupils on their waiting lists on an ongoing basis including those pupils with literacy and/or numeracy needs.

In all Boards if information is presented to the educational psychologist (EP) during consultation that indicates that the pupil has exceptional circumstances such referrals will receive priority.

There is therefore no set limit throughout the north of Ireland to the number of referrals a school can make although the number of pupils who can be assessed by an educational psychologist may be limited within a given area due to the overall capacity of the service.

Special Needs Requirements

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Education if it is standard procedure that only two pupils per school be assessed for literacy special needs requirements per year. (AQW 3030/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Príomhfheidhmeannaigh na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne dom nach gnáthchleachtas é nach ndéantar measúnú ach ar bheirt daltaí in aghaidh na scoile le haghaidh ceanglas a bhaineann le riachtanais speisialta uimhearthachta agus/nó litearthachta in aghaidh na bliana.

I have been advised by the Chief Executives of the Education and Library Boards that it is not standard procedure that only two pupils per school be assessed for numeracy and/or literacy special needs requirements per year. All Boards, with the exception of the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB), use a Time Allocation model of service delivery which gives schools access to a fair allocation of educational psychology service time. Using this system each school has its own waiting list of referrals to the Boards' educational psychology services. It is, therefore, the schools which prioritise the pupils whom they deem to be most in need of assessment, usually through discussion with the Boards' educational psychology services. This model allows schools to appraise the needs of pupils on their waiting lists on an ongoing basis including those pupils with literacy and/or numeracy needs.

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There is therefore no set limit throughout the north of Ireland to the number of referrals a school can make although the number of pupils who can be assessed by an educational psychologist may be limited within a given area due to the overall capacity of the service.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education what contribution her Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3062/09)

The Minister of Education: Faoin dlínse seo, bíonn príomh fhreagracht ag Oifig an Chéad - Aire agus an Leas Chéad Aire (OFMDFM) i leith breithnithe Choinbhinsiún na Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Daoine faoi Mhíchumas (an Coinbhinsiún) a chur chun cinn.

Within this jurisdiction the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) has lead responsibility for progressing considerations on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention).

On 2 January 2007 OFMDFM wrote to departments (on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions) to ask them to scrutinise their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention.

The Department of Education is currently considering a proposed reservation for England, Scotland, Wales and ourselves in respect of Article 24 of the convention and will, after taking advice and having reached a considered view; contribute to the consultation process in relation to this reservation.

Article 55 Orders

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education how many Article 55 orders were obtained under the Children Order 1995 (i) in total; and (ii) by each Education and Library Board, in relation to non attendance in schools, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3087/09)

The Minister of Education: Liostaithe sa tábla thíos, tá líon na nOrduithe Maoirsithe Oideachais a fuair gach Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne le trí bliana anuas.

The number of Education Supervision Orders obtained by each of the Education and Library Boards in the last three years is listed in the table below:

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
BELB	*	0	#
NEELB	7	12	11
SEELB	7	0	*
SELB	0	0	0
WELB	*	13	10
Total	20	25	27

Notes

1. * denotes figures fewer than five.
2. # denotes a figure ≥ 5 which has been treated to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.

Non Attendance in Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of cases in which prosecutions for non attendance in schools included (i) both parents; and (ii) one parent, (a) in total; and (b) broken down by Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3090/09)

The Minister of Education: Leagtar amach sa tábla thíos líon na n-ionchúiseamh a bhaineann le tuismitheoirí i ngach Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne le trí bliana anuas.

The number of parent prosecutions in each Education and Library Board over the last three years is set out in the tables below:

2005/06

Year	One Parent	Both Parents	Total Parent Prosecutions
BELB	16	0	16
NEELB	5	0	5
SEELB	9	0	9
SELB	#	*	23
WELB	29	11	51

2006/07

Year	One Parent	Both Parents	Total Parent Prosecutions
BELB	#	*	22
NEELB	0	*	*
SEELB	*	0	*
SELB	#	*	30

Year	One Parent	Both Parents	Total Parent Prosecutions
WELB	36	13	62

2007/08

Year	One Parent	Both Parents	Total Parent Prosecutions
BELB	#	*	29
NEELB	5	*	#
SEELB	*	*	*
SELB	#	*	48
WELB	#	*	20

Notes

1. * denotes figures fewer than five.
2. # denotes a figure ≥ 5 which has been treated to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.
3. An incidence of 'both parents' prosecuted, is counted as 2 in the total prosecutions.

Please note that these figures do not include the number of parents who appeared in the Family Proceedings Court for Education Supervision Order hearings.

Article 55 Orders

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education which courts granted Article 55 orders obtained under the Children Order 1995 for non attendance in schools, since June 2005. (AQW 3092/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios ag na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne dom go bhfuil Orduithe Maoirsithe Oideachais deonaithe ag na cúirteanna seo a leanas, ó mhí an Mheithimh 2005:

I understand from the Education and Library Boards that, since June 2005, the following courts have granted Education Supervision Orders:

- Antrim Family Proceedings Court
- Ballymena Family Proceedings Court
- Belfast Family Proceedings Court
- Coleraine Family Proceedings Court
- Derry Family Proceedings Court
- Newtownards Family Proceedings Court
- Omagh Family Proceedings Court

Non Attendance in Schools

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education for the number of prosecutions for non attendance in schools broken down by (i) total; and (ii) Education and Library Board, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3093/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá líon na n-ionchúiseamh a bhaineann le tuismitheoirí amháin leagtha amach sa tábla thíos:

The number of parent only prosecutions is set out in the table below:

	Number of Parent Prosecutions		
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
BELB	16	22	29
NEELB	5	*	#

	Number of Parent Prosecutions		
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
SEELB	9	*	*
SELB	23	30	48
WELB	51	62	20
Total	104	117	107

Notes

1. * denotes figures fewer than five.
2. # denotes a figure ≥ 5 which has been treated to prevent disclosure of small numbers elsewhere.
3. An incidence of 'both parents' prosecuted, is counted as 2 in the total prosecutions.

These figures do not include the numbers of parents who have appeared in the Family Proceedings Court for Education Supervision Order hearings.

School Crossing Patrol Staff

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education to detail the reduction in the provision of school crossing patrol staff, in each parliamentary constituency. (AQW 3094/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas seo a leanas tugtha ag na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne agus léiríonn sé an t-íslíú ó thaobh líon na bpatról trasnaithe scoile de ón bhliain 2003/04:

The Education and Library Boards have provided the following information which shows the reduction in the number of school crossing patrols since 2003/04:

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Belfast East	6	-	1	5	4
Belfast North	6	-	-	3	4
Belfast South	6	-	-	2	1
Belfast West	3	-	1	4	6
East Antrim	3	-	1	-	-
North Antrim	-	-	1	-	2
South Antrim	-	-	-	1	-
North Down	-	-	1	-	2

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
South Down	-	-	1	1	-
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	2	1	5	2	1
Foyle	-	-	19	2	-
Lagan Valley	1	5	2	-	3
East Derry	1	-	3	1	-
Mid Ulster	-	2	6	-	-
Newry and Armagh	3	2	10	1	-
Strangford	-	1	1	-	4
West Tyrone	7	1	14	2	1
Upper Bann	4	4	25	5	1

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Total	42	16	91	29	29

School crossing patrols are not arbitrarily removed but are only removed by Boards where an easement indicates that the level of hazards has diminished sufficiently to warrant such action.

School Crossing Patrol Staff

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education to outline the total cost savings as a result of the reduction in school crossing patrol staff, broken down by parliamentary constituency. (AQW 3097/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas seo a leanas curtha ar fáil ag na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne agus léiríonn sé an coigilteas ar chostais a rinneadh trí hísliú ar líon na bpatról trasnaithe scoile ón bhliain 2003/04:

The Education and Library Boards have provided the following information which shows the cost savings through the reduction in the number of school crossing patrols since 2003/04:

Delegated Schools Budget

Mr Gallagher asked the Minister of Education to detail the delegated schools budget for each post-primary school in the Western Education and Library Board for each financial year since 2004-05. (AQW 3153/09)

The Minister of Education: Leagtar amach sa tábla thíos an leithdháileadh cistithe do gach iarbhunscoil i limistéar Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Iarthair i ngach bliain airgeadais ó 2004-05:

The funding allocation for each post primary school in Western Education and Library Board for each financial year since 2004-05 is set out in the table below:

Post Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Castleberg High School	£1,304,191	£1,470,079	£1,639,820	£1,727,703
Clondermot High School	£2,029,197	£0	£0	£0
Duke of Westminster High School	£769,746	£0	£0	£0
Enniskillen High School	£1,872,873	£0	£0	£0
Faughan Valley High School	£1,454,202	£0	£0	£0
Limavady High School	£2,699,329	£2,888,973	£3,099,324	£3,038,752
Lisnaskea High School	£668,451	£750,120	£772,472	£713,194
Omagh High School	£1,332,205	£1,535,949	£1,761,815	£1,710,085
Strabane High School	£1,042,275	£1,106,581	£1,113,513	£1,178,670
Lisneal College	£0	£3,772,889	£3,737,341	£3,714,415
Devenish College	£0	£2,619,393	£2,681,095	£2,613,008
Dean Brian Maguire College	£1,513,587	£1,657,690	£1,693,687	£1,752,106
Our Lady Of Mercy High School	£1,323,553	£554,378	£0	£0
St Aidans High School	£775,772	£879,880	£840,686	£838,628
Immaculate Conception College	£1,000,312	£1,074,000	£1,216,333	£1,173,537

Post Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
St Brigid's College, Carnhill	£3,078,684	£3,562,225	£3,820,091	£3,617,309
St Cecilia's College	£3,194,470	£3,412,848	£3,670,290	£3,729,079
St Colman's High School	£2,827,862	£1,179,468	£0	£0
St Comhghall's High School	£1,243,872	£1,276,422	£1,231,652	£1,210,403
St Eugene's High Roslea	£970,948	£1,045,892	£1,039,940	£1,046,203
St Eugene's High School	£683,515	£710,875	£754,699	£717,653
St Fanchea's College	£1,216,776	£1,324,355	£1,325,980	£1,336,842
St John's High School	£879,799	£885,559	£862,990	£768,761
St Joseph's College Enniskillen	£988,032	£1,033,492	£965,245	£1,009,463
St Joseph's High Plumbridge	£743,650	£747,369	£741,209	£514,855
St Joseph's Sec Creggan	£2,934,628	£3,384,618	£3,682,199	£3,712,418
St Mary's College Derry	£3,026,456	£3,434,272	£3,635,909	£3,689,947
St Mary's Sec Brollagh	£686,023	£720,907	£723,988	£766,354
St Mary's Sec Irvinestown	£676,926	£800,440	£805,369	£793,002
St Mary's High Limavady	£2,846,907	£3,043,353	£3,212,917	£3,229,483
St Patrick's & St Brigid's High	£1,670,790	£1,821,983	£1,925,189	£1,988,570
St Patrick's High Dungiven	£1,249,224	£1,299,597	£1,325,939	£1,335,357
St Peter's High School	£1,534,039	£1,517,653	£1,577,820	£1,623,618
Sacred Heart College	£3,005,596	£3,347,454	£3,620,339	£3,786,456
Holy Cross College	£0	£3,426,769	£5,712,425	£5,641,766
Enniskillen Collegiate	£1,649,401	£1,783,220	£1,847,501	£1,924,311
Limavady Grammar	£2,836,179	£3,133,428	£3,278,431	£3,346,824
Omagh Academy	£2,096,972	£2,329,829	£2,379,684	£2,485,635
Strabane Grammar	£1,307,130	£1,438,577	£1,599,761	£1,608,927

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many children, whose first language is not English, are enrolled in (i) nursery; (ii) primary; (iii) special needs; and (iv) post primary schools, in the South Eastern Education and Library Board, broken down by first language. (AQW 3181/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas cuimsithe sna táblaí thíos.

The information is contained in the tables below.

PUPILS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE ATTENDING NURSERY SCHOOLS IN THE SEELB AREA – 2007/08

First language	No. of EAL pupils
Cantonese	5

First language	No. of EAL pupils
Other	12
Total	17

PUPILS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE SEELB AREA – 2007/08

First language	No. of EAL pupils
Arabic	19
Bengali	24
Cantonese	47
Filipino	64
German	9
Hindi	12
Indian	8
Italian	11
Latvian	5
Lithuanian	21
Malaysian	9
Mandarin	7
Malayam	12
Other	141
Polish	101
Russian	5
Spanish	13
Tagalog	8
Urdu	6
Total	522

PUPILS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE ATTENDING POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE SEELB AREA – 2007/08

First language	No. of EAL pupils
Bengali	10
Cantonese	56
German	7
Hindi	6
Lithuanian	30
Mandarin	5
Other	61
Polish	51

First language	No. of EAL pupils
Total	226

PUPILS ATTENDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN THE SEELB WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH BROKEN DOWN BY FIRST LANGUAGE – 2007/08

First language	No. of EAL pupils
Other	5
Total	5

Source: Annual school census

Note:

1. Primary includes nursery, reception and year 1 – 7 classes
2. A child with English as an additional language is defined as one for whom English is not their first language and who has significant difficulty with the English language and requires assistance.
3. Occurrences of languages in less than 5 cases have been grouped into the 'Other' category.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education what preparations her Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3191/09)

The Minister of Education: Since January 2007, officials within the Department of Education have scrutinised their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) and to assess whether they had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention and to confirm how they arrived at their policy position.

The Department's Disability Action Plan will be updated to reflect any new actions to be carried out under the terms of the Convention.

Thaispeáin an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ar Dhul chun cinn na Roinne 2007/02, don Chomisiún Cothroime, gur thug an Roinn faoi bhearta gníomhaíochta de bhun a dualgaís bainte leis an mhí chumas.

The Department's 2007/08 Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission reflected action measures carried out in pursuance of its disability duties.

Rationalisation of Schools

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Education to report on the nature of the additional cost pressures of £22.7m and £19.5m anticipated in 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively in relation to the rationalisation of schools. (AQW 3220/09)

The Minister of Education: Éilíonn fostóirí na múinteoirí meicníocht chun luathscaoileadh na múinteoirí a éascú.

Teachers' employers require a mechanism to facilitate the early release of teachers. For example, they need to be able to:

- make necessary organisational changes in schools arising from curricular changes, rationalisation or falling enrolments;
- retire teachers whose performance and effectiveness have been significantly affected through not being able to cope with the demands of curricular, technological, or other changes; and
- facilitate the entry of young teachers into permanent full-time employment in local schools.

Having moved in 2008 to "hard charge" teachers' employers for the cost of discretionary "added years" enhancements, my Department plans to amend existing legislation in 2009 to make employers liable in addition

for the cost of early payment of pension in cases where they have agreed to grant premature retirement, or to make an enhanced severance payment as an alternative.

The Teachers' Pension Scheme can no longer meet the costs associated with premature retirement as the Scheme's liabilities would otherwise continue to increase at a much faster rate than the current level of contributions can sustain. The resources are therefore required to enable teachers' employers to meet these costs in future.

Teaching Staff

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education how many attacks there have been on teaching staff in the Lagan Valley constituency in the last five years. (AQW 3229/09)

The Minister of Education: Ní bhailíonn an Roinn Oideachais an t-eolas a iarradh.

The Department of Education does not collect the information requested.

However, statistics on the reasons for suspension and expulsion are gathered each school year from Education and Library Boards. The table below provides the number of occasions where pupils were suspended for physical attacks on staff, in Lagan Valley constituency schools, in the last five years.

School Year	No of occasions where pupils were suspended for physical attacks on staff
2002/03	15
2003/04	14
2004/05	8
2005/06	21
2006/07	10

Notes:

Includes pupils at Key Stage 1 – 4 in primary, post-primary and special schools.

Teaching Posts

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to answer AQW 2798/08, to detail the number of teaching posts being filled by substitute/temporary teachers in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools, in the East Belfast constituency. (AQW 3241/09)

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

The information requested is detailed in the table below:

School Type	Daily Paid Temporary teachers	Hourly Paid Temporary Teachers	Total
Primary	146	19	165
Secondary	62	3	65
Total	208	22	230

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Education to detail the total revenue generated through her Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3246/09)

The Minister of Education: Níl aon réadmhaoín ag an Roinn Oideachais agus mar sin de, ní shaothraíonn sí ioncam ó thalamh nó ó réadmhaoín a léasú d'fhonn tógáil crann cumarsáide teileafóin a éascú.

The Department of Education does not own any property and therefore does not generate any revenue from leasing land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts.

Extended Schools Programmes

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area operate extended schools programmes; and how many have had their funding cut in the last year. (AQW 3251/09)

The Minister of Education: Bíonn seirbhísí sínte ar fáil, thar an lá scoile tradisiúnta, ag formhór na scoileanna laistigh den limistéar SEELB agus bíonn an cumas orthu seo a dhéanamh mar gheall ar chónascadh idir iarrachtaí dheonacha, cistí scoile agus acmhainní a fritheadh ó eagraíochtaí a thugann deontais.

Most schools within the SEELB area offer extended services beyond the traditional school day and are able to do so through a combination of voluntary effort, school funds and resources raised from grant making organisations.

My Department supports extended activities in the most disadvantaged areas through the Extended Schools programme. As you know I have been highly supportive of this programme and have recently secured an additional £5m from the September monitoring round to restore previous funding levels.

In the current financial year 53 schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board were allocated funding from the Extended Schools programme.

Of these schools

- 23 have had funding reduced when compared to 2007/08 allocations. This has been due to either a drop in pupil enrolment figures or because the school concerned decided to withdraw from a clustering arrangement (schools which cluster are entitled to an additional 15% allocation).
- A further 4 schools that were previously fully funded were allocated reduced funding because the percentage of pupils enrolled who are classified as disadvantaged or lived in disadvantaged areas fell just below the qualifying threshold.

There were 23 schools which were no longer eligible for the programme because the percentage of qualifying pupils enrolled fell short of the qualifying threshold. In those cases I was able to provide funding for the period April-June 2008 to see the schools through to the end of the last school year.

Educational Psychologists

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many children are waiting to see an educational psychologist in each school, in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area. (AQW 3252/09)

The Minister of Education: I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the South-Eastern Education and Library Board that the number of children waiting to see an educational psychologist (EP) in the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB) area is as detailed in the tables below. In line with the Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) policy in cases where the number of pupils is 4 or less these have been suppressed and are listed separately.

It should also be noted that these figures do not include children waiting for reviews of their special educational needs (SEN) at Stage 3 of the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs (COP), waiting for annual reviews of their statements of SEN at Stage 5 of the COP or assessments in relation to the Transfer Procedure.

I gcás na scoileanna ar fad i limistéar an SEELB nach bhfuil liostaithe, níl aon pháistí ag fanacht ar shíceolaí oideachais a fheiceáil faoi láthair.

For all schools in the SEELB not listed there are currently no children waiting to see an EP.

1. STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT REFERRALS – 5 OR MORE CHILDREN

- Castle Gardens P.S. — 5
- Cedar I.P.S. — 5
- Christ The Redeemer P.S. — 6
- Redburn P.S. — 5
- St. Macartan's P.S. — 5
- St. Mary's P.S. (Newcastle) — 5

2. STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT REFERRALS – 4 OR LESS CHILDREN

- Abbey P.S.
- Academy P.S.
- All Children's I.P.S.
- Anahilt P.S.
- Andrews P.S.
- Ballycloughan P.S.
- Ballyholme P.S.
- Ballykinlar P.S.
- Ballymacash P.S.
- Ballymacrickett P.S.
- Ballymacward P.S.
- Ballynahinch P.S.
- Ballynahinch H.S.
- Ballywalter P.S.
- Bangor Central I.P.S.
- Barbour N.S.
- Belvoir Park P.S.
- Bloomfield Road P.S.
- Braniel P.S.
- Cairnshill P.S.
- Carr P.S.
- Carrowdore P.S.
- Carryduff Play Group
- Carryduff P.S.
- Castlereagh N.S.
- Chirpy Chicks Play Group
- Connor House P.S.
- Convent Of Mercy N.S.
- Crawfordburn P.S.
- Cumran P.S.
- De La Salle H.S.
- Derriaghy P.S.
- Derryboy P.S.
- Donaghadee P.S.
- Down H.S. Prep
- Downpatrick P.S.
- Downshire P.S.
- Drumlins I.P.S.
- Dundonald P.S.
- Forthill I.C.
- Friends' School Prep.
- Glasswater Playgroup
- Glasswater P.S.
- Glastry College
- Glencraig I.P.S.

- Glenlola Collegiate
- Good Shepherd P.S.
- Grange Park P.S.
- Grove Playgroup
- Harmony Hill P.S.
- Harmony Hill Nursery Unit
- Holy Family P.S.
- Hollywood P.S.
- Kids Kabin Playgroup
- Kilcooley P.S.
- Killinchy P.S.
- Killowen P.S.
- Kilmaine P.S.
- Kircubbin N.S.
- Kircubbin I.P.S.
- Knockbreda H.S.
- Knockbreda P.S.
- Lagan College
- Largymore P.S.
- Lisburn Central P.S. Nursery Unit
- Londonderry P.S.
- Maghaberry P.S.
- Meadow Bridge P.S.
- Millennium I.P.S.
- Millisle P.S.
- Naiscoil Uachtar Tire
- Newcastle P.S.
- Newtownards Model P.S.
- Oakwood I.P.S.
- Pond Park N.S.
- Portaferry I.P.S.
- Priory College
- Rathkeltair Playgroup
- Rathmore P.S.
- Regent House
- Regent House Prep.
- Riverdale P.S.
- Sacred Heart P.S.
- Segal House N.S.
- Seymour Hill P.S.
- St. Anne's P.S.
- St. Brigid's P.S.
- St. Colman's P.S.
- St. Colmcille's N.S.
- St. Colmcille's P.S.
- St. Comgall's P.S.

- St.Finian's P.S.
- St.Ita's P.S. Nursery Unit
- St.Ita's P.S.
- St.Joseph's P.S. (Ballycruttle)
- St. Joseph's P.S. (Carnacaville)
- St.Joseph's P.S. (Carryduff)
- St. Joseph's P.S. (Crossgar)
- St. Joseph's P.S. (Killough)
- St. Joseph's P.S. (Lisburn)
- St. Joseph's P.S. (Tyrella)
- St. Kieran's P.S.
- St. Malachy's P.S. (Bangor)
- St.Malachy's P.S. (Castlewellan)
- St. Malachy's P.S. (Kilclief)
- St. Malahy's P.S. (Kilcoo)
- St. Malachy's P.S. Nursery Unit
- St. Mark's P.S. Nursery Unit
- St. Mary's P.S. (AughlisnaFin)
- St.Mary's P.S. (Dunsford)
- St.Mary's P.S. (Killyleagh)
- St. Mary's P.S. Nursery Unit
- St. Nicholas' P.S.
- St. Patrick's P.S. (Ballygalget)
- St. Patrick's P.S. (Downpatrick)
- St.Patrick's P.S. (Holywood)
- St.Patrick's P.S. (Legamaddy)
- Tiggers Palace Nursery
- Tiny Toons Playgroup
- Towerview P.S.
- Tullycarnet P.S.
- Victoria P.S. (Balyhalbert)
- Victoria P.S. (Newtownards)
- Wallace H.S. Prep.
- Wallace H.S.
- West Winds P.S.

3. STAGE 4 ASSESSMENT REFERRALS – 4 OR LESS CHILDREN

- Ballymacash P.S. Nursery Unit
- Ballymacrickett P.S.
- Cairnshill P.S.
- Convent Of Mercy P.S.
- Cumran P.S.
- Holy Trinity N.S.
- Laurelhill Community College
- Lough View I.P.S.
- Malone I.C.
- Meadow Bridge P.S.

- Rathmore P.S.
 - Redburn P.S.
 - St.Kieran's P.S.
 - St.Mary's P.S. (Kircubbin)
 - St. Nicholas' P.S.
 - Victoria P.S. (Ballyhalbert)
 - Wallace H.S.
4. **SCREENING REFERRALS FOR SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES – 5 OR MORE CHILDREN**
- Ballynahinch P.S. — 6
5. **SCREENING REFERRALS FOR SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES – 4 OR LESS CHILDREN**
- ABBEY P.S.
 - Academy P.S.
 - All Children's I.P.S.
 - Anahilt P.S.
 - Andrews Memorial P.S.
 - Ballycarrickmaddy P.S.
 - Ballvester P.S.
 - Bloomfield Road P.S.
 - Braniel P.S.
 - Cairnshill P.S.
 - Carryduff P.S.
 - Castle Gardens P.S.
 - Christ The Redeemer P.S.
 - Downpatrick P.S.
 - Dromara P.S.
 - Friends' School Prep.
 - Holy Family P.S.
 - Killinchy P.S.
 - Killowen P.S.
 - Kilmaine P.S.
 - Kirkistown P.S.
 - Knockbreda P.S.
 - Leadhill P.S.
 - Lisnasharragh P.S.
 - Londonderry P.S.
 - Magheraberry P.S.
 - Meadow Bridge P.S.
 - Pond Park P.S.
 - St. Aloysius P.S.
 - St. Bernard's P.S.
 - St. Brigid's P.S.
 - St.Malachy's P.S. (Bangor)
 - St.Malachy's P.S. (Kilcoo)
 - St.Mary's P.S. (Dunsford)
 - St. Mary's P.S. (Saintfield)
 - Towerview P.S.
 - 1 School Not Recorded

Post Primary Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils enrolled at each post primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area, for each year since 2004. (AQW 3253/09)

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

The information requested is contained in the table below.

POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS ENROLMENT – SEELB – 2004/05 – 2007/08

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
Assumption Gs	929	921	907	909
Bangor Academy and 6th Form College	1,461	1,396	1,329	1,289
Bangor Gs	886	888	912	894
Comber High School	356	356	371	387
De La Salle Secondary School	392	390	376	341
Donaghadee High School	259	280	248	213
Down Academy	298	294	274	240
Down High School	916	941	918	941
Dundonald High School	492	434	375	332
Dunmurry High School	305	300	326	310
Fort Hill College	858	865	868	869
Friends' School	970	971	976	976
Glastry College	598	609	620	624
Glenlola Collegiate	1,079	1,082	1,078	1,073
Knockbreda High School	655	646	609	574
Lagan College	1,068	1,105	1,156	1,200
Laurelhill Community College	964	957	952	934
Lisnagarvey High School	368	350	322	280
Lisnasharragh High School	242	239	193	69
Movilla High School	779	698	652	593
Newtownbreda High School	825	790	742	707
Our Lady and St Patrick's College	1,251	1,248	1,256	1,250
Priory College	478	474	421	423
Regent House School	1,393	1,394	1,385	1,413
Saintfield High School	328	336	343	348
Shimna Integrated College	493	514	506	510
St Colman's High School, Ballynahinch	422	368	333	294
St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar	445	449	460	451
St Colm's High School, Twinbrook	693	704	701	692
St Columbanus' College, Bangor	492	519	524	545
St Columba's High School, Portaferry	306	293	288	271
St Malachy's High School, Castlewellan	994	998	1,005	1,022
St Mary's High School, Downpatrick	583	578	546	533

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
St Patrick's Gs, Downpatrick	727	716	716	710
St Patrick's High School , Lisburn	302	318	302	320
Strangford Integrated College	475	469	488	503
Sullivan Upper School	1,067	1,065	1,066	1,061
The High School Ballynahinch	367	377	384	375
Wallace High School	1,157	1,152	1,165	1,158

Source: Annual school census

Primary Schools

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the number of pupils enrolled at each primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area, for each year since 2004. (AQW 3254/09)

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

The information requested is contained in the table below.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS – ENROLMENT BY SCHOOL – SEELB – 2004/05 – 2007/08

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
Abbey Ps, Loughries	634	621	623	618
Academy Ps	418	425	423	422
Alexander Dickson Ps	182	171	153	125
All Childrens Integrated Ps	209	201	201	199
Anahilt Ps, Dromara	238	235	215	188
Andrews Memorial Ps, Comber	390	376	366	346
Annsborough Ps, Dundrum	46	47	51	50
Ballycarrickmaddy Ps	162	175	167	158
Ballycloughan Ps	54	56	47	37
Ballyholme Ps	593	578	591	600
Ballykeigle Ps	59	58	59	59
Ballymacash Ps	379	371	354	366
Ballymacrickett Ps	283	285	303	282
Ballymacward Ps	105	105	96	93
Ballymagee Ps	400	403	403	404
Ballynahinch Pse	382	374	357	332
Ballyvester Ps	86	85	73	67
Ballywalter Ps	187	196	175	175
Bangor Central Ps	532	534	561	562
Bangor Grammar School Prep Dept	138	136	132	137
Belvoir Park Ps, Minnowburn	318	311	289	290
Bloomfield Road Ps, Bangor	331	319	314	307
Braniel Ps, Lower Braniel	375	378	369	362

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
Brooklands Ps, Grahams Bridge	602	613	598	575
Brownlee Ps, Hilden	142	153	154	160
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	51	50	54	48
Cairnshill Ps, Knockbracken	572	545	515	507
Carr Ps, Ballymacbrennan	86	79	61	68
Carrickmannon Ps, Ballygowan	84	88	87	90
Carrowdore Ps, Carrowdore	148	145	141	133
Carryduff Ps, Carryduff East	189	174	157	165
Castle Gardens Ps, Gregstown	345	341	344	326
Castlewellan Ps, Castlewellan	78	74	75	73
Cedar Integrated Ps, Kilmore	215	218	216	222
Charley Memorial Ps, Drumbo	20	15	10	0
Christ The King Ps, Seaforde	144	148	130	105
Christ The Redeemer Ps, Derryaghy	451	524	553	574
Clandeboyne Ps, Rathgael	272	253	227	188
Clough Ps	134	0	0	0
Comber Ps	399	362	369	356
Conlig Ps	45	51	46	43
Convent Of Mercy Ps, Audleys Acre	253	234	220	201
Crawfordsburn Ps,	177	211	207	188
Cregagh Ps, Cregagh	159	163	175	177
Crossgar Ps, Crossgar	71	64	52	0
Cumran Primary School, Seaforde	0	157	157	171
Derriaghy Ps	53	56	53	43
Derryboy Ps	79	74	80	80
Donaghadee Ps	418	405	417	418
Down High School Prep Dept	137	138	127	128
Downpatrick Ps	176	194	201	213
Downshire Ps, Dundrum	24	0	0	0
Downshire Ps, Hillsborough	0	488	501	538
Dromara Ps	128	135	150	162
Drumaghlis Ps, Kilmore	50	47	36	0
Drumaroad Ps, Dunmore	33	35	33	36
Drumbo Ps	19	18	12	0
Drumlins Integrated Ps, Kilmore	12	23	36	61
Dundonald Ps	575	577	560	572
Dunmurry Ps	166	166	164	158
Fort Hill Ps, Hilden	257	258	260	239
Friend's School Prep Dept	155	158	153	145

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
Gilnahirk Ps	419	406	393	396
Glasswater Controlled Ps	0	0	0	76
Glenraig Ps, Craigavad	187	211	226	228
Glenlola Collegiate Prep Dept	86	88	71	76
Grange Park Ps, Bryansburn	351	361	364	364
Grey Abbey Ps	72	76	76	72
Groomsport Ps	21	20	25	0
Guinness Ps, Dunmore	26	25	22	18
Harmony Hill Ps	685	671	631	614
Hilden Integrated Ps, Lambeg	67	57	51	36
Hillhall Ps	52	48	39	0
Hillsborough Ps	386	0	0	0
Hollywood Ps	382	367	355	332
Kilcooley Ps	146	134	138	127
Killinchy Ps	301	319	309	320
Killowen Ps, Lisnagarvy	410	389	376	371
Killyleagh Ps	100	95	99	93
Kilmaine Ps, Ballymacconnell	648	649	654	654
Kircubbin Ps	117	110	104	105
Kirkistown Ps	84	92	101	108
Knockbreda Ps, Wynchurch	164	156	129	131
Knockmore Ps	171	171	163	163
Lambeg Ps	20	31	23	0
Largymore Ps, Hillhall	168	165	146	139
Lead Hill Ps	180	157	141	143
Legamaddy Ps, Killough	178	183	183	176
Lisburn Central Ps	282	251	234	204
Lisnasharragh Ps	269	236	227	202
Londonderry Ps	299	304	313	315
Loughries Ps, Carrowdore	80	79	72	72
Loughview Integrated Ps	383	412	434	433
Lower Ballinderry Ps	170	183	186	175
Maghaberry Ps	267	263	262	264
Mckinney Ps, Glenavy	151	154	153	150
Meadow Bridge Ps, Maghaberry	247	244	247	243
Millennium Integrated Ps	107	131	173	183
Millisle Ps	138	142	143	146
Moirs Ps	383	383	357	363
Moneyrea Ps	143	138	138	142

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
Newcastle Ps	217	213	193	191
Newport Ps	41	0	0	0
Newtownards Model Ps	367	365	375	387
Newtownbreda Ps	193	159	144	121
Oakwood Integrated Ps	190	201	207	209
Old Warren Ps	137	135	127	117
Our Lady Queen Of Peace, Poleglass	287	324	355	383
Pond Park Ps, Ballymacash	585	580	572	551
Portaferry Integrated Ps	84	87	83	81
Portavogie Ps	209	195	197	207
Rathmore Ps, Spring Hill	447	461	477	482
Redburn Ps	145	135	117	83
Regent House School Prep Dept	140	143	137	132
Riverdale Ps, Ballymacbrennan	190	181	188	188
Rowandale Integrated Ps	0	0	0	18
Sacred Heart Ps, Dundrum	90	90	82	79
Scoil Na Fuisseoige, Twinbrook	137	139	134	133
Seymour Hill Ps, Seymour Hill	203	196	194	174
Spa Ps, Dunmore	193	194	183	175
St Aloysius Ps, Old Warren	285	281	277	284
St Anne's Ps, Donaghadee South	40	38	34	34
St Bernard's Ps, Wynchurch	394	394	388	394
St Brigid's Ps, Quoile	144	144	154	167
St Caolan's, Derryboy	78	74	71	64
St Colman's Ps, Harmony Hill	332	319	316	301
St Colman's Ps, Maghaberry	29	31	20	18
St Colmcille's Ps, Cathedral	214	211	211	216
St Comgall's Ps, Bryansburn	295	289	287	286
St Finian's Ps, Central (Ards)	113	107	126	123
St Ita's Primary School, Carryduff	0	307	382	427
St Joseph's Ps, Ardglass	54	54	53	48
St Joseph's Ps, Carryduff	808	527	480	452
St Joseph's Ps, Hilden	223	252	274	288
St Joseph's Ps, Downpatrick	76	70	75	74
St Joseph's Ps, Killough	80	85	82	82
St Joseph's Ps, Kilmore	121	117	120	108
St Joseph's Ps, Murlough	145	149	151	150
St Joseph's Ps, Strangford	50	51	56	57
St Kierans Ps, Collin Glen	501	457	437	387

School Name	2004/ 05	2005/ 06	2006/ 07	2007/ 08
St Luke's Ps, Kilwee	255	227	226	222
St Macartan's Ps, Drumaness	151	147	166	175
St Malachy's Ps, Castlewellan	293	301	291	293
St Malachy's Ps, Clandeboye	379	372	362	321
St Malachy's Ps, Strangford	62	62	60	64
St Malachy's Ps, Tollymore	117	117	118	122
St Mark's Ps, Twinbrook	587	553	522	480
St Mary's Ps, Abbey	426	389	401	384
St Mary's Ps, Ardglass	81	86	85	89
St Mary's Ps, Ballygowan	20	16	3	0
St Mary's Ps, Comber East	34	35	37	42
St Mary's Ps, Killyleagh	130	117	126	123
St Mary's Ps, Kilmore	64	66	70	60
St Mary's Ps, Kircubbin	127	138	122	125
St Mary's Ps, Portaferry	252	248	236	228
St Mary's, Aghlisnafin	137	130	133	133
St Nicholas' Ps, Ardglass	131	131	128	122
St Patrick's Boys' Ps, Ballymote	321	322	305	306
St Patrick's Ps, Ballymaglave	270	254	250	257
St Patrick's Ps, Holywood	254	250	252	237
St Patrick's Ps, Kircubbin	89	85	89	96
St Patrick's Ps, Strangford	136	132	128	142
St Patrick's Ps, Tollymore	44	46	47	46
Sullivan Upper School Prep Dept	178	180	178	184
The Good Shepherd Ps , Poleglass	413	394	366	348
The Holy Family Ps, Drumaness	205	198	201	191
Tonagh Ps	158	153	155	152
Towerview Ps, Ballymacconnell	379	377	370	385
Tullycarnet Ps	158	126	107	88
Tyrella Ps	91	58	53	32
Victoria Ps (Ballyhalbert)	115	137	136	138
Victoria Ps, Central (Ards)	543	555	556	573
Wallace High School Prep Dept	165	160	152	146
West Winds Ps	165	149	156	143

Source: Annual school census

Note: 1. Primary includes nursery, reception and year 1 – 7 classes.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Dunclug; (ii) Fairgreen; (iii) Park; (iv) Ballyloughan; (v) Academy; (vi) Ardeevin; and (vii) Galgorm areas in Ballymena, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3255/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Summerfield; (ii) Castle Demesne; (iii) Ballykeel; (iv) Moat; (v) Ballee; (vi) Harryville; and (vii) Kells areas in Ballymena, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3256/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlaine an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Glebe; (ii) Route; (iii) Fairhill; (iv) Carniny; and (v) Newhill areas in Ballymoney, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3257/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Dunminning; (ii) Portglenone; (iii) Cullybackey; (iv) Ahoghill; (v) Grange areas in Ballymena, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3259/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Energy for Schools

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Education to report on the nature of the additional cost of £8.8m for energy for schools in 2009/10, considering the changing global energy market. (AQW 3266/09)

The Minister of Education: Baineann an tairiscint fá choinne acmhainní breise de £8.8 milliún i leith costas fuinnimh agus fóntais sa bhliain 2009 -10 do Bhoird, do scoileanna agus don earnáil ógra, baineann sí le brúnna boilscithe a bhaineann le táillí leictreachais, táillí gáis agus táillí tráchtála uisce.

The bid for additional resources of £8.8 million for energy and utility costs in 2009-10 for Boards, schools and the youth sector is in respect of inflationary pressures relating to electricity, gas and commercial water charges. The bid is based on the significant inflationary increases in the third quarter of the 2008-09 financial year.

St Malachy's Youth Centre

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2769/09, if her Department received an economic appraisal for the proposed St Malachy's Youth Centre in November 2008. (AQW 3282/09)

The Minister of Education: Fuair an Roinn breithmheas leasaithe eacnamaíochta ar an 25 Meitheamh 2008.

The Department received a revised economic appraisal on the 25 June 2008. Comments and questions regarding the economic appraisal were sent back to St Malachy's for action and the Department is awaiting a response.

Playgroups

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Education how she is going to ensure that every pre-school child has a PEAG place in the playgroup of their parents' choice. (AQW 3285/09)

The Minister of Education: Faoin Chlár um Leathnú ar Oideachas Réamh Scoile (PSEEP), bíonn áiteanna chistithe curtha ar fáil i meascán d'aonaid rialaithe, d'aonaid faoi chothabháil, d'aonaid imeasctha agus d'aonaid Ghaelscolaíochta san earnáil reachtúil, agus i naíolanna san earnáil dheonach agus san earnáil phríobháideach.

Under the Pre-School Education Expansion Programme (PSEEP) funded places have been provided in a mixture of controlled, maintained, integrated and Irish medium units in the statutory sector, and playgroups and day nurseries in the voluntary and private sector.

Since the start of the Programme (1998/99) the Department's view has been that all places are open to all children, though, in any given area, we try to provide choice through a mixture of providers.

For the 2008/09 school year my Department initially provided funding for 6,930 pre-school places in the voluntary/private playgroup sector.

At 30th September 2008, Education and Library Boards indicated an uptake of 6,880 funded pre-school places in the voluntary/private sector i.e. a reduced requirement of 50 places. This indicates that there are sufficient places available for every child in their final pre-school year. However, it should be noted that demand is not always geographically matched to supply.

Playgroups

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Education (i) what stage has been reached in the allocation of PEAG places for 2009; and (ii) what criteria is used in assessing the number of PEAG places a playgroup is allocated per year. (AQW 3286/09)

The Minister of Education:

- (i) Thug mo Roinn an teolas do na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne ar an 28ú Samhain 2008 maidir le líon na n-áiteanna mhaoinithe i naiscoileanna a leithdháileadh sna earnalacha dheonacha / phríobháideacha don bhliain acadúil 2009/10.
- (i) My Department notified Education and Library Boards on 28th November 2008 of the number of funded places pre-school education places allocated in the voluntary/private sector for the 2009/10 academic year.

The Education and Library Boards are now in the process of advising individual voluntary playgroups of their allocation of places.

This process, over the five Education and Library Boards, will be completed by early to mid January 2009.

- (ii) The Education and Library Boards use a number of indicators in assessing the number of places individual playgroups are allocated each year. These include:-
 - Current provision – uptake of places i.e. the number of places the playgroup received in the previous year.
 - Enrolment patterns i.e. the average number of places filled over the last few years.
 - Degree of shortfall/surplus in an area including specific requests for additional places due to local pressures.
 - Provision and uptake of places at neighbouring settings.

Playgroups

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Education what consideration is given to fluctuating intakes at playgroups in the allocation of PEAG places. (AQW 3287/09)

The Minister of Education: Socraíonn PEAGanna leithdháileadh tosaigh na n-áiteanna cistithe chuig suíomhanna naíonraí deonacha bunaithe ar mheasúnú riachtanais a thugann aird ar leithdháiltí ó bhlianta roimhe agus ón bhliain reatha.

PEAG's determine the initial allocation of funded places to voluntary pre-school settings based on an assessment of need which takes account of previous and current year's allocations. They closely monitor admissions to identify surplus places for reallocation to areas of shortfall.

Playgroups

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Education if she can confirm to playgroups the number of PEAG places they have been allocated, in January 2009. (AQW 3288/09)

The Minister of Education: My Department issued letters to the Education and Library Boards on 28th November 2008 informing them of the number of funded pre-school education places allocated in the voluntary/private sector for the 2009/10 academic year.

The Education and Library Boards are now in the process of advising individual voluntary playgroups of their allocation of places for the 2009/10 academic year.

Beidh an próiseas seo, a bhaineann leis an cuig Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne, críochnaithe uair éigin go luath i mí Eanáir nó i lár na míosa sin.

This process, over the five Education and Library Boards, will be completed by early to mid January 2009.

Schools in Rural Areas

Mr Doherty asked the Minister of Education if she will liaise with the Department for Regional Development to develop and implement a strategy to ensure that schools located in rural areas remain accessible in inclement weather conditions. (AQW 3290/09)

The Minister of Education: Déanfaidh na Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne iarracht i gcónaí lena chinntiú go soláthraítear seirbhísí i rith tréimhsí drochaimsire.

The Education and Library Boards will always attempt to ensure that school transport services are provided during periods of inclement weather. However, children's safety is of the utmost concern, so it is possible vehicles may not be able to travel to schools under certain road conditions. In that instance, I would be happy to support any initiative to improve road conditions that my Ministerial colleague in the Department for Regional Development might bring forward.

School Maintenance Programme

Dr McDonnell asked the Minister of Education for her assessment of how many pupils are being taught in sub-standard accommodation due to the £217m backlog in school maintenance. (AQW 3291/09)

The Minister of Education: Ní thugann sé le tuiscint go mbíonn an chóiríocht scoile go hiomlán ina droch chóiríocht nuair a aithnítear go bhfuil oibreacha chothábhála de dhíth ar scoil.

The identification of maintenance works for a school does not imply that the overall accommodation is sub-standard. The required maintenance varies significantly from school to school. There has been significant under-investment in the education estate over many years and action is being taken to address the problem with around 100 major capital projects either currently on site or in planning.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Education which policies and practices within her Department have been changed to deliver the 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11. (AQW 3294/09)

The Minister of Education: Caithfidh an Roinn coigiltí éifeachtachta den iomlán £372 milliún a sholáthar thar tréimhse trí bliana ó 2008/09 go dtí 2010/11.

The Department is required to deliver efficiency savings totalling almost £372million over the three year period 2008-09 to 2010-11. These savings will be delivered through a range of policies and practices many of which will be determined where the services are delivered at the front line. Key elements of the efficiency programme include the streamlining of administration and establishment of the Education and Skills Authority; the implementation of Special Education and Inclusion Review.

The Department has published a Summary Efficiency Delivery Plan on its website. This document sets out further details on each of the policy areas and practices which will be directly impacted by the requirement to deliver the Budget 2008-11 efficiencies. The plan can be accessed at the following website page:

http://www.deni.gov.uk/de_edp_introduction_rv.pdf

Schools Budget

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to provide the delegated schools budget for each primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board, for each financial year since 2004-5. (AQW 3307/09)

The Minister of Education: Leagtar amach sna táblaí thíos leithdháileadh cistithe fá choinne gach bunscoil agus gach iar-bhunscoil Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirdheiscirt i ngach bliain airgeadais ó 2004-05.

The funding allocation for each primary and post primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board for each financial year since 2004-05 is set out in the tables below:

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Abbey	1,221,079	1,308,701	1,338,603	1,412,970
Academy	775,376	839,316	895,508	934,652
Alexander Dickson	391,543	408,872	419,631	392,999
Anahilt	506,058	506,736	524,622	519,129
Andrews Memorial	805,004	810,156	823,947	859,618
Ballycarrickmaddy	345,208	360,606	403,314	415,065
Ballycloughan	156,050	162,578	174,302	168,160
Ballyholme	1,175,360	1,216,818	1,265,732	1,351,578
BallykElgle	136,653	165,389	186,605	196,731
Ballymacash	750,449	823,904	834,003	815,032
Ballymagee	802,935	851,148	893,003	944,152
Ballynahinch	833,849	811,169	938,273	923,777
Ballyvester	200,312	218,233	234,462	222,103
Ballywalter	407,042	451,886	474,674	482,877
Belvoir Park	726,807	739,714	785,241	766,501
Bloomfield Road	675,915	724,167	752,406	773,149
Branial	760,169	797,175	849,595	874,146
Brooklands	1,254,583	1,302,079	1,443,866	1,472,998
Brownlee	286,104	353,059	409,978	435,288
Cairnshill	1,125,249	1,142,559	1,159,243	1,150,293
Carr	207,003	219,583	227,779	212,128
Carrickmannon	207,669	224,413	250,312	265,569
Carrowdore	337,925	340,830	355,677	365,320

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Carryduff	433,224	425,342	447,598	401,427
Castle Gardens	751,611	758,151	794,536	837,037
Castlewellan	192,081	208,021	226,139	231,832
Charley Memorial	99,482	90,685	92,050	35,810
Clandeboyne	609,066	609,479	618,876	600,423
Clough	287,292	30,905	Closed	Closed
Cumran	0	331,540	388,961	459,486
Comber	779,280	846,026	819,629	868,648
Conlig	159,351	156,848	181,113	168,577
Crawfordsburn	400,046	409,905	494,080	514,440
Cregagh	358,498	402,782	460,510	511,311
Crossgar	174,833	194,742	193,071	73,026
Derriaghy	175,082	173,767	203,983	208,250
Derryboy	181,710	213,662	224,223	244,010
Donaghadee	837,923	890,784	913,769	954,682
Downpatrick	398,324	420,463	513,431	545,761
Downshire Dundrum	87,711	13,719	Closed	Closed
Downshire Hillsborough	0	845,503	1,042,407	1,153,431
Dromara	272,954	306,778	344,175	404,212
Drumbo	95,679	95,917	106,667	37,445
Dundonald	1,123,557	1,202,029	1,313,516	1,362,551
Dunmurry	374,347	388,354	413,586	441,877
Fort Hill	527,948	566,709	623,780	668,532
Gilnahirk	823,547	865,982	883,118	915,838
Glencraig IPS	409,454	462,522	525,078	568,036
Grange Park	678,414	737,251	786,544	830,890
Greyabbey	194,692	197,862	215,709	228,342
Groomsport	103,680	97,279	104,904	49,903
Harmony Hill	1,344,728	1,462,161	1,490,378	1,462,779
Hillhall	133,696	153,116	166,444	60,301
Hillsborough	764,336	145,863	Closed	Closed
Holywood	801,322	807,086	812,308	812,810
Kilcooley	395,019	426,411	442,908	486,291
Killinchy	554,478	612,685	679,234	698,520
Killowen	799,683	844,145	856,275	863,814
Killyleagh	264,222	260,380	288,514	321,510
Kilmaine	1,217,636	1,313,672	1,381,933	1,482,420
Kirkistown	183,437	213,609	275,431	302,851

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Knockbreda	365,839	382,510	399,327	357,870
Knockmore	393,533	420,465	472,621	465,917
Lambeg	107,832	95,992	144,535	48,756
Largymore	462,363	415,256	478,288	439,852
Leadhill	390,493	402,452	385,916	364,581
Lisburn Central	639,392	641,994	625,928	638,185
Lisnasharragh	646,955	634,963	617,804	622,369
Londonderry	647,451	675,640	736,477	783,783
Loughries	202,867	206,579	224,314	227,313
Ballinderry	350,607	377,786	427,820	446,382
Maghaberry	475,741	535,953	568,527	595,532
McKinney	330,563	363,237	384,578	409,543
Millisle	323,039	338,388	380,033	404,178
Moir	723,296	795,436	837,747	817,335
Moneyrea	300,622	330,694	340,555	360,667
Newcastle	451,999	472,729	483,013	471,928
Newport	149,977	28,203	Closed	Closed
Newtownards Model	770,679	791,343	828,529	896,267
Newtownbreda	406,880	438,821	405,289	397,297
Old Warren	372,709	387,945	430,318	441,718
Pond Park	1,106,174	1,210,209	1,266,193	1,313,304
Portavogie	387,198	441,817	462,481	487,951
Rathmore	896,595	945,871	994,200	1,077,797
Redburn	355,461	387,834	417,211	377,312
Seymour Hill	472,280	489,492	502,237	537,436
Spa	391,870	427,153	438,672	447,295
Tonagh	407,833	389,057	413,467	440,124
Towerview	713,197	761,931	806,597	843,969
Tullycarnet	443,164	447,073	435,071	381,744
Kindle IPS (formerly Tyrella PS)	250,124	269,157	209,965	247,503
Victoria Ballyhalbert	262,453	290,265	355,546	370,804
Victoria Newtownards	1,020,696	1,136,876	1,247,879	1,331,369
Westwinds	412,353	435,099	457,228	506,495
Riverdale	381,891	412,160	417,183	452,781
Meadow Bridge	504,745	530,192	541,220	575,720
Glasswater	0	0	0	194,116
Aughlisnafin	309,424	328,474	337,132	367,137
Ballymacrickett	574,298	601,677	643,242	701,811

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Ballymacward	242,801	265,548	286,722	287,502
Christ the Redeemer	844,896	1,047,103	1,371,587	1,488,356
Convent of Mercy	560,992	573,617	640,676	595,912
St Caolans	186,358	205,406	215,554	223,694
Drumaghlis	141,385	149,755	151,234	55,199
Christ the King	323,743	344,798	366,426	356,743
St Francis PS Drumaroad	108,858	114,733	128,666	136,890
Good Shepherd Primary	1,000,448	1,030,652	1,083,619	1,069,079
Guinness	113,718	112,769	117,738	123,890
Holy Family	421,535	440,254	453,038	486,245
St Patricks Legamaddy	398,195	405,805	434,867	461,423
Sacred Heart	232,123	240,445	260,553	260,365
Scoil Na Fuisseoige	399,783	383,161	409,755	438,379
St Aloysius	595,973	650,790	668,464	702,399
St Annes	123,881	132,163	147,247	152,497
St Bernards	774,746	814,215	861,079	889,080
St Brigids	320,719	363,636	387,633	470,836
St Colmans Lisburn	691,867	687,547	706,858	745,445
St Colmans Moira	113,811	118,623	129,958	117,292
St Colmcilles	500,198	563,751	627,550	633,998
St Comgalls	606,505	642,131	662,770	673,557
St Finians	267,661	280,731	313,234	371,417
St Josephs Ballycruttle	143,438	158,329	169,302	180,394
St Josephs Carnacaville	351,959	335,210	361,579	397,612
St Josephs Carryduff	1,470,179	1,289,513	1,196,537	1,079,784
St Josephs Crossgar	290,849	290,579	297,856	329,581
St Josephs Killough	219,572	237,267	281,537	256,156
St Josephs Lisburn	410,831	542,705	630,625	701,574
St Josephs Strangford	134,103	179,556	202,666	198,236
St Josephs Tyrella	200,951	211,400	216,297	236,179
St Kierans Primary	1,338,815	1,294,969	1,274,310	1,319,669
St Lukes	691,851	682,704	685,867	739,122
St Macartans	333,850	352,332	386,021	431,735
St Malachys Bangor	815,808	813,088	891,427	877,002
St Malachys Castlewellan	618,974	646,612	716,623	718,382
St Malachys Kilclief	150,228	173,556	196,361	204,612
St Malachys Kilcoo	273,025	283,453	314,234	334,665
St Marks	1,415,013	1,431,595	1,460,581	1,446,418

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
St Marys Ardglass	197,459	229,513	254,161	269,298
St Marys Ballygowan	88,393	92,343	92,227	25,783
St Marys Comber	104,460	114,956	126,117	142,684
St Marys Killyleagh	285,542	305,725	320,970	363,349
St Marys Kircubbin	320,880	321,119	363,448	365,307
St Marys Portaferry	535,066	560,510	588,254	615,875
St Marys Saintfield	194,049	199,046	226,374	233,576
St Nicholas	342,415	337,448	354,408	368,842
St Patricks Boys Downpatrick	661,260	768,748	812,485	801,517
St Patricks Ballynahinch	592,392	588,638	591,726	619,758
St Patricks Castlewellan	134,054	149,385	172,134	182,657
St Patricks Holywood	492,997	537,094	557,894	594,655
St Patricks Portaferry	223,036	239,584	248,369	276,836
St Patricks Saul	292,859	318,381	342,413	350,172
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS	487,155	595,637	746,654	868,233
St Marys PS Newcastle	873,372	954,133	894,603	950,717
St Ita's PS		363,411	732,826	896,008
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	150,315	157,908	165,409	181,190
All Childrens	439,450	459,361	470,994	510,084
Annsborough	136,958	155,875	164,365	176,509
Hilden	189,624	209,305	207,448	186,079
Portaferry	238,525	235,325	268,540	279,263
Bangor Central	995,888	1,137,857	1,246,822	1,337,229
Kircubbin Integrated Primary	302,604	306,066	305,225	299,755

Post Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Comber HS	1,238,896	Closed	Closed	Closed
Nendrum College	0	1,288,930	1,365,106	1,474,404
Donaghadee HS	891,742	1,042,278	1,168,166	1,055,936
Dundonald HS	1,760,248	1,802,165	1,752,750	1,603,894
Dunmurry HS	1,110,618	1,223,819	1,294,153	1,399,459
Glastry College	1,954,765	2,067,310	2,216,355	2,306,995
Knockbreda HS	2,120,149	2,242,923	2,338,893	2,297,978
Laurelhill Community College	3,015,733	3,254,355	3,402,712	3,499,939
Lisnagarvey HS	1,325,657	1,433,689	1,469,158	1,431,623
Lisnasharragh HS	1,012,099	1,029,787	1,070,201	942,886
Movilla HS	2,640,279	2,652,219	2,491,002	2,420,797

Post Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Newtownbreda HS	2,637,780	2,835,498	2,875,252	2,810,166
Saintfield HS	1,087,549	1,158,276	1,246,090	1,358,206
The High School Ballynahinch	1,238,137	1,304,452	1,392,499	1,466,211
Bangor Academy and 6th Form	4,919,629	5,170,324	5,217,425	5,127,571
De La Salle HS	1,426,430	1,469,950	1,552,228	1,539,101
St Colmans HS	1,539,168	1,578,260	1,461,809	1,351,574
St Colmcilles HS	1,467,593	1,555,774	1,630,866	1,713,329
St Colms HS	2,458,363	2,651,203	2,910,252	2,911,384
St Columbanus HS	1,566,472	1,697,921	1,883,041	2,006,504
St Columbas HS	1,108,805	1,197,319	1,195,939	1,192,223
St Malachys HS	3,111,869	3,486,898	3,709,456	3,804,712
St Marys HS	1,961,344	2,088,050	2,143,277	2,124,489
St Patricks HS	1,146,749	1,202,317	1,343,216	1,332,079
Down Academy	993,946	1,107,089	1,184,764	1,140,449
Fort Hill College	2,818,944	2,949,461	3,134,128	3,280,234
Priory College	1,466,890	1,691,250	1,802,952	1,719,963
Down HS	3,066,868	3,322,928	3,532,201	3,549,992
Glenlola Collegiate	3,557,495	3,832,656	3,991,825	4,098,890
Regent House	4,661,933	4,924,176	5,137,578	5,270,959

Schools Budget

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to provide the delegated schools budget for each post primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board, for each financial year since 2004-5. (AQW 3308/09)

The Minister of Education:

Leagtar amach sna táblaí thíos leithdháileadh cistithe fá choinne gach bunscoil agus gach iar-bhunscoil Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirdheiscirt i ngach bliain airgeadais ó 2004-05.

The funding allocation for each primary and post primary school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board for each financial year since 2004-05 is set out in the tables below:

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
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Clandeboyne	609,066	609,479	618,876	600,423
Clough	287,292	30,905	Closed	Closed
Cumran	0	331,540	388,961	459,486
Comber	779,280	846,026	819,629	868,648
Conlig	159,351	156,848	181,113	168,577
Crawfordsburn	400,046	409,905	494,080	514,440
Cregagh	358,498	402,782	460,510	511,311
Crossgar	174,833	194,742	193,071	73,026
Derriaghy	175,082	173,767	203,983	208,250
Derryboy	181,710	213,662	224,223	244,010
Donaghadee	837,923	890,784	913,769	954,682
Downpatrick	398,324	420,463	513,431	545,761
Downshire Dundrum	87,711	13,719	Closed	Closed
Downshire Hillsborough	0	845,503	1,042,407	1,153,431
Dromara	272,954	306,778	344,175	404,212
Drumbo	95,679	95,917	106,667	37,445
Dundonald	1,123,557	1,202,029	1,313,516	1,362,551
Dunmurry	374,347	388,354	413,586	441,877
Fort Hill	527,948	566,709	623,780	668,532

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Gilnahirk	823,547	865,982	883,118	915,838
Glencraig IPS	409,454	462,522	525,078	568,036
Grange Park	678,414	737,251	786,544	830,890
Greyabbey	194,692	197,862	215,709	228,342
Groomsport	103,680	97,279	104,904	49,903
Harmony Hill	1,344,728	1,462,161	1,490,378	1,462,779
Hillhall	133,696	153,116	166,444	60,301
Hillsborough	764,336	145,863	Closed	Closed
Holywood	801,322	807,086	812,308	812,810
Kilcooley	395,019	426,411	442,908	486,291
Killinchy	554,478	612,685	679,234	698,520
Killowen	799,683	844,145	856,275	863,814
Killyleagh	264,222	260,380	288,514	321,510
Kilmaine	1,217,636	1,313,672	1,381,933	1,482,420
Kirkistown	183,437	213,609	275,431	302,851
Knockbreda	365,839	382,510	399,327	357,870
Knockmore	393,533	420,465	472,621	465,917
Lambeg	107,832	95,992	144,535	48,756
Largymore	462,363	415,256	478,288	439,852
Leadhill	390,493	402,452	385,916	364,581
Lisburn Central	639,392	641,994	625,928	638,185
Lisnasharragh	646,955	634,963	617,804	622,369
Londonderry	647,451	675,640	736,477	783,783
Loughries	202,867	206,579	224,314	227,313
Ballinderry	350,607	377,786	427,820	446,382
Maghaberry	475,741	535,953	568,527	595,532
McKinney	330,563	363,237	384,578	409,543
Millisle	323,039	338,388	380,033	404,178
Moir	723,296	795,436	837,747	817,335
Moneyrea	300,622	330,694	340,555	360,667
Newcastle	451,999	472,729	483,013	471,928
Newport	149,977	28,203	Closed	Closed
Newtownards Model	770,679	791,343	828,529	896,267
Newtownbreda	406,880	438,821	405,289	397,297
Old Warren	372,709	387,945	430,318	441,718
Pond Park	1,106,174	1,210,209	1,266,193	1,313,304
Portavogie	387,198	441,817	462,481	487,951
Rathmore	896,595	945,871	994,200	1,077,797

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Redburn	355,461	387,834	417,211	377,312
Seymour Hill	472,280	489,492	502,237	537,436
Spa	391,870	427,153	438,672	447,295
Tonagh	407,833	389,057	413,467	440,124
Towerview	713,197	761,931	806,597	843,969
Tullycarnet	443,164	447,073	435,071	381,744
Kindle IPS (formerly Tyrella PS)	250,124	269,157	209,965	247,503
Victoria Ballyhalbert	262,453	290,265	355,546	370,804
Victoria Newtownards	1,020,696	1,136,876	1,247,879	1,331,369
Westwinds	412,353	435,099	457,228	506,495
Riverdale	381,891	412,160	417,183	452,781
Meadow Bridge	504,745	530,192	541,220	575,720
Glasswater	0	0	0	194,116
Aughlisnafin	309,424	328,474	337,132	367,137
Ballymacrickett	574,298	601,677	643,242	701,811
Ballymacward	242,801	265,548	286,722	287,502
Christ the Redeemer	844,896	1,047,103	1,371,587	1,488,356
Convent of Mercy	560,992	573,617	640,676	595,912
St Caolans	186,358	205,406	215,554	223,694
Drumaghlin	141,385	149,755	151,234	55,199
Christ the King	323,743	344,798	366,426	356,743
St Francis PS Drumaroad	108,858	114,733	128,666	136,890
Good Shepherd Primary	1,000,448	1,030,652	1,083,619	1,069,079
Guinness	113,718	112,769	117,738	123,890
Holy Family	421,535	440,254	453,038	486,245
St Patricks Legamaddy	398,195	405,805	434,867	461,423
Sacred Heart	232,123	240,445	260,553	260,365
Scoil Na Fuisseoige	399,783	383,161	409,755	438,379
St Aloysius	595,973	650,790	668,464	702,399
St Annes	123,881	132,163	147,247	152,497
St Bernards	774,746	814,215	861,079	889,080
St Brigids	320,719	363,636	387,633	470,836
St Colmans Lisburn	691,867	687,547	706,858	745,445
St Colmans Moira	113,811	118,623	129,958	117,292
St Colmcilles	500,198	563,751	627,550	633,998
St Comgalls	606,505	642,131	662,770	673,557
St Finians	267,661	280,731	313,234	371,417
St Josephs Ballycruttle	143,438	158,329	169,302	180,394

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
St Josephs Carnacaville	351,959	335,210	361,579	397,612
St Josephs Carryduff	1,470,179	1,289,513	1,196,537	1,079,784
St Josephs Crossgar	290,849	290,579	297,856	329,581
St Josephs Killough	219,572	237,267	281,537	256,156
St Josephs Lisburn	410,831	542,705	630,625	701,574
St Josephs Strangford	134,103	179,556	202,666	198,236
St Josephs Tyrella	200,951	211,400	216,297	236,179
St Kierans Primary	1,338,815	1,294,969	1,274,310	1,319,669
St Lukes	691,851	682,704	685,867	739,122
St Macartans	333,850	352,332	386,021	431,735
St Malachys Bangor	815,808	813,088	891,427	877,002
St Malachys Castlewellan	618,974	646,612	716,623	718,382
St Malachys Kilclief	150,228	173,556	196,361	204,612
St Malachys Kilcoo	273,025	283,453	314,234	334,665
St Marks	1,415,013	1,431,595	1,460,581	1,446,418
St Marys Ardglass	197,459	229,513	254,161	269,298
St Marys Ballygowan	88,393	92,343	92,227	25,783
St Marys Comber	104,460	114,956	126,117	142,684
St Marys Killyleagh	285,542	305,725	320,970	363,349
St Marys Kircubbin	320,880	321,119	363,448	365,307
St Marys Portaferry	535,066	560,510	588,254	615,875
St Marys Saintfield	194,049	199,046	226,374	233,576
St Nicholas	342,415	337,448	354,408	368,842
St Patricks Boys Downpatrick	661,260	768,748	812,485	801,517
St Patricks Ballynahinch	592,392	588,638	591,726	619,758
St Patricks Castlewellan	134,054	149,385	172,134	182,657
St Patricks Holywood	492,997	537,094	557,894	594,655
St Patricks Portaferry	223,036	239,584	248,369	276,836
St Patricks Saul	292,859	318,381	342,413	350,172
Our Lady Queen of Peace PS	487,155	595,637	746,654	868,233
St Marys PS Newcastle	873,372	954,133	894,603	950,717
St Ita's PS		363,411	732,826	896,008
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche	150,315	157,908	165,409	181,190
All Childrens	439,450	459,361	470,994	510,084
Annsborough	136,958	155,875	164,365	176,509
Hilden	189,624	209,305	207,448	186,079
Portaferry	238,525	235,325	268,540	279,263
Bangor Central	995,888	1,137,857	1,246,822	1,337,229

Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Kircubbin Integrated Primary	302,604	306,066	305,225	299,755

Post Primary School Name	Delegated Resources 2004/05 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2005/06 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2006/07 Excluding Carry-Over £	Delegated Resources 2007/08 Excluding Carry-Over £
Comber HS	1,238,896	Closed	Closed	Closed
Nendrum College	0	1,288,930	1,365,106	1,474,404
Donaghadee HS	891,742	1,042,278	1,168,166	1,055,936
Dundonald HS	1,760,248	1,802,165	1,752,750	1,603,894
Dunmurry HS	1,110,618	1,223,819	1,294,153	1,399,459
Glastry College	1,954,765	2,067,310	2,216,355	2,306,995
Knockbreda HS	2,120,149	2,242,923	2,338,893	2,297,978
Laurelhill Community College	3,015,733	3,254,355	3,402,712	3,499,939
Lisnagarvey HS	1,325,657	1,433,689	1,469,158	1,431,623
Lisnasharragh HS	1,012,099	1,029,787	1,070,201	942,886
Movilla HS	2,640,279	2,652,219	2,491,002	2,420,797
Newtownbreda HS	2,637,780	2,835,498	2,875,252	2,810,166
Saintfield HS	1,087,549	1,158,276	1,246,090	1,358,206
The High School Ballynahinch	1,238,137	1,304,452	1,392,499	1,466,211
Bangor Academy and 6th Form	4,919,629	5,170,324	5,217,425	5,127,571
De La Salle HS	1,426,430	1,469,950	1,552,228	1,539,101
St Colmans HS	1,539,168	1,578,260	1,461,809	1,351,574
St Colmcilles HS	1,467,593	1,555,774	1,630,866	1,713,329
St Colms HS	2,458,363	2,651,203	2,910,252	2,911,384
St Columbanus HS	1,566,472	1,697,921	1,883,041	2,006,504
St Columbas HS	1,108,805	1,197,319	1,195,939	1,192,223
St Malachys HS	3,111,869	3,486,898	3,709,456	3,804,712
St Marys HS	1,961,344	2,088,050	2,143,277	2,124,489
St Patricks HS	1,146,749	1,202,317	1,343,216	1,332,079
Down Academy	993,946	1,107,089	1,184,764	1,140,449
Fort Hill College	2,818,944	2,949,461	3,134,128	3,280,234
Priory College	1,466,890	1,691,250	1,802,952	1,719,963
Down HS	3,066,868	3,322,928	3,532,201	3,549,992
Glenlola Collegiate	3,557,495	3,832,656	3,991,825	4,098,890
Regent House	4,661,933	4,924,176	5,137,578	5,270,959

Education and Skills Authority

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education what discussions her Department intends to have with local councils about the role and remit of the Education and Skills Authority. (AQW 3311/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá mo Roinn réidh le bheith ag plé le comhairlí áitiúla agus le NILGA ar pholasaí an Athbreithnithe ar Riarachán Poiblí san Oideachas, chomh maith le plé a dhéanamh ar ról agus sainchúram an Údaráis um Oideachas agus Scileanna.

My Department is ready to engage with local councils and NILGA on policy on the Review of Public Administration in education, and the role and remit of the Education and Skills Authority.

The Chief Executive Designate of ESA has had several meetings with Councils and is to meet with NILGA in the near future about the operation of the ESA.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education to detail the procedures to select school governors under the proposed new Education and Skills Authority. (AQW 3315/09)

The Minister of Education: Ní shocrófar na nósanna imeachta um ghobharnóirí scoile a roghnú faoin Údarás nua um Oideachas agus Scileanna go dtí go bhfaomhann an Tionól an chéad Bhille Oideachais RPA.

The procedures for the selection of school governors under the new Education and Skills Authority will not be finalised until the first RPA Education Bill is approved by the Assembly.

The current proposals are that the transferors and trustees of grant-aided schools will continue to nominate representatives to Boards of Governors and these appointments will be confirmed by ESA after completion of the necessary vetting under child protection legislation. The exact arrangements for making these nominations including the role that could be played by sectoral including church interests in bringing forward nominations is still under consideration.

The procedures for the recruitment and appointment of community governors to grant-aided schools will include public advertising to open up opportunities for service for all those in the community with an interest in making a positive contribution to education as a school governor. I am also open to consider the development of new procedures to enable local business and commerce to be involved in bringing forward candidates to act as school governors.

The procedures for the election of parent and teacher governors are handled at school level and detailed in the Department's circular 2005/20 on the DE website. This circular will be updated in due course to take account of the amendment proposed in the RPA Bill to enable part time teachers to participate in the procedures for the election of teacher governors.

Post Primary Transfer Test

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Education what advice her Department is giving to primary school head teachers who have been asked by parents to prepare their children for the new post primary transfer test. (AQW 3316/09)

The Minister of Education: Bíonn dualgas reachtúil ar bhunscoileanna an curaclam athbhreithnithe a sholáthar agus bíonn bunfhreagracht dhlíthiúil agus mhorálta orthu i leith a ndaltaí féin, gan aird ar aon bhrú a d'fhéadfaí a bheith orthu chun soláthairtí eile a dhéanamh.

Primary schools have a statutory duty to deliver the revised curriculum and have a legal and moral responsibility first and foremost towards their pupils, regardless of any pressure they may come under to make other provisions. No post-primary school can oblige a primary school to assist in the preparation of pupils for any particular feature of its admissions process.

My Department has issued 350,000 leaflets to schools across the North, providing details of the revised curriculum and associated assessment and reporting arrangements. These are going to every family which has a child in a primary or post-primary school.

Teaching Vacancies

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education how many teaching vacancies there are in each school in Lagan Valley. (AQW 3322/09)

The Minister of Education: Bíonn eolas ar fholúntais múinteoirí á lorg ag an Roinn ó gach scoil dheontaschúnta ar bhonn bliantúil.

The Department seeks information on teacher vacancies from all grant-aided schools on an annual basis. The information provides a “snapshot” of vacancies at a specific date each year. The latest information available identifies vacancies at 2 November 2007, and details for the Lagan Valley constituency are set out below:

No. of vacancies still to be filled during the 2007/08 academic year at 2nd November 2007 in schools in the Lagan Valley Parliamentary Constituency					
	School Ref	Full-time, Permanent	Part-time, Permanent	Full-time, Temporary	Part-time, Temporary
St Joseph's Ps	4030897	0	2	0	0
Christ The Redeemer Ps	4036618	1	0	0	0
Rowandale Integrated Primary	4066682	1	0	0	1
Beechlawn Special School	4310008	0	0	1	0
Laurelhill Community College	4210201	0	1	0	0
Dromore High School	5210064	0	0	1	0

The Department is currently seeking data on teacher vacancies which exist at 3 November 2008.

Primary Schools

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to the answer to AQO 1269/09, what recognition does she give to the right of parents to choose the primary school for their children. (AQW 3325/09)

The Minister of Education: B'fhéidir gur mhian le tuismitheoirí a bpáiste a chur chuig scoil a rogha féin seachas an pháiste a chur chuig an scoil is oiriúnaí agus is congaráí dóibh.

Parents may wish to send their child to a school of their choice, rather than the nearest suitable school. However, the fact that parents may regard a school as unsuitable because of their views on some specific aspect does not render it an unsuitable school for the purposes of the school transport arrangements. As such, parents should understand that if they do not seek a place in all suitable schools within statutory walking distance of their home, then they will not be entitled to transport assistance to a more distant school.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Armoy; (ii) Glenshesk; (iii) Glendun; (iv) Glenarm; and (v) Glenariff areas of Moyle, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3338/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlaine an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Bushmills; (ii) Dunseverick; (iii) Ballylough; (iv) Carnmoon; and (v) Mosside and Moyarget areas of Moyle, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3339/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas

requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
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Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Craigwarren; (ii) Glenravel; (iii) Broughshane; (iv) Slemish; and (v) Glenwherry areas in Ballymena, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3341/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
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Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Dalriada; (ii) Glentaisie; (iii) Knocklayd; (iv) Kinbane; and (v) Bonamany and Rathlin areas of Moyle, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3342/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat their transfer test in 2007 from (i) Benvardin; (ii) Dervock; (iii) Stranocum; (iv) Knockahollet; and (v) Ballyhoe and Corkey areas in Ballymoney, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3344/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlaine an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailítear eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an Teist Aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Carniny	73%
St. Colmcille's	70%
Ballymena	74%
Camphill	42%
Ballykeel	40%
St Brigid's Ballymena	38%
Braidside Integrated	25%
Dunclug	27%
Harryville	8%
Ballee	0%
Seaview	89%
Braid	71%
Glenravel	72%
Gracehill	75%
St Mary's Cushendall	69%
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Fourtowns	66%
Broughshane	67%
Moorfields	63%
Buick	69%
Longstone	57%
Carnaghts	52%
Glenann	71%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
St John's Carnlough	75%
Kells and Connor	56%
Kirkinriola	50%
St Mary's Portglenone	58%
St Patrick's Glenariff	50%
St Mary's Cargan	46%
St Patrick's Rasharkin	58%
Millquarter	45%
Clough	47%
The Diamond	67%
Hazelbank	53%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Portglenone	50%
St Ciaran's	50%
Carnalbanagh	0%
Carnlough Int	0%
Rasharkin	0%
St Paul's Ahoghill	0%
Armoy	100%
Ballycastle	75%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Ballytober	60%
Balnamore	75%
Barnish	100%
Bunscoil an Chaistil	0%
Bushmills	67%
Bushvalley	56%
Carnalridge	73%
Carrowreagh	29%
Dunseverick	44%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
Millstrand Int	62%

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
Portrush	95%
St. Anne's	64%
St. Brigid's	57%
St. Mary's	0%
St. Olcan's	0%
St Patrick's	29%
St Patrick's & St Brigid's	60%
St Patrick's	44%
Straidbilly	38%
William Pinkerton Memorial	0%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Education Sector

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Education how many jobs will be lost in the education sector due to the proposed merger of the existing five Education and Library Boards. (AQW 3389/09)

The Minister of Education: Nuair a chruthófar an tÚdarás um Oideachas agus Scileanna ar 1 Eanáir 2010 tabharfar le chéile feidhmeanna tábhachtacha 12 comhlachas oideachais, mar atá na 5 Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne, Comhairle na Scoileanna Caitliceacha faoi Chothabháil, an Chomhairle Churaclaim Scrúdúcháin agus Mheasúnaithe, an Chomhairle Ógra, Staff Commission, an Roinn Oideachais, NICIE agus Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta.

The creation of the Education and Skills Authority on 1 January 2010 will bring together the front-line functions of 12 education bodies, including the 5 Education and Library Boards, CCMS, CCEA, Youth Council, Staff Commission, DE, NICIE and CNaG. The key aim of the RPA in education is to improve education outcomes by creating a single organisation with the responsibility for raising standards in every school in every sector and with clear accountability to me and to the Assembly for doing so. This will be facilitated by streamlining administration and releasing resources for re-allocation to the classroom and frontline support services.

The Outline Business Case for ESA indicates that by the end of year 3 of ESA an additional £20m per annum will be released to directly support improved education outcomes and in subsequent phases I believe we can radically improve service delivery in a way which will release even further savings to enhance the quality of services available to schools and youth services. This will be achieved through a reduction of around 463 administrative and headquarter posts, with the main impact at senior and middle management levels. Data from the Education and Library Boards indicates that they currently employ 312 temporary/agency staff. I therefore expect that streamlining can be achieved through a combination of vacant posts, natural wastage and voluntary severance and that compulsory redundancies can be avoided.

Breakfast Clubs

Lord Browne asked the Minister of Education what percentage of secondary schools have breakfast clubs. (AQW 3392/09)

The Minister of Education: Ní chruinnítear an t-eolas seo go rialta ó scoileanna.

This information is not routinely collected from schools.

However you will be aware my Department's Extended Schools programme provides a recognised funding stream for those schools operating in the most deprived and disadvantaged areas to provide for a wide range of services and activities outside of the traditional school day including breakfast clubs. In the 2007/08 Extended Schools programme, funding issued to 66 post-primary schools (5 selective and 61 non-selective). Of these, 28 (42%) indicated in their last annual report that they had operated a breakfast club during the 2007/8 school year.

Transfer Test

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education what percentage of children who sat the transfer test in 2007 from (i) Seacon; (ii) The Vow; (iii) Kiloquin Lower; (iv) Kiloquin Upper; (v) Dunloy; and (vi) Cloughmills areas in Ballymoney, were admitted to grammar schools. (AQW 3393/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá curtha in iúl ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt (NEELB) don Roinn nach mbailíonn siad eolas ar chéatadán na bpáistí a dhéanann an teist aistrithe miondealaithe de réir na gceantar geografach a iarradh.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) have advised the Department that they do not collect information on the percentage of children who sit the transfer test broken down by the geographical areas requested. The information is, however, available broken down by Primary Schools in the Board area, and the 2007 figures for the primary schools that serve the geographical areas listed are provided in the table below.

Primary School	% Pupils that Sat Transfer Test Admitted to Grammar School
St Joseph's Dunloy	72%
Clough	47%
Cloughmills	100%
St Brigid's Cloughmills	55%
Ballymoney Model	75%
Balnamore	75%
Carrowreagh	29%
Eden	50%
Garryduff	31%
Kilmoyle	64%
Knockahollet	38%
Landhead	67%
Leaney	94%
Lislagan	22%
St. Brigid's	57%
Straidbilly	38%

Note: Figures do not include pupils admitted to the grammar stream at Slemish College.

Departmental Consultees

Mr McCausland asked the Minister of Education if (i) Foras na Gaeilge; (ii) the Ulster-Scots Agency; (iii) Pobal; and (iv) the Ulster-Scots Language Society are included on the list of Departmental consultees. (AQW 3421/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá roinnt liostaí comhairliúcháin ag mo Roinn, ag brath ar an réimse beartais agus ar na daioine aonair agus na grúpaí a d'fhéadfaí a mbeadh leas acu sna comhairliúcháin.

My Department has a number of consultation lists, depending on the policy area and the individuals or groups who may have an interest in the consultations.

The list used for consultation on equality matters includes the Ulster-Scots Agency, Pobal and the Ulster-Scots Language Society.

Foras na Gaeilge had been omitted from this list in error, but has now been added to it.

School Maintenance Programme

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education what action her Department is taking to address the backlog in the school maintenance programme for schools in the Lisburn and Dromore area. (AQW 3427/09)

The Minister of Education: Is iad Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirdheiscirt agus an Deiscirt a bhíonn freagrach as cothabháil scoileanna rialaithe agus scoileanna faoi chothabháil i gceantar Lios na gCearrbhach agus Dhroim Mór.

The South Eastern and Southern Education and Library Boards have responsibility for the maintenance of controlled and maintained schools in the Lisburn and Dromore area. Whilst my Department determines the overall budget allocations for the Boards, it is for the Boards to determine, along with other services to be provided, how much funding they attribute to their maintenance budgets. My Department is also supportive of both Boards' bids for additional resources from the December monitoring round, to help address maintenance pressures in the current financial year.

Teaching Posts

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2798/08, how many teaching posts are being filled by substitute or temporary teachers in (i) primary; and (ii) secondary schools, in the North Down constituency. (AQW 3444/09)

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

The information requested is detailed in the table below:

School Type	Daily Paid Temporary teachers	Hourly Paid Temporary Teachers	Total
Primary	140	27	167
Secondary	42	4	46
Total	182	31	213

New Primary School in Broughshane

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education if there are any plans to provide a new primary school in Broughshane, Ballymena. (AQW 3447/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá tugtha le fios ag Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirthuaiscirt nach bhfuil plananna ar bith acu le bunscoil nua athsholáthair a chur ar fáil i mBruach Sheáin.

The North Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that there are currently no plans to provide a new replacement primary school in Broughshane.

Irish Language Tutors

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister of Education how many Irish Language tutors are available for primary schools in County Fermanagh, under the Primary Languages Project. (AQW 3463/09)

The Minister of Education: Dar leis an Ghrúpa Teangacha Bunscoile, a bhíonn ag comhordú soláthair an Chláir um Theangacha Bunscoile, bhí deacrachtaí móra acu teacht ar oidí Gaeilge i gceantar Fhear Manach agus mar sin de, go dtí seo, ní raibh siad ábalta oidí a chur ar fáil don chúig bhunscoil sa cheantar a bhí ag iarraidh Gaeilge a sholáthar tríd an Chlár.

The primary languages group, which is co-ordinating the delivery of the Primary Languages Programme, tells me that it has experienced real difficulties in recruiting Irish language tutors in the Fermanagh area and that, as a result, it has so far been unable to match tutors to the five primary schools in the area seeking to offer Irish via the Programme. I have impressed upon the group the need to take further action to close this gap in provision. Additionally, Foras na Gaeilge has also offered to do what it can to help encourage fluent Irish speakers to come forward to be considered as tutors. The Primary Languages Programme is an important and flourishing

Programme and I am determined that we will do all that we can to match the demand from primary schools with suitable tutors able to deliver the Programme and foster in young people an interest in, and love for, learning another language.

Classroom Assistants

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Education if she will bring forward proposals to standardise the terms and conditions of classroom assistants in all schools, regardless of sector. (AQW 3467/09)

The Minister of Education: The recent agreement on the outcome of the Job Evaluation was for Classroom Assistants for whom the Education and Library Boards are the employing authorities, and in this context this agreement does not have a direct read across to employees of other employing authorities. Any decision within grant-maintained integrated or voluntary grammar schools to implement rates of pay in line with the outcome of the Job Evaluation process in the Education and Library Boards in respect of particular categories of staff is a matter for individual schools' Board of Governors as employing authorities to consider within the constraints of the total resources available to the school. I have however listened and taken on board concerns raised about this issue and to date have made bids for extra funding through the September and December monitoring rounds. Both bids have unfortunately been unsuccessful and I will resubmit my bid in February.

I should point out that the regrading of the 5 boards' Classroom Assistants was negotiated through the Joint Negotiating Council (JNC), which was established some years ago by the Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards as the negotiating machinery dealing with the pay and terms and conditions of non-teaching staff employed by the Education and Library Boards. The machinery includes management side representation from the 5 Education and Library Boards and from the 4 main unions representing the non-teaching staff. The machinery consists of: a. Joint Negotiating Council and Committees; and b. Executive Committee. The membership of the Joint Negotiating Council may not be extended to any other employing authorities.

Caithfear tabhairt faoi na nithe seo sa chomhthéacs gurb é an tÚdarás nua um Oideachas agus Scileanna atá freagrach as fostaíocht foirne neamh-mhúinteoireachta i gcás gach scoile deontaschúnta.

These matters will have to be addressed in the context of the new Education and Skills Authority having responsibility for the employment of non-teaching staff for all grant-aided schools.

Translation Services

Mr Storey asked the Minister of Education if she is aware of the difficulties faced by playgroups that are required to pay for translation services from limited funds. (AQW 3502/09)

The Minister of Education: Tháinig méadú de 45% ar líon na ndaltaí ó thíortha eile inár scoileanna idir 2006 agus 2007 agus faoi mhí Dheireadh Fómhair 2007, bhí 5665 dalta ó thíortha eile inár mbunscoileanna, inár n-iarbhunscoileanna agus inár scoileanna speisialta.

The number of newcomer pupils in our schools increased by 45% between 2006 and 2007 and by October 2007 there were 5665 newcomer pupils in our primary, post primary and special schools. My Department does not collect data on newcomer children in pre-school provision. However, there are currently 112 newcomer children in government funded nursery schools and nursery classes within primary schools.

Playgroups need to communicate with newcomer parents and to do this they will wish to have key documents translated into various languages.

The priority for my Department has been to provide services to schools with newcomer pupils. It is for this reason that the Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS) was set up as a regional service within the Education and Library Boards in April 2007, to strengthen and improve support to newcomer pupils and their parents, primarily working through schools. Part of its responsibilities include such services as interpreting and translating, an information website for newcomer parents and the provision of advice and guidance to schools via locally based Diversity Coordinators.

Due to the very rapid increase in the number of newcomer pupils, IDS has had to concentrate on the primary and the post primary sectors, as it is recognised that the needs of newcomer pupils are greater the older they are when entering the education system.

IDS provide an interpreting service to Department funded nursery schools and units for the following purposes: initial parent/teacher interviews; parent consultation interviews; critical incidents; and pastoral care issues. This service involves the provision of interpreters and is paid for by IDS.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to provide direct support to community and voluntary playgroups, but a number of services which are accessible via the web, may be of some help to such groups.

Within the past year IDS has offered a translation of documents service, and access to many of these documents is now provided via a website. Schools have access to 10 generic school policies and a number of key letters translated into 15 languages for issue to parents in their own language. Whilst IDS is unable to fund interpreting and translation services for private and voluntary pre-school playgroups, I would encourage playgroups to utilise these generic documents, available on the following website www.education-support.org.uk, for example letters which concern parent/teacher meetings.

The Education Support website includes information about our education system in the north and community and volunteer playgroups could direct newcomer parents to the website as it will be of interest to them.

As part of the funding provided via the Common Funding Formula, schools receive an additional monetary payment for each full-time newcomer pupil in a nursery school/class. In 2008/09 this equates to £983 per pupil. Schools receive £491, again for 2008/09, for each part-time newcomer pupil in a nursery school/class. This funding is available only to government funded nursery schools and nursery classes within primary schools.

Breakfast Clubs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Education how many primary schools have breakfast clubs (i) in North Down; and (ii) in Northern Ireland. (AQW 3506/09)

The Minister of Education: Ní chruinnítear an t-eolas seo go rialta ó scoileanna.

This information is not routinely collected from schools.

However you will be aware my Department's Extended Schools programme provides a recognised funding stream for those schools operating in the most deprived and disadvantaged areas to provide for a wide range of services and activities outside of the traditional school day including breakfast clubs.

In the 2007/08 Extended Schools programme funding issued to 4 primary schools in the North Down parliamentary constituency area, all of which operated breakfast clubs as indicated in their annual reports for 2007/08.

A total of 321 primary schools across the north were funded in the 2007/08 Extended School programme. Of these, 125 schools (39%) indicated in their last annual report that they had operated a breakfast club during the 2007/08 school year.

Lurgan College and Portadown College

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2841/09, when the Southern Education and Library Board decided to make proposed changes, to the original recommended options for the new builds in both Lurgan College and Portadown College, were officially communicated to her Department. (AQW 3513/09)

The Minister of Education: Thug Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Deiscirt (SELB) breac-chuntas ar na hathruithe molta a bhain leis na bunscéimeanna caipitil formheasta fá choinne Lurgan College agus Portadown College do mo Roinn i mí Mheithimh agus i mí Aibreáin faoi seach.

Proposed changes to the original approved capital schemes for Lurgan and Portadown Colleges were outlined to my Department by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) in June and April 2007 respectively. The SELB advised that the Board and Lurgan College had decided it was important to retain a link with the existing listed building. In regard to Portadown College a new internal road layout meant that the capital scheme needed to be revisited. The changes as proposed necessitated revisions to the appraisals which were undertaken by the SELB. The Board and the department have been in contact on the work on both projects on a number of occasions. The latest revisions were received on 24 November 2008 for Portadown College and 10 November 2008 for Lurgan College. The appraisals need to be approved by the Department and the Department of Finance and Personnel. Subject to the appraisals satisfying the requirements it is anticipated that both schemes would be approved shortly.

Lurgan College

Mr Gardiner asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2841/09, when her Department received the revised appraisal for Lurgan College. (AQW 3514/09)

The Minister of Education: Thug Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Deiscirt (SELB) breac-chuntas ar na hathruithe molta a bhain leis na bunscéimeanna caipitil formheasta fá choinne Lurgan College agus Portadown College do mo Roinn i mí Mheithimh agus i mí Aibreáin faoi seach.

Proposed changes to the original approved capital schemes for Lurgan and Portadown Colleges were outlined to my Department by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) in June and April 2007 respectively. The SELB advised that the Board and Lurgan College had decided it was important to retain a link with the existing listed building. In regard to Portadown College a new internal road layout meant that the capital scheme needed to be revisited. The changes as proposed necessitated revisions to the appraisals which were undertaken by the SELB. The Board and the department have been in contact on the work on both projects on a number of occasions. The latest revisions were received on 24 November 2008 for Portadown College and 10 November 2008 for Lurgan College. The appraisals need to be approved by the Department and the Department of Finance and Personnel. Subject to the appraisals satisfying the requirements it is anticipated that both schemes would be approved shortly.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Education, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2000/09, for an update on the review of services for which her Department has responsibility under Neighbourhood Renewal, and when the findings will be made public. (AQW 3543/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá tuairisc críochnaithe anois ag m'óifigigh de bhun athbhreithniú ar leithead na seirbhísí a d'aithin DSD go raibh mo Roinn freagrach astu.

My officials have now completed a report following a review of the breadth of services that DSD has identified as being the responsibility of my Department.

I have committed to meeting with Minister Ritchie to discuss the outcome of the assessment and gain agreement on the way forward. Following this meeting, the findings of the review will be made public.

Education and Skills Authority

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Education to detail, by constituency, where the reduction of 460 posts are anticipated to occur with the creation of the Education and Skills Authority. (AQW 3550/09)

The Minister of Education: Is é mar phríomhaidhm an RPA ná cúrsaí riaracháin a chuíchóiriú agus acmhainní a scaoileadh ionas gur féidir iad a leithdháileadh arís chuig seirbhísí duine le duine.

A key purpose of the RPA is to streamline administration and release resources for re-allocation to frontline services. The Outline Business Case for ESA indicates that by the end of year 3, an additional £20m per annum will be released to directly support improved education outcomes. This will be achieved through a reduction of around 463 administrative and headquarter posts, with the main impact at senior and middle management levels.

It is not possible at this time to say where, by constituency, those reductions will occur, as decisions on the location of services have not yet been taken. These decisions will be taken in line with Executive policy on the location of public sector jobs and will be informed by future Service Delivery Models which are presently being developed through an extensive programme of engagement with staff in the education sector.

Early Years Strategy

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education if the development of communication skills will be addressed as a priority in the early years strategy under consideration. (AQW 3577/09)

The Minister of Education: Cé go mbeidh an straitéis ag amharc ar na tosca a chuireann chun cinn athléimneacht na bpáistí óga agus tugtar sainmhiniú ar 'athléimneacht' mar pháistí sláintiúla láidre, le scileanna cumarsáide acu

agus iad ina bhfoghlaimeoirí cruthaitheacha inniúla, ní mheastar go gcuirfidh an straitéis aon mholtaí ar leith san áireamh maidir le scileanna cumarsáide.

Whilst the strategy will be examining the factors that promote resilience in young children with resilience defined as healthy strong children, who are skilled communicators and creative competent learners, it is not anticipated the Strategy will specifically include any recommendations in relation to communication skills. This will be a matter for any action and implementation plan emanating from the Strategy to consider. At this stage recommendations from the Speech, Language and Communication Needs Report will be taken into consideration.

Part Time Special Needs Teachers

Mr Attwood asked the Minister of Education if her Department plans to continue funding the full time SENCO and part time special needs teachers at St. Kieran's Primary School, Poleglass; and will she consider increasing provisions of these services in the school. (AQW 3590/09)

The Minister of Education: Go ginearálta, maoinítear costais na mball foirne múinteoireachta laistigh de scoil dheontaschúnta ón leithdháileadh a tugadh don scoil tríd an Fhoirmle Cóhaoinithe (CFF).

The costs of teaching staff within a grant-aided school are generally funded from the allocation made available to the school through the Common Funding Formula (CFF). It is then a matter for the Trustees of the school to determine how resources are spent within the school. In addition to the CFF allocation, the Department allocates a small amount of earmarked monies to each grant-aided school to help the school administer the special educational needs (SEN) framework as set out in the SEN Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. Further to this an Education and Library Board may provide funding to a school for SEN classroom assistance or additional teaching hours, as set out in an individual child's statement of SEN, but this is determined by the individual SEN provision required. The staffing levels required within St Kieran's Primary School, Poleglass, is therefore a matter for the Trustees of the school in conjunction with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the South Eastern Education and Library Board in accordance with the needs of pupils enrolled in the school.

Primary Schools in North Antrim

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education to list the number of pupils that attended each primary school in North Antrim, ranked in order of size with the school with the most pupils coming first, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3625/09)

The Minister of Education: Tá an t-eolas a iarradh cuimsithe sna táblaí thíos.

The information requested is contained in the tables below.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY – TOTAL ENROLMENT – 2004/05

School Name	Total enrolment
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Ps (Ballycastle)	441
Gracehill Ps	434
Buick Memorial Ps	387
Ballymena Ps	359
Braidside Integrated Ps	345
Camphill Ps	328
Ballymoney Ps	318
Broughshane Ps	312
Ballykeel Ps	309
Leaney Ps	306
St Joseph's Ps (Dunloy)	284

School Name	Total enrolment
St Louis' Convent Ps	266
Carniny Ps	263
Fourtowns Ps	242
St Patrick's Ps (Rasharkin)	224
All Saints Ps	220
St Mary's Ps (Portglenone)	219
St Mary's Ps (Cushendall)	211
Moorfields Ps	198
Kells & Connor Ps	192
St Patrick's Ps (Loughguile)	187
St Brigid's Ps (Ballymoney)	183
Portglenone Ps	174
Dalriada School	151
Bushvalley Ps	142
Dunclug Ps	141
Harryville Ps	133
Clough Ps	131
Bushmills Ps	131
St Patrick's Ps (Glenariff)	121
Glenravel Ps	117
The Diamond Ps	115
Kilmoyle Ps	115
Dunseverick Ps	114
Carnaghts Ps	110
Millquarter Ps	103
Carrowreagh Ps	92
Lislagan Ps	92
Hazelbank Ps	91
Ballee Ps	87
Balnamore Ps	87
St Mary's Ps (Glenravel)	86
Barnish Ps	86
St Joseph's Ps (Doury Rd)	86
St Brigid's Ps (Cloughmills)	84
St Anne's Ps (Corky)	83
Ballycastle Ps	82
Eden Ps	81
Cloughmills Ps	80
Straidbilly Ps	78

School Name	Total enrolment
St Ciaran's Ps (Cushendun)	77
Knockahollet Ps	76
Kirkinriola Ps	72
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Ps	67
St Olcan's Ps (Armoy)	65
Garryduff Ps	62
Armoy Ps	61
Longstone Ps	60
Rasharkin Ps	59
Landhead Ps	55
Glenann Ps	53
St Mary's Ps (Larne Rd, Ballymena)	53
Bunscoil An Chaistil	43
Braid Ps	28
Lisnamurrigan Ps	27
St Patrick's Ps (Aughtercloney)	26
St Joseph's Ps (Ahoghill)	24
St Mary's Ps (Rathlin)	3

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY – TOTAL ENROLMENT – 2005/06

School Name	Total enrolment
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Ps (Ballycastle)	447
Gracehill Ps	432
Buick Memorial Ps	389
Ballymena Ps	363
Braidside Integrated Ps	352
Camphill Ps	325
Ballykeel Ps	318
Ballymoney Ps	316
Leaney Ps	308
Broughshane Ps	296
St Louis' Convent Ps	292
St Joseph's Ps (Dunloy)	290
Carniny Ps	252
Fourtowns Ps	235
St Patrick's Ps (Rasharkin)	228
All Saints Ps	217
St Mary's Ps (Cushendall)	208
St Mary's Ps (Portglenone)	200
Moorfields Ps	193

School Name	Total enrolment
St Patrick's Ps (Loughguile)	193
St Brigid's Ps (Ballymoney)	188
Kells & Connor Ps	187
Portglenone Ps	162
Bushvalley Ps	154
Dalriada School Prep. Dept.	146
Harryville Ps	140
Clough Primary School	139
St Patrick's Ps (Glenariffe)	130
Dunseverick Ps	129
Dunclug Ps	126
Glenravel Ps	126
Kilmoyle Ps	124
Bushmills Ps	118
The Diamond Ps	114
Carnaghts Ps	108
Millquarter Ps	102
Hazelbank Ps	94
Barnish Ps	94
Lislagan Ps	93
Carrowreagh Ps	87
Balnamore Ps	87
Eden Ps	86
St Mary's Ps (Glenravel)	86
St Brigid's Ps (Cloughmills)	86
Ballee Ps	84
St Joseph's Ps (Doury Rd)	77
St Anne's Ps (Corky)	76
Cloughmills Ps	75
Straidbilly Ps	74
Kirkinriola Ps	72
Ballycastle Ps	72
St Ciaran's Ps (Cushendun)	69
Knockahollet Ps	66
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Ps	65
Longstone Ps	64
Garryduff Ps	64
St Olcan's Ps (Armoy)	62
Landhead Ps	61

School Name	Total enrolment
Bunscoil An Chaistil	61
Armoy Ps	59
Rasharkin Ps	59
St Mary's Ps (Ballymena)	49
Glenann Ps	46
Lisnamurrican Ps	31
Braid Ps	28
St Patrick's Ps (Aughtercloney)	26
St Joseph's Ps (Ahoghill)	26
St Mary's Ps (Rathlin)	4

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY – TOTAL ENROLMENT – 2006/07

School Name	Total enrolment
Gracehill Ps	435
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Ps (Ballycastle)	410
Buick Memorial Ps	382
Ballymena Ps	368
Braidside Integrated Ps	343
Ballykeel Ps	322
Camphill Ps	322
Broughshane Ps	321
Ballymoney Ps	318
Leaney Ps	306
St Joseph's Ps (Dunloy)	292
St Louis' Convent Ps	284
Carniny Ps	252
Fourtowns Ps	228
St Patrick's Ps (Rasharkin)	219
Moorfields Ps	217
All Saints Ps	216
St Mary's Ps (Cushendall)	208
St Mary's Ps (Portglenone)	201
Kells & Connor Ps	194
St Brigid's Ps (Ballymoney)	194
St Patrick's Ps (Loughguile)	194
Portglenone Ps	150
Harryville Ps	148
Bushvalley Ps	147
Dalriada School Prep. Dept.	147
Clough Primary School	140

School Name	Total enrolment
Glenravel Ps	131
Dunseverick Ps	128
Kilmoyle Ps	128
St Patrick's Ps (Glenariff)	125
Bushmills Ps	120
Dunclug Ps	115
The Diamond Ps	114
Carnaghts Ps	109
Hazelbank Ps	105
Millquarter Ps	103
Ballycastle Ps	100
Lislagan Ps	94
Eden Ps	91
Balnamore Ps	90
Barnish Ps	89
St Mary's Ps (Glenravel)	87
St Brigid's Ps (Cloughmills)	83
Carrowreagh Ps	81
Kirkinriola Ps	78
Straidbilly Ps	78
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Ps	73
Knockahollet Ps	73
St Anne's Ps (Corky)	73
St Joseph's Ps (Doury Rd)	73
Ballee Ps	71
Bunscoil An Chaistil	71
St Ciaran's Ps (Cushendun)	69
Garryduff Ps	63
Rasharkin Ps	63
Cloughmills Ps	63
Armoy Ps	57
Longstone Ps	56
Landhead Ps	55
St Olcan's Ps	55
Glenann Ps	48
St Mary's Ps (Ballymena)	45
St Patrick's Ps (Aughtercloney)	26
Braid Ps	24
St Joseph's Ps (Ahoghill)	17

School Name	Total enrolment
St Mary's Ps (Rathlin)	4

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY – TOTAL ENROLMENT – 2007/08

School Name	Total enrolment
Gracehill Ps	439
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Ps (Ballycastle)	411
Buick Memorial Ps	375
Ballymena Ps	360
Braidside Integrated Ps	357
Camphill Ps	352
St Colmcille's Ps	327
Leaney Ps	321
Ballykeel Ps	319
Broughshane Ps	315
St Brigid's Ps (Broughshane Rd)	308
St Joseph's Ps (Dunloy)	305
Ballymoney Ps	296
Carniny Ps	245
St Patrick's Ps (Rasharkin)	228
Fourtowns Ps	227
St Mary's Ps (Portglenone)	217
Moorfields Ps	216
St Mary's Ps (Cushendall)	200
St Brigid's Ps (Ballymoney)	194
St Patrick's Ps (Loughguile)	194
Kells & Connor Ps	186
Bushvalley Ps	156
Clough Primary School	152
Portglenone Ps	151
Dalriada School Prep. Dept.	146
Glenravel Ps	143
Dunseverick Ps	140
Kilmoyle Ps	132
Harryville Ps	129
Ballycastle Ps	125
Dunclug Ps	120
St Patrick's Ps (Glenariff)	120
The Diamond Ps	116
Millquarter Ps	115
Bushmills Ps	107

School Name	Total enrolment
Carnaghts Ps	106
Hazelbank Ps	100
Lislagan Ps	94
Eden Ps	93
Barnish Ps	91
Kirkinriola Ps	89
Balnamore Ps	89
St Brigid's Ps (Cloughmills)	88
Straidbilly Ps	87
Knockahollet Ps	81
St Mary's Ps (Glenravel)	78
Carrowreagh Ps	77
St Anne's Ps (Corky)	75
Bunscoil An Chaistil	75
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Ps	73
Ballee Ps	73
St Ciaran's Ps (Cushendun)	66
Garryduff Ps	64
Rasharkin Ps	62
Longstone Ps	57
St Olcan's Ps (Armoy)	53
Glenann Ps	52
Armoy Ps	50
Landhead Ps	48
Cloughmills Ps	44
Braid Ps	23
St Joseph's Ps (Ahoghill)	18
St Patrick's Ps Aughtercloney	5
St Mary's Ps (Rathlin)	4

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH ANTRIM CONSTITUENCY – TOTAL ENROLMENT – 2008/09

School Name	Total enrolment
Gracehill Ps	434
St Patrick's & St Brigid's Ps (Ballycastle)	411
Braidside Integrated Ps	371
Buick Memorial Ps	359
Camphill Ps	357
Ballymena Ps	336
St Colmcille's Ps	321
Ballykeel Ps	320

School Name	Total enrolment
Leaney Ps	318
Broughshane Ps	313
St Brigid's Ps (Broughshane Rd)	311
St Joseph's Ps (Dunloy)	308
Carniny Ps	257
Ballymoney Ps	253
Fourtowns Ps	219
Moorfields Ps	218
St Patrick's Ps (Rasharkin)	212
St Mary's Ps (Portglenone)	211
St Patrick's Ps (Loughguile)	195
St Brigid's Ps (Ballymoney)	188
St Mary's Ps (Cushendall)	187
Kells & Connor Ps	177
Clough Primary School	155
Bushvalley Ps	154
Dalriada School Prep. Dept.	144
Portglenone Ps	144
Glenravel Ps	143
Dunseverick Ps	141
Ballycastle Ps	129
Kilmoyle Ps	126
Millquarter Ps	124
St Patrick's Ps (Glenariff)	122
The Diamond Ps	119
Harryville Ps	113
Dunclug Ps	108
Bushmills Ps	106
Kirkinriola Ps	99
Lislagan Ps	99
Hazelbank Ps	96
Balnamore Ps	93
Carnaghts Ps	92
Straidbilly Ps	86
Barnish Ps	85
Knockahollet Ps	84
Eden Ps	83
Carrowreagh Ps	81
Bunscoil An Chaistil	77

School Name	Total enrolment
St Mary's Ps Glenravel	75
St Brigid's Ps (Clogh Mills)	74
The Wm Pinkerton Memorial Ps	72
St Anne's Ps (Corkey)	70
St Ciaran's Ps (Glendun)	65
Rasharkin Ps	63
Ballee Ps	61
Garryduff Ps	59
Longstone Ps	58
Armoy Ps	53
St Olcan's Ps (Armoy)	49
Landhead Ps	46
Glenann Ps	45
Cloughmills Ps	40
St Paul's Ps (Ahoghill)	27
Braid Ps	18
St Mary's Ps (Rathlin)	4

Source: Annual school census

Note: Totals includes nursery, reception and year 1 – 7 classes.

Glenravel Primary School

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education how many pupils were enrolled at Glenravel Primary School in (i) 2005; (ii) 2006; (iii) 2007; and (iv) 2008. (AQW 3627/09)

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

The information requested is contained in the table below.

Glenravel Primary School – Total enrolment – 2005/06 – 2008/09

Year	Total enrolment
2005/06	126
2006/07	131
2007/08	143
2008/09	143

Source: Annual school census

Glenravel Primary School

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education if the Department will provide extra capacity at Glenravel Primary School before September 2009 to ensure that the school can accommodate rising numbers. (AQW 3628/09)

The Minister of Education: D'fhaomh an Roinn soláthar breise cóiríochta sealadaí ag an scoil le tabhairt faoin easnamh áiseanna ó thaobh oifige/seomra foirne/acmhainní de.

The Department has approved the provision of additional temporary accommodation at the school to address a shortfall in office/staffroom/resource facilities. The school has not applied for additional teaching accommodation but should one be submitted it will be considered by the Department. The Department will also consider the provision of additional temporary teaching accommodation for September 2009 as the enrolment at the school increases.

Transport Policy

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Education if any of the Education and Library Boards approved exceptional cases that are not in line with their transport policy. (AQW 3629/09)

The Minister of Education: Is féidir liom a dheimhniú nár fhaomhadh aon chásanna eisceachtúla nach bhfuil clúdaithe sa pholasaí reatha maidir le cúrsaí iompair ó bhaile chuig scoil.

I can confirm that no exceptional cases have been approved that are outside of the current home to school transport policy. The Education and Library Boards may, however, consider applications for transport assistance in exceptional circumstances under the current school transport arrangements. This enables Boards to take account of non-standard issues such as road safety hazards. The Boards have advised that under the exceptional circumstances clause, 19 applications for transport assistance due to exceptional circumstances have been approved in the current academic year (2008/09).

School Maintenance Programme

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Education for her assessment of the possible health and safety risks as a result of the backlog on the school maintenance programme for schools in Lisburn and Dromore. (AQW 3655/09)

The Minister of Education: Is iad Boird Oideachais agus Leabharlainne an Oirdheiscirt agus an Deiscirt a bhíonn freagrach as cothabháil scoileanna Rialaithe agus scoileanna faoi Chothabháil i gceantar Lios na gCearrbhach agus Dhroim Mór.

The South Eastern and Southern Education and Library Boards have responsibility for the maintenance of Controlled and Maintained schools in the Lisburn and Dromore area. The Boards carry out a rolling programme of condition surveys to identify maintenance requirements, with the highest priority being given to those that pose a health and safety risk. Additionally, possible health and safety issues are identified by regular site visits by Board officers and by school based staff. It is the Boards' policy to address health and safety issues as a matter of urgency.

EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING

Belfast Metropolitan College

Mr Newton asked the Minister for Employment and Learning, pursuant to the answers to questions AQW 523/09 and AQW 1343/09, to detail the courses not being delivered at Belfast Metropolitan College, due to a lack of interest from prospective students, in this academic year. (AQW 3009/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning (Sir Reg Empey): I have attached, at Annex A, a list of courses which are not being delivered in the current academic year by Belfast Metropolitan College, due to lack of student uptake.

The College has also informed me that a number of classes in Modern Languages and GCSE Maths and English have been amalgamated to ensure their viability.

ANNEX A

- Art – AS Level
- Geography – AS Level
- Irish - AS Level
- Law - AS Level

- Philosophy – AS Level
- Physics – AS Level
- Advanced Diploma in Health Promotion
- Applied Chemistry - HND
- Mechanical Engineering – Foundation Degree
- Product Design and Development – Foundation Degree

Re-Integration of Former Prisoners.

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what is he doing to reduce barriers to employment and enhance re-integration of former political prisoners. (AQW 3071/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: A comprehensive range of services is available through my Department's network of 35 Jobs & Benefits offices and JobCentres and through contracted Providers to help the unemployed find work. These services include provision such as Progress2Work (NI) which is specifically targeted at ex-prisoners, those who are homeless and those with substance misuse/abuse issues, and will run until March 2010. The Pathways to Work programme is open to clients with health conditions or disability, including ex-prisoners. The Department has introduced a more flexible, menu-based, modular approach to provision, better tailored to the individual's needs, with a clear emphasis on increasing the participants' employability prospects. Through this new initiative, 'Steps to Work', the Department has extended the availability of provision to other groups not previously targeted, including ex-prisoners. In addition to these services the Department's Careers Service provides an all age Careers Information, Advice and Guidance service to adults and young people, including former political prisoners.

Furthermore, the Department's ApprenticeshipsNI provision is open to people of all ages who are in employment, or are about to take up employment, including ex-prisoners. Under this provision, people can work towards the achievement of industry-approved qualifications, as well as developing Essential Skills where required. Whilst this provision is not specifically designed to reduce barriers to employment, it is generally accepted that continuous professional development and occupational training can act as a significant step towards reintegration.

Local Further Education Colleges also offer a wide range of curriculum through their main campuses and community outreach centres, which are accessible to everyone. Courses include essential skills, professional and technical training, leisure and hobby activities and, tailored courses for students with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Ex-Prisoner Groups

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what ex-prisoner groups his Department has met with to discuss employment for former political prisoners. (AQW 3074/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: My Department has not met with any ex-prisoner groups to discuss employment for former political prisoners since devolution in May 2007.

Apprentices

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning pursuant to the answer to AQW 2709/09, to list which major companies will be taking on apprentices who have been made redundant from their current employer. (AQW 3109/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: The Department has engaged with both the relevant Sector Skills Councils and Workforce Development Forums to begin identifying employers who will either "foster" apprentices who have been made redundant (i.e. take them on as additional employees), or provide work placements to allow apprentices to complete their NVQ training under the Steps to Work initiative.

I would emphasise that this work is ongoing and that contingency arrangements were only introduced on 1st December. It will require considerable coordination between the Department, Training Suppliers and employer organisations, to ensure that apprentices are appropriately matched to employers, according to geographical and

occupational areas. It is likely, therefore, that a clearer picture will emerge over the next few weeks and into the New Year.

To date, however, the Department has received confirmation from Michelin that it will be prepared to facilitate work placements for 30 apprentices who have been made redundant. We also understand that NI Water and Phoenix Gas have been contacted by the appropriate Sector Skills Council in this regard, and that follow-up meetings are due to take place soon.

Prader-Willi Syndrome Sufferers

Mr Shannon asked the the Minister for Employment and Learning if services and support such as residential provision, training and employment opportunities are available to Prader-Willi Syndrome sufferers.

(AQW 3127/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: The Department for Employment and Learning provides a wide range of training, pre-vocational and vocational provision to assist people with disabilities, including people with Prader-Willi Syndrome, to prepare for and to find and keep a suitable job. The provision includes: Training for Success; Apprenticeships NI; Workable (NI); Access to Work (NI); the Job Introduction Scheme; New Deal for Disabled People; Residential Training; Occupational Psychology services, and; within the Pathways to Work initiative the Condition Management Programme and the Work Preparation Programme. Appropriate supports are available to assist individuals, where required.

The provision can be accessed through the Department's Personal Adviser or Careers Adviser networks.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what contribution his Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.

(AQW 3217/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: In December 2006, officials from the Department of Work and Pensions contacted officials in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). OFMDFM assumed lead responsibility for progressing this issue and wrote to all Departments on 2 January 2007 requesting that they scrutinise their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. This was to enable the UK Government to make an informed decision about the ratification of the Convention and to identify any need for reservations or interpretative declarations.

On the 26 September 2008, my Department was asked to confirm whether we had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention and to confirm how we had arrived at our policy position. Officials concluded that, based on a working knowledge of the Department's policies, practices and legislation and our Departmental statutory duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Convention was unlikely to impose any additional requirements. We will, therefore, not be entering any reservations.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the total revenue generated through his Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts.

(AQW 3261/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: My Department does not generate any revenue in relation to leasing land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister for Employment and Learning which policies and practices within his Department have been changed to deliver the 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11. (AQW 3293/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: The Department has a target to deliver cash releasing efficiencies of £20.3 million, £40.1 million and £59.2 million respectively over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Savings are being achieved through a range of measures including reducing departmental staffing complements and administration expenditure; setting more challenging targets for external organisations with a view to achieving the same with less and pursuing more efficient procurement methods in terms of capital expenditure.

Further Education

Mrs McGill asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to detail the management of, and processes involved in, the further education awards system. (AQW 3350/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: Further Education Awards are funded by the Department for Employment and Learning, and administered by the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) on behalf of the five Education and Library Boards. In the 2008/09 academic year £3.25m is available for this purpose.

Full eligibility criteria and detail of how the Awards are managed are set out in the document "Further Education Awards 2008/09 - A Guide to Financial Support for Further Education" which is available on the WELB website at [www.welbni.org/uploads/File/A_guide_to_fin_support\(2\).pdf](http://www.welbni.org/uploads/File/A_guide_to_fin_support(2).pdf)

European Charter on Minority Languages

Mr Butler asked the Minister for Employment and Learning to demonstrate how his Department and its arms length bodies, have applied, in practice, the European Charter on Minority Languages in relation to the Irish language. (AQW 3520/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: DEL fully recognises the importance of the use of Irish as an expression of cultural wealth and this is evidenced by the Codes of Courtesy in place for the conduct of business and efforts to date in relation to Irish, in particular in education and training. In recognising its responsibilities, after consultation with its delivery partners, DEL has contributed, in detail, to the compliance report that the UK is obliged to make to the Committee of Experts that oversees compliance with the articles of the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages. Actions include:-

- Highlighting the provisions of the European Charter to organisations delivering Training for Success and ApprenticeshipsNI.
- Commissioning of research in the sphere of linguistic diversity marketing and administration within FE Colleges.
- A commitment to re-examining the language issue with a view to publishing a policy that will be available on the Department's website.
- Making any printed document available in any language - the Department has in place a facility for replying to correspondents in their preferred language, e.g. Irish.. A range of key documents have already been translated into Irish and are available on the DEL website. Also, application forms for Student Support and Steps to Work promotional material are made available in Irish, and forms for Education Maintenance Allowance are available on the DEL website in Irish for 2008/09; .
- If a person presents to a Jobs and Benefits Office/JobCentre wishing to conduct business in Irish, arrangements can be made to commission an interpreter. Any requests to the Department's "Helpline" would be dealt with in accordance with the Departmental Codes of Courtesy.
- Eligible Higher Education students from Northern Ireland who wish to be educated in the medium of Irish can attend courses in the Republic of Ireland and have their registration fees paid by DEL, provided they are designated under the Student Support Regulations.
- The two universities in Northern Ireland have facilities for studying Irish at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- DEL provides funding to St Mary's University College for the additional costs involved in delivery of an Irish Medium Post-Graduate Certificate in Education.

- DE and DEL work jointly to take forward the further development of Irish Medium primary and post-primary Initial Teacher Education in the Higher Education Institutions.
- A module of the former Jobskills programme (now Training for Success) developed in Irish language jointly by Belfast Metropolitan College and Forbairt Feirste. This has now been made available for use across the FE sector, subject to demand.

Irish language provision in, for example, further and higher education is determined by the institutions themselves as autonomous bodies and a range of measures and provision is available in response to demand.

Lone Parent Benefits

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Employment and Learning how many focus advisors have been trained to deal with the proposed changes to incapacity and lone parent benefits. (AQW 3547/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: All of the Department for Employment and Learning's Pathways Personal Advisers are receiving training to deal with the change from Incapacity Benefit to Employment and Support Allowance. To date 135 Advisers and 31 Team Leaders have received the first element of training which deals with Employment and Support processes. Twenty-four Advisers, 23 Team Leaders and 24 Managers have received the second element of training which deals with clients Mental Health conditions and learning difficulties and is delivered by the Department's Occupational Psychology Service. The remainder of the Advisers will be trained in early part of 2009. It is expected that the changes to Lone Parent conditionality will result in Lone Parents claiming Jobseekers Allowance and these clients will be dealt with by the Department's existing Jobseekers Allowance Personal Advisers.

Unemployment Numbers

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans his Department has to address rising unemployment numbers and significant job losses in the Coleraine area. (AQW 3554/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: A comprehensive range of services is available through my Department's network of 35 Jobs & Benefits Offices and JobCentres and with contracted Providers to help the unemployed find work, including those who have suffered as a result of recent job losses in Coleraine and elsewhere. The services include mandatory work-focused interviews, action planning for certain clients and a range of measures designed to improve their job prospects. Also, from 22nd December the Department's Steps to Work initiative will be rolled out in the Coleraine area. This will provide a more flexible approach to the use of adult return to work provision, and offer individual training assistance as appropriate following discussions with our Personal Adviser service.

My colleague the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has also confirmed that during the six year period 2002-03 to 2007-08, there were 595 offers of support made to Invest NI Clients in the East Londonderry Parliamentary Constituency area. This comprised assistance of just over £30m, which contributed towards a total planned investment of almost £98m. Some 50% of Invest NI assistance in the area related to locally-owned businesses (both existing and new starts). In addition, six inward investment projects were offered almost £12m of assistance, contributing towards projects planning to invest almost £35m and create 585 new jobs.

University Fees

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Employment and Learning what plans he has for a review of university fees and student support; and for his assessment of the issues to be highlighted as a result of this review. (AQW 3555/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: My plans have always been that an independent review of variable fees and student support arrangements will commence in this current academic year. The review is underway but at this stage I would not wish to pre-empt the issues that it might highlight. The review will look at three main areas:

- The impact of the current arrangements on higher education institutions
- The impact of the current arrangements on students and prospective students
- Future student support policy for Northern Ireland

Funds and Endowments of Two Universities

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister for Employment and Learning if he has made an assessment of the damage to funds and endowments of the two Universities during the present economic downturn and stock market crisis. (AQW 3576/09)

The Minister for Employment and Learning: I have not made an assessment of the damage to funds and endowments of the two Northern Ireland universities. As autonomous bodies both institutions are responsible for the management of their own financial affairs and funds.

However, under the terms of their Financial Memorandum with my Department, each University must ensure that it has a sound system of internal financial management and control in place. It is also required to plan and conduct its financial and academic affairs to ensure that it remains solvent. The Department must be notified of any event that has, or is likely to have, a material adverse impact on the financial position of the University, as soon as this becomes apparent. I can confirm that neither university has brought any such concerns to the attention of the Department during the present economic downturn.

In addition, the universities are required to submit annual accounts and other assurance documentation to the Department. This information is examined by the Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) Assurance Service which then reports its findings to the Department. In the last such report, issued in February 2008, both universities were found to be 'not at higher risk'. A further report will issue in February 2009.

ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what actions her Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects, to help address the economic downturn. (AQW 3013/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (Mrs A Foster): The majority of DETI's Capital budget relates to the provision of grant funding by Invest NI to businesses in support of their Capital investment plans. Invest NI has been working closely with its client base to encourage the submission of such Capital investment proposals.

DETI and NITB have also been actively encouraging the progression of Capital investment in the Tourism, Energy and Telecoms sectors, and on 27 November 2008, DETI secured agreement for the Executive to offer up to £43.5million toward the £97million Titanic Quarter Limited proposal for a Titanic Signature project.

Cultural Tourism Sector

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of Economusees/Economuseums including their potential to contribute to the cultural tourism sector and if she will support efforts to develop them. (AQW 3075/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) officials attended the launch of the first United Kingdom Economusees/Economuseums project in Ballymena on Monday 8th December 2008. Following this NITB will be able to assess its potential and how it can be integrated into the work NITB is doing with this sector.

Craft has been selected as one of the key products within NITB's product portfolio. NITB has established a collaborative relationship with Craft NI in order to help this sector respond to the opportunities offered by tourism. NITB sponsored two seminars for the craft sector in 2008, one focusing on the range of grants available and how to access them, and the other on the developing trend for creative tourism.

Energy Bills

Ms Ní Chuilín asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what discussions she has had with energy providers on the potential of excluding V.A.T. from household energy bills. (AQW 3080/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: My Department has not engaged in discussions with any of the energy providers in Northern Ireland regarding the potential for excluding V.A.T. from household energy bills.

Taxation, including V.A.T., is a Reserved Matter for HM Treasury to determine and is therefore outside the remit of the devolved responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Lending Practices

Mr Poots asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what meetings have taken place or been arranged with the banks to discuss their lending practices to businesses. (AQW 3085/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: I, along with the First and deputy First Ministers and the Minister for Finance and Personnel are due to meet with representatives of the four main banks in Northern Ireland on 16 December to explore the wider banking sector views on local business prospects for 2009 and discuss with the local banks their lending policies to consumers and businesses. This meeting is an opportunity to encourage the banks to avail of the recent funding measures for business announced by the Chancellor in his Pre-Budget Report.

Invest NI's senior management has engaged proactively with the main Northern Ireland banks – Ulster Bank, Northern Bank, First Trust and Bank of Ireland – to discuss how businesses can continue to access finance in the current economic environment. These meetings began last year when Invest NI identified that some of its client companies were beginning to face cash flow problems. More than 30 meetings have taken place so far, both at headquarters and regional levels, and many more are scheduled over the coming months.

Officials from DETI have also had discussions with local banks in relation to the development of an Enterprise Strategy, an important component of which will be access to finance.

A significant feature of these discussions has been how banks might make more use of the UK wide Small Firm Loan Guarantee Scheme, which has always been under-utilised in Northern Ireland. DETI and Invest NI will continue to work with the UK Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the banks and businesses to ensure that Northern Ireland takes full advantage of the scheme.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what preparations her Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3192/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: In July 2007, DETI carried out an exercise to scrutinise all of its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to ensure that they were compatible with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In a further update in September 2008, DETI re-checked its position and confirmed that there were no areas of difficulty which would be likely to compromise the Department's ability to meet the requirements of the Convention.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what contribution her Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3194/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: DETI undertook an exercise in July 2007 to scrutinize its legislation, policies, practices and procedures for compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. DETI did not identify any particular difficulties and did not raise any potential reservations to the Convention. This position was confirmed in a follow-up exercise in September 2008.

Invest NI

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to report on the impact of the economic downturn on the number of projects with which Invest NI is engaged. (AQW 3215/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: In the year to date, Invest NI activity has been encouraging when compared to that in recent years. Thus far, 1st April to 30th November 2008, it has approved offers of financial assistance totalling £113 million to almost 1,400 projects. The comparable performance for the same period in 2007/08 was £56 million and 1,200 projects. Great care needs to be taken in interpreting this performance as it reflects a “lag” effect, as projects that have been in the pipeline for some time have been finalised, and also some evidence that clients are “banking” offers and preparing for a medium term economic upturn.

Invest NI anticipates that its PSA and Operating Plan activity targets for 2008/09 will largely be achieved. However, looking longer term, into 2009/10 and 2010/11, the early stage pipeline of projects from locally-owned and externally-owned clients, and prospective new Foreign Direct Investment clients, is not favourable. It shows a 45% reduction in project numbers compared to the same point in 2007/08.

This correlates to feedback received from the National Business Survey which shows a general deterioration in business confidence. As these projects would have been due to be delivered during 2009/10, this forecasted downturn is likely to have a negative impact on my Department’s ability to deliver its PSA targets.

Invest NI has also experienced a significant drop in the number of industrial land sites it has sold to its client companies to undertake development projects. At this stage last year, Invest NI had sold leases to client companies for 27 sites, and 2 factories. In the year to date, 4 sites have been sold. This is clear evidence that clients are at best delaying future investment projects.

The level of grant claims being processed by Invest NI each month is running at unprecedented levels. 255 claims per month are being processed compared to 233 in 2007/08 and 200 in 2006/07. This demonstrates clear evidence that Invest NI’s clients are being much more expeditious in submitting claims in order to assist in managing cash flow pressures. It is worth noting that Invest NI is responsive to the needs of its clients and on average clears claims for payment within 5 days after checking and approval.

On a more positive note, there has been an increase in those companies undertaking Research and Development, business improvement and cost reduction projects. Research & Development assistance offered has increased by 176% compared with the same point in 2007/08. Again, this is a clear sign that many Invest NI clients are moving to increase their competitiveness and position themselves to take advantage of any future economic upturn.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the total revenue generated through her Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3244/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The Department has no leasing arrangements in respect of its land and property to facilitate the erection of telephone communications masts.

Invest NI has entered into a 10 year (minimum) agreement, commencing on 23 July 2008, with Orange Personal Communications Services Limited for the placement of a telecommunications equipment mast on an approximately 36 square metre plot at Springbank Industrial Estate, Poleglass.

This agreement generates rental income of £4,000.00 + VAT per annum.

Three Percent Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment which policies and practices within her Department have been changed to deliver the 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11. (AQW 3295/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11 will be delivered through a 5% reduction year on year in DETI’s Administration budget and withdrawal from the electricity Contract Buy Out (CBO) Policy. Further details are set out in the Department’s Efficiency Delivery Programme at <http://www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/downutildoc?id=2141>.

Tourism Partnerships

Mrs McGill asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much funding has each of the regional Tourism Partnerships received in 2008-09. (AQW 3349/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: NITB has established Service Level Agreements with the Regional Tourism Partnerships (RTPs) for 2008/09. Payments are made on the fulfilment of targets established within the Service Level Agreements.

To date the following funds have been released:

Causeway Coast and Glens RTP	ArmaghDown RTP	Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau	Western RTP
£41,125	£41,125	£46,250	£ nil to date

The Western RTP Service Level Agreement was only signed recently and a payment claim is yet to be submitted.

NITB also administers International Fund for Ireland funding to RTPs. In 2008-09 the following payments were made:

Causeway Coast and Glens RTP	Armaghdown RTP	Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau	Western RTP
£66,510	£94,581	£ nil to date	£ 27,185

LEDU Retirement and Death Benefits Plan

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the impact, of the decision to wind-up the LEDU retirement and death benefit plan, on existing pensioners receiving benefits from this pension scheme. (AQW 3363/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Wind-up means that the Plan's assets will be used to secure members' benefit entitlements under the Plan through alternative pension arrangements. Once this is done, members will cease to have any entitlement to benefits under the Plan.

The wind up arrangements are as follows:

Benefits in respect of all pensioner members will be secured by means of immediate annuity policies with an insurance company. Similarly, benefits in respect of deferred members (i.e. any member who is not yet in receipt of a pension from the Plan) will be secured by means of deferred annuity policies with an insurance company.

On wind-up, the Trustees will purchase insurance policies in members' own names that will provide their full benefit entitlement, including any spouse's pension payable following their death and full pension increases on both their pension and their spouse's pension for the remainder of their lifetimes.

It is possible that the insurance policy cannot exactly replicate some of the more minor features of members' benefits. However, where this is the case, the Trustees will ensure that the benefit bought for individuals is at least of equivalent value to their benefit entitlement.

Deferred members have the right to transfer their benefits to an alternative pension arrangement, either with their current employer or a personal pension policy. This right applies prior to the Plan wind-up being completed and extends until the member actually retires and starts to draw their pension benefits.

LEDU Retirement and Death Benefits Plan

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide the names and contact details of the trustees of the LEDU retirement and death benefits plan. (AQW 3372/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The names and contact details of the Trustees of the LEDU Retirement and Death Benefits Plan are:

Chairperson: Anna Cooper, c/o Departmental HR, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JP;

Member: Liam Hagan, c/o Invest Northern Ireland, Bedford Square, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7ES; and

Member: Fiona White, c/o Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, Belfast BT4 2JP.

LEDU Retirement and Death Benefits Plan

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to provide the reasons for the winding-up of the LEDU retirement and death benefits plan. (AQW 3373/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: LEDU ceased operating as a company on 31 March 2002 and, as a result, all employees ceased to earn benefits in the LEDU Retirement and Death Benefits Plan at that date. The rules of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (NI) would only permit those employees who transferred to Invest Northern Ireland to transfer their benefits to the PCSPS(NI). As such, the possibility of transferring deferred members and pensioners to PCSPS(NI) was not an option.

A number of alternative options as to how the benefits payable to deferred and pensioner members (approximately 155) of the Plan may be secured was considered at the time. Having considered all of the potential options available, it was decided that the only viable option was for the Trustees to wind up the Plan. However, in view of the significant funding shortfall at the time (a position not uncommon in retirement plans) it was agreed that, rather than commencing wind up immediately, the winding up of the Plan should be deferred until such time as the necessary funds were available to secure members' benefits in full. Therefore on 1 April 2002, to ensure, in the interim, the continued provision of the benefits specified in the Plan, the Department, by Deed of Novation, assumed the liabilities of the Plan and roles/responsibilities as Principal Employer. At the same time, since none of the existing Trustees wished to continue in post, the Department appointed a Board of three Trustees to manage the scheme until wind up.

As the Principal Employer, in accordance with the Plan's rules, DETI is required to pay such contributions as the Trustees require to provide the benefits specified in the rules. Between 2003 and 2007, the Plan's investments have increased significantly as a result of good investment returns. In addition, over this period, the Department has provided the necessary additional funding to enable the Trustees to now secure members' benefit entitlements in full. Wind up would be achieved by purchasing insurance policies which would replicate the benefits provided under the Plan. The opinion of the Plan's actuary is that the current assets and investments will enable the members' benefit entitlement in full to be secured on wind up.

As the circumstances are now favourable to enable the Trustees to secure members benefits in full, the Trustees are undertaking the necessary preparatory tasks to enable the Scheme to be wound up.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

Ms Anderson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much money has been invested by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, in each parliamentary constituency, in each of the past five years. (AQW 3430/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The total financial assistance paid to tourism projects by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board in each of the last five financial years and the current year to date, broken down by parliamentary constituency is detailed in the table below.

PAYMENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ALL TOURISM PROJECTS BY CONSTITUENCY OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS AND DURING THE CURRENT YEAR TO DATE

Constituency	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009 to date	Total
Across all constituencies & cross-border	£2,562,807	£1,487,400	£1,199,553	£4,322,949	£161,738	£204,882	£9,939,329
Belfast East	£49,400	£10,000	£6,565		£444,510	£149,572	£660,047

Constituency	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008	2008/2009 to date	Total
Belfast North	£1,000	£4,500	£3,891			£62,138	£71,529
Belfast South		£13,314	£137,655	£252,643	£38,610	£44,144	£486,366
Belfast West	£20,000		£10,815		£60,065	£129,565	£220,445
East Antrim	£500			£14,474	£12,187		£27,161
East Londonderry	£77,030	£3,000	£2,272	£13,002	£210,316	£76,515	£382,135
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	£265,495	£75,592	£125,936	£144,372	£7,900	£188,194	£807,489
Foyle	£175,535	£99,498	£679,784	£1,730,323	£403,199	£720,414	£3,808,753
Lagan Valley	£2,021		£2,510	£11,380			£15,911
Mid Ulster	£20,790	£2,310	£3,974				£27,074
Newry & Armagh	£23,991	£7,000		£6,050	£32,541	£126,456	£196,038
North Antrim	£28,457	£14,709	£51,162	£74,209	£442,135		£610,672
North Down	£8,000		£3,266				£11,266
South Antrim							£0
South Down	£14,071	£29,801	£72,333	£141,988	£6,326	£6,639	£271,158
Strangford	£57,375		£1,887				£59,262
Upper Bann							£0
West Tyrone		£7,093				£26,746	£33,839
	£3,306,472	£1,754,217	£2,301,603	£6,711,390	£1,819,527	£1,735,265	£17,628,474

* Across all constituencies and cross border relates to projects which straddle more than one Parliamentary Constituency

While the investment is shown on a Constituency basis the economic and tourism benefits that this brings have a much wider effect. For example, investment in the five Signature Projects will bring benefits across all of Northern Ireland.

In addition financial assistance has been committed to projects that were implemented over several Constituencies. These amounts have been shown separately.

Using Irish in Public Life

Mr Butler asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to demonstrate how her Department, and its arms length bodies, have applied, in practice, the European Charter on Minority Languages in relation to the Irish language. (AQW 3460/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: In line with their obligations under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, DETI and its NDPBs – Invest Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Consumer Council for Northern Ireland and Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland – have made the following provisions for people who wish to use Irish in public life:

To accept written correspondence in Irish. Such correspondence is translated into English through DCAL's central translation service and a response is issued in English. Interpreters can also be provided through the central translation service if required;

To accept telephone calls in Irish. To handle such calls, customers are referred to a central voice mail service operated by DCAL;

To respect the wishes of anyone who wishes to be known by the Irish version of his or her name, and to use an Irish street name, if legally adopted, when a customer wishes; and

To consider the translation of executive summaries of key publications into Irish upon request subject to cost.

Tourism Ireland Offices

Ms Purvis asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to (i) outline the salary scales for posts in similar grades in Tourism Ireland's offices in (a) Coleraine; and (b) Dublin; and (ii) explain any significant inequalities in salaries between equivalent positions in the two offices. (AQW 3494/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: The salary scales for 2 posts in similar grades in Tourism Ireland Offices in Coleraine and Dublin are listed below.

GRADE E

	Dublin	Coleraine
Band Min	€53902	£30142
	€56229	£31393
	€58567	£32643
	€60935	£33893
	€63315	£35143
	€65702	£36080
	€68077	£37018
	€70465	£37643
	€72836	£38268
	€75213	£38893
	€77592	
	€79980	
	€82355	
	€84989	
	€87624	

GRADE D

	Dublin	Coleraine
Band Min	€45334	£24089
	€46846	£25008
	€48328	£25927
	€49824	£26845
	€51329	£27764
	€52849	£28453
	€54359	£29142
	€55868	£29601
	€57397	£30061
	€61083	£30520
	€63341	
	€65622	

Whilst the grades are similar in nature a direct comparison cannot be made and would be misleading.

Earlier this year, both Finance Ministers considered, at the request of NSMC, a case put by the Chief Executives of North/South Bodies which highlighted, inter alia, the differences in pay between their staff employed in Northern

Ireland whose pay is, in the main, linked to the Northern Ireland Civil Service and their staff in the Irish Republic whose pay is linked, in the main, to the Irish Civil Service.

The conclusion was that paying the going rate for the jurisdiction was the only defensible position. The main driver in this process is the national pay policy for the public sector in each jurisdiction. If there were harmonisation of the monetary value of salaries North and South, this would entail a sharp upward turn in the salaries of Northern Ireland staff, even if the salaries in the Irish Republic remained the same. In other words this cadre of staff in the bodies would be singled out to receive higher than the going rate for the public sector in Northern Ireland. Not only would this be invidious for the public sector at large in Northern Ireland but it would seem inequitable for those staff based in the Republic of Ireland who are expected, in these circumstances, to be satisfied with the going rate in that jurisdiction and nothing more.

Northern Ireland Science Park

Ms Anderson asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment if the Northern Ireland Science Park intends to create a linked development in Derry/Londonderry, as originally committed to when the Park was established in 1999. (AQW 3532/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: It has always been intended that Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) would develop facilities outside Belfast, as outlined in the vision document: 'Towards a Prosperous Future' which stated that the main physical development of the Science Park would be in the Belfast area with linked sites in the North West. Experience would indicate that Science Parks usually need some two decades to establish a hub which is both financially and organisationally strong enough to sustain linked development investment.

NISP continues to keep the issue of expansion outside Belfast under review and is currently in discussion with a number of interested parties to explore options for a linked development in Londonderry, as per the original vision.

Banks Lending Policies to Consumers

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what representations have been made by her Department to local banks to ensure that interest rate cuts are passed on to customers and support given to local businesses. (AQW 3613/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Together with the First and deputy First Ministers and the Minister for Finance and Personnel I met the Chief Executives of the four main banks in Northern Ireland on 16 December 2008 to discuss the general state of the local financial sector and the banks' lending policies to consumers and businesses. In our discussions, we raised with banks recent cuts in interest rates as well as the liquidity pumped into the market, which should make a significant impact on the cost of borrowing for both householders and business.

Invest NI's senior management has engaged proactively with the main Northern Ireland banks to discuss how businesses can continue to access finance in the current economic environment. These meetings began last year when Invest NI identified that some of its client companies were beginning to face cash flow problems. More than 30 meetings have taken place so far, both at headquarters and regional levels, and many more are scheduled over the coming months.

Invest NI

Mr Doherty asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail all requests made to Invest NI to make suitable land and/or premises available for (i) business start-up projects; (ii) business expansion projects; and (iii) inward investment projects in Strabane District Council area, in the last five years and how many projects have been accommodated. (AQW 3631/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Invest NI holds land for the use of its client companies that have a supported business case and can demonstrate an immediate property need. It only records interests on its own sites.

A company must meet minimum turnover and export thresholds to become an Invest NI client and, accordingly many start-ups fall outside the Invest NI remit in their early years and come under the responsibility of the Local Enterprise Agencies. Requests for property needs from such companies are not recorded by Invest NI.

Invest NI's landholding in Strabane is at Orchard Road. In the last five years Frylite purchased a 1.8 acre site at Orchard Road. In addition to this local company, two inward investment projects were successfully brought to the estate. In November 2004, Allstate Northern Ireland established a presence on the estate and in January 2007, FabPlus added to their 4.9 acre landholding by acquiring an additional 3.6 acres.

Invest NI has identified a shortage of land for the needs of its clients in the Strabane District Council Area and, in its 2005 response to the West Tyrone Area Plan Issues Paper suggested that approximately 30 acres would be required for that demand in the medium term. It is currently in discussions with a number of landowners with a view to acquiring land in the town for its clients needs.

Invest NI records property search information by client rather than any geographic reference. As a result it cannot provide any data on the number of requests for any particular location. However, the organisation has 79 client companies operating in the Strabane District Council Area. Thirty-three of these companies currently have growth plans.

Invest NI

Mr Doherty asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number and description of (i) business start-up projects; (ii) business expansion projects; and (iii) inward investment projects in Strabane District Council area, that has sought suitable land and/or premises from Invest NI, in the last five years that have been offered alternative land and/or premises instead for their projects in other Council districts. (AQW 3632/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Invest NI holds land for the use of its client companies that have a supported business case and can demonstrate an immediate property need. It only records interests on its own sites.

A company must meet minimum turnover and export thresholds to become an Invest NI client and, accordingly many start-ups fall outside the Invest NI remit in their early years and come under the responsibility of the Local Enterprise Agencies. Requests for property needs from such companies are not recorded by Invest NI.

Invest NI holds 29.2 acres of land in the Strabane District Council Area. Most of this land is already developed and leased to Client companies leaving only 2.1 acres, at Orchard Road Industrial Estate, remaining for future industrial development. In recent years, as remaining Invest NI land has become scarcer, four locally owned client companies with expansion projects could not be accommodated within Orchard Road.

Of these, one has purchased premises in the Derry City Council Area and one has relocated elsewhere in the Strabane Council District whilst the other two projects have been delayed while these clients continue to seek land in Strabane. There are currently four interests recorded for a total of eight acres of land in Strabane.

Invest NI is unaware of any potential inward investment projects that have specifically wished to come to Strabane but were unable to because of a lack of property options.

Invest NI has identified a shortage of land for the needs of its clients in the Strabane District Council Area and, in its 2005 response to the West Tyrone Area Plan Issues Paper, suggested that approximately 30 acres would be required for that demand in the medium term. It is currently in discussion with a number of landowners with a view to acquiring land in the town for its clients needs.

Invest NI records property search information by client rather than any geographic reference. As a result it cannot provide any data on the number of requests for any particular location. However, the organisation has 79 client companies operating in the Strabane District Council Area. Thirty-three of these companies currently have growth plans.

Business Projects

Mr Doherty asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number and description of (i) business start-up projects; (ii) business expansion projects; and (iii) inward investment projects in Strabane District Council area, in the last five years. (AQW 3634/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: Although the request relates to the last 5 years, information is more readily available for the 6 year period since the inception of Invest NI. Details are provided as follows:

- (i) **Business Start Up Projects:** Invest NI made 439 offers to support the formation of new businesses in the Strabane District Council area over the last six years.
- (ii) **Business Expansion Projects:** Invest NI made 54 offers to existing locally-owned businesses in the Strabane District Council area through a range of schemes and programmes to help expand their operations. In addition, Invest NI also offered support to 123 specific business innovation activities (12 externally-owned and 111 locally-owned) including R&D, trade development, training, and technology and process development projects.
- (iii) **Inward Investment Projects:** Support was offered to 9 inward investment projects in the Strabane District Council area, including 3 new and 6 reinvestment projects.

Lagan Valley Investors

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how many potential investors have visited the Lagan Valley constituency in the last two years; and what future visits are planned by potential investors.

(AQW 3656/09)

The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment: One potential investor visited Lagan Valley constituency between 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2008.

To date the number of inward visits by potential investors to Northern Ireland is significantly higher than this time last year however, in order not to prejudice commercial interests and to protect the confidentiality of potential investors, Invest Northern Ireland is unable to release details of further visits.

ENVIRONMENT

Permeable Paving

Mr Ross asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of permeable paving; and what plans he has to introduce legislation that requires this type of paving to be used on developments on existing flood plains.

(AQW 2972/09)

The Minister of the Environment (Mr S Wilson): Permeable paving is intended to reduce storm water flows and assist the infiltration of water into the ground. While it may assist in reducing the risk of flooding in some circumstances, current UK construction industry guidance and advice is that such products should not be used in flood plains as their operation will be compromised in a flood event.

Beyond flood plains the use of permeable paving may however help control storm water flows where its use is not constrained by limited soil permeability and ground water quality concerns.

My officials are currently preparing an addendum to PPS 7 Quality Residential Developments for public consultation. This work will include consideration of enhanced use of permeable paving and other sustainable drainage techniques specifically in new housing developments. In addition the Northern Ireland Environment Agency will be issuing a consultation document early in 2009 on the use of sustainable drainage systems in Northern Ireland.

My Department is also engaged in a review of householder permitted development rights which will consider the use of permeable surfaces. Public consultation on this matter will also take place during 2009.

Planning Service

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of the Environment (i) when the 'Area of Character' study of the Sandy Bay/ Larne Harbour will be finalised; and (ii) how much weight the study will be afforded by the Planning Service when making its assessment of applications. (AQW 3019/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Due to competing work priorities and resource problems, members of staff of the Antrim, Ballymena and Larne (ABL) Area Plan 2016 team, whose duties include the preparation of the Sandy Bay and Larne Harbour Character Study, have been redeployed, within Ballymena Divisional Planning Office, to assist the Magherafelt Area Plan 2015 to reach the Independent Examination stage of the area plan process. As a consequence, work on the study has ceased and it is difficult at present to provide a definitive date for finalisation of the study. I do however assure you that you will be advised by my Department of any change in these circumstances as soon as it is practicable to do so.

The study, when completed, would be only one of a number of material considerations, including other prevailing planning policies, which will be considered by the Department in determining development proposals in the Sandy Bay/Larne Harbour Area.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment what assessment he has made of the initial threat to the environment caused by the materials used in the 11 July bonfire at the Rathfriland Road/Glenvale Road junction outside Newry, and the continued impact this is having. (AQW 3046/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) will investigate bonfires when commercial waste (most frequently tyres) is reported to have been used. This particular bonfire was not reported to the Agency and as a consequence was not investigated. It is not therefore possible to comment on the environmental threat, or the continued impact, from the materials used. In cases where the dumping of commercial waste is reported, NIEA will seek to find the source and take enforcement measures against the business or businesses concerned.

Deer Poaching

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment what he is doing to tackle the rise in deer poaching. (AQW 3049/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Deer poaching is a criminal offence under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

The investigation and prosecution of any offences of this nature are the responsibility of the PSNI.

When requested, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency works closely with the PSNI Wildlife Liaison officer and advises on deer ecology and wildlife law.

Parking Laws

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment if cars with trade registration plates may park on public footpaths. (AQW 3051/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Trade licences can be used by motor traders, testers and others for specifically limited purposes such as testing, delivery and demonstration. Section 12 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 specifically states that a trade licence does not entitle the holder to keep (that is to say, to park) any vehicle on a road if it is not being used on the road. A trade licence does not, of course, give any exemption to ordinary parking laws.

Signage at Road Works

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the role of his Department in the enforcement of effective signage at road works. (AQW 3099/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Enforcement of effective signage at road works is the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. My Department has no role in this matter.

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment what actions his Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects to help redress the economic downturn. (AQW 3105/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Strategic Waste Infrastructure Fund (SWIF) is available to the three Waste Management Groups (arc21, the Southern Waste Management Partnership2008 and the North West Region Waste Management Group) to assist local government with the significant costs of delivering the new waste infrastructure required to meet the landfill diversion targets in the EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC).

SWIF will provide up to £200m or 50% of the cost of the capital investment for Northern Ireland as a whole, whichever is the lower. This will reduce the impact of the cost to ratepayers of providing the new residual waste services.

The procurement of the strategic waste infrastructure is a local government responsibility and is being taken forward through the Waste Management Groups. The competitive procurement process is already underway in the arc21 region and due to commence in the near future in the NWRWMG and SWaMP2008. Given the pace of delivery which the Waste Management Groups are already achieving it is not possible to bring forward these procurements. However, the existing capital expenditure profile for these projects already anticipates £75.2m of capital investment over the next 3 years, with the potential to create and support a significant number of construction and engineering jobs.

Cycling Proficiency Scheme

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment if his Department plans to develop the Cycling Proficiency Scheme to provide a higher level of on road cycle training, and will he support the Department of Regional Development's efforts to encourage more children to cycle to school. (AQW 3137/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Although I recognise that environmental, public health and wider transport considerations are relevant to this issue, my Department's responsibility in this area, and its statutory responsibility, is primarily for road safety. The main purpose of the Cycling Proficiency Scheme is to instil good road user attitudes and behaviours from an early age with the ultimate aim of reducing road traffic casualties.

The current Cycling Proficiency Scheme is well established, with 596 primary schools participating in 2007 and with almost 8,000 children passing the test. The number of schools involved in the scheme has also been growing. On-road training is offered to all primary schools participating in the Cycling Proficiency Scheme.

Cycling casualties have been falling for a number of years. Figures for the period up to 4 December 2008 show that two pedal cyclists have been killed so far this year compared with two for the same period in 2007 and none in 2006. There have been no child cyclist fatalities since 2005. Over the last three years, on average, 10 children have been seriously injured on bikes. This represents a reduction of over 64% on the average of 28 for the baseline period of 1996-2000. The figures suggest that while there is no room for complacency, and while efforts to drive the figures down even further must continue, the existing strategy is working.

Since proper training should help children to have the confidence to cycle to school, and encourage parents to allow them to do so, my Department's efforts should therefore complement those of the Department for Regional Development.

Environment Liability Directive

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment what progress his Department has made in implementing the Environment Liability Directive (2204/35/EC). (AQW 3159/09)

The Minister of the Environment: My Department is finalising draft Regulations to implement the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and aims to issue a public consultation on the draft Regulations, Guidance and partial Regulatory Impact Assessment early in 2009.

Domestic Glass Recycling

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment for his plans to increase domestic recycling of glass. (AQW 3171/09)

The Minister of the Environment: District Councils are the statutory authorities in Northern Ireland with responsibility for providing suitable receptacles and for collecting controlled wastes in their districts. Currently there are 8 District Councils who operate the “box” facility which collects domestic glass at the kerbside, whilst the remaining 18 Councils operate the “blue bin” facility which does not collect domestic glass. However, in these Council areas domestic glass can be taken to a local civic amenity site operated by the relevant District Council or a bring site such as those found at supermarket car parks. In 2007/8, 19,595 tonnes of waste glass were collected for recycling, a 21.9% increase from the previous year.

Northern Ireland Landfill Allowances Scheme

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the difficulties that each District Council faces in meeting targets set by the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme. (AQW 3172/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The main difficulty that District Councils face in meeting targets set by the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowances Scheme (NILAS) is the lack of waste infrastructure to facilitate compliance with Landfill Directive targets. This difficulty is compounded by political opposition to the use of some technologies, such as energy from waste plants, and the significant costs associated with the scale of the overall infrastructure procurement required. The Executive has made a capital grant of £196.9m available for waste management infrastructure, which will help alleviate the cost to Northern Ireland ratepayers generally of compliance with EU landfill diversion targets.

Waste Issues

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment what his Department is doing to address waste issues and prevent the growth of waste. (AQW 3173/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Waste management is a top priority for my Department in protecting and enhancing Northern Ireland’s environment. A key action under the Programme for Government is to implement the Waste Management Strategy to ensure that we meet the requirements of the European Commission in terms of reducing waste.

My Department has been active in a number of areas in supporting and taking forward the challenges that face Northern Ireland on waste. Together with the Strategic Investment Board we established the Programme Delivery Support Unit to provide planning, procurement and communication support to the three waste management groups. We have also established governance arrangements to oversee the implementation of the current Waste Management Strategy.

In January 2008 the Executive approved £200m of capital funding for the Waste Infrastructure Programme and we are working with the three Waste Management Groups to use this money to reduce the burden on ratepayers as far as possible.

In addition to the important work already under way in relation to the Waste Infrastructure Programme we are also beginning to move forward with work on other critical strands of the Waste Management Strategy including Learning & Communications and Waste Prevention. This will help to bring about a fundamental change in

our attitude and behaviour towards waste, how we can prevent it, recycle it and dispose of it in ways that are environmentally responsible and economically sensible.

I appreciate that much good work is already taking place within Councils and through organisations such as Bryson House for example to encourage behaviour change to reduce waste going to landfill. However, I know that more needs to be done and I am determined to ensure that we, through our ongoing programme to implement the Waste Management Strategy, will bring about significant reductions in waste in Northern Ireland.

Penalty Points

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of motorists who have had their licences endorsed with penalty points over the last five years. (AQW 3176/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The attached table indicates the number of individual motorists who have had their licences endorsed by the Fixed Penalty Office, as the result of a fixed penalty notice, and following prosecution in Northern Ireland courts.

TABLE

	Fixed Penalty Office	Court	Total
2004	21,413	6,581	27,994
2005	22,599	5,930	28,529
2006	21,875	6,519	28,394
2007	31,798	7,531	39,329
2008	32,291	2,079*	34,370

* January to September 2008

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of the Environment what preparations his Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3193/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Since January 2007, officials within OFMDFM have taken the lead in preparing for implementation here of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). These preparations have included asking Departments to scrutinise their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and to confirm whether they had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention and to confirm how they had arrived at their policy position.

My officials concluded that, based on a working knowledge of my Department's policies, practices and legislation and the Department's statutory duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Convention was unlikely to impose any additional requirements.

Officials in OFMDFM are intending to organise an event, in conjunction with Disability Action and the Office of Disability Issues (which is within the Department of Work and Pensions), early in the New Year to discuss the Convention with interested parties. Officials from my Department will attend that event and will continue to ensure that my Department is fully informed of progress on the implementation of the Convention.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of the Environment what contribution his Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3195/09)

The Minister of the Environment: In December 2006, officials from the Department of Work and Pensions contacted OFMDFM officials about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention).

OFMDFM which had assumed lead responsibility for progressing this issue, wrote to Departments on 2 January 2007 to ask them to scrutinise their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. This was to enable the UK Government to make an informed decision about the ratification of the Convention and to identify any need for reservations or interpretative declarations.

Further, on 26 September 2008 Departments were asked to confirm whether they had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention and to confirm how they had arrived at their policy position. My officials, in common with those in other Departments, concluded that, based on a working knowledge of my Department's policies, practices and legislation and the Department's statutory duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Convention was unlikely to impose any additional requirements.

Ulster Farm By-Products

Mr Burns asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to the answer to AQW 2537/09, who is responsible for the enforcement of legislation on offensive odours emanating from transport vehicles travelling to, and from, the Ulster Farm By-Products site. (AQW 3197/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for enforcement of the Animal By-Products Regulations (NI) 2003. These require vehicles and containers used to transport animal by-products to be covered, leak proof and clean before use. They also require material to be disposed of without undue delay. These measures are designed to protect public and animal health and while they will not eliminate odours, they may have an indirect impact on reducing them.

Review of Public Administration

Mr Brady asked the Minister of the Environment (i) how many staff are employed by the Boundary Commission; and (ii) how much funding was set aside for the completion of the work in regard to the Review of Public Administration. (AQW 3198/09)

The Minister of the Environment:

- (i) The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner is supported by a Secretary, 3 full time secretariat staff and one temporary administrative officer;
Professional staff from Land and Property Services provide technical support in delineating the proposed boundaries and at the public hearings;
11 Assistant Commissioners, who are employed on a part-time basis by the Department of the Environment, were appointed on 5 November 2008 to preside over the public hearings in each district and to report to the Commissioner.
- (ii) Estimated provision for the Office of the Boundary Commission is £562,000 for 2008/2009. It is anticipated that a further £125,000 will be required in 2009/2010, to complete the review.

John Lewis Planning Application

Mr Butler asked the Minister of the Environment to outline the progress to date in processing the John Lewis planning application for Sprucefield, and when his Department will be making a decision. (AQW 3206/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The application, accompanied by an Environmental Statement, was received by the Planning Service on 28 August 2008 and designated as one of major importance under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 on 8 October 2008.

The statutory consultation process is ongoing and, following its completion, all responses will be analysed and taken into consideration. The outcome of stage 1 retail issues, including Sprucefield following the BMAP Inquiry, will also need to be taken into consideration. The Planning Appeals Commission (PAC), in response to a request from the Planning Service, has advised that the early release of stage 1 retail issues is now feasible and that the reporting Commissioners will direct their efforts to provide this section of the report to the Planning Service early in 2009, hopefully January.

Dependant on the PAC's assurance, the Planning Service hopes to be in a position to submit a report to me in January 2009.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment, following the recently concluded planning agreement in relation to George Best Belfast City Airport, how the proceeds of the community fund arising out of penalties for late flights, will be distributed to the Belfast City Council and North Down Borough Council areas.

(AQW 3212/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Department has no legal powers to set up a Community Fund nor impose levels of fines for delayed aircraft using the airport during 'extended hours', that is between 9:31pm and 11:59pm. George Best Belfast City Airport has agreed to voluntarily introduce a scheme in which it proposes to make payments into the Energy for Children registered charity.

The amount of penalties and their distribution through the Community Fund to projects in the Belfast City and North Down Borough Council areas is a matter for the Airport.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment to report on the amount of penalties to be paid to the community fund for late flights occurring at George Best Belfast City Airport.

(AQW 3213/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Department has no legal powers to set up a Community Fund nor impose levels of fines for delayed aircraft using the airport during 'extended hours', that is between 9:31pm and 11:59pm. George Best Belfast City Airport has agreed to voluntarily introduce a scheme in which it proposes to make payments into the Energy for Children registered charity.

The amount of penalties and their distribution through the Community Fund to projects in the Belfast City and North Down Borough Council areas is a matter for the Airport.

Planning Regulations

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment how many planning enforcement notices have been served for breaches of planning regulations in the Lisburn area, in the last five years.

(AQW 3225/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Division has served the following enforcement notices within:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Lisburn Number of Notices Served	5	2	7	4	3	21

Noise Nuisance

Mr Craig asked the Minister of the Environment how many prosecutions there have been for noise nuisance in Lisburn city, in the last five years.

(AQW 3228/09)

The Minister of the Environment: There are no separate figures available for Lisburn City, however figures available for the Lisburn City Council area show there have been no prosecutions for noise nuisance in that area in the last 5 years.

Review of Public Administration

Mr Brady asked the Minister of the Environment when the Boundary Commissioners will complete the work that falls under its remit on the Review of Public Administration.

(AQW 3230/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Local Government Boundaries Commissioner is scheduled to submit his final report to my Department on 30 June 2009.

Draft Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment to confirm the date for the final publication and launch of the Draft Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015. (AQW 3231/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Draft Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan 2015 was published on 22 August 2006 and contains the Plan Strategy, allocations, designations, policies, proposals and zonings for the Banbridge and Newry & Mourne District Council Areas.

On 27 November 2008, the Department formally requested the Planning Appeals Commission to undertake an Independent Examination into objections to the Draft Plan and report its findings to the Department.

The Department will consider the report and the recommendations of the Commission before deciding whether to adopt the plan, in whole or in part, with or without modification.

My Department is currently not in a position to advise as to when the Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan will be adopted as this will be dependant on both the timetable for the Examination, which will be set by the Commission, and the content of the Commission's report.

Planning Service in Craigavon

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment what action he will take on those planning applications that were withheld or refused by Planning Service in Craigavon on the basis of being premature to the outcome of Draft Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015. (AQW 3232/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Refusal on the grounds of 'prematurity' currently affects a limited number of applications within the draft Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Plan Area. These can be classified into two groups:

- (i) Those current planning applications for development in the countryside received by the Planning Service on or before 16 March 2006, prior to the publication of draft PPS14. The policy context for these applications remains 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' and the draft Area Plan. In arriving at a final decision on these applications, however, draft PPS 21 will be a material consideration because draft PPS 21 takes precedence over the greenbelt and Countryside Policy Area proposals in the draft Plan. Applications will be reconsidered and any approvals issued. Refusals will continue to be held until after the consultation period expires similar to the agreed handling arrangements for deferred PPS 14/21 cases.
- (ii) Those applications for development in urban areas or which impact on proposed development limits of settlements and which are considered prejudicial to the outcome of the draft Area Plan. Draft PPS 21 is not a material consideration in these cases and where appropriate refusal on the grounds of 'prematurity' will continue to be used.

Any application refused on the basis of 'prematurity' will not be held pending the outcome of draft Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan.

Planning Service

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister of the Environment, given publication of the draft PPS 21 statement, if he will end the use of the prematurity clause by Planning Service in relation to planning applications being refused or put on hold pending the outcome of the Draft Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015. (AQW 3233/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Refusal on the grounds of 'prematurity' currently affects a limited number of applications within the draft Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Plan Area. These can be classified into two groups:

- (i) Those current planning applications for development in the countryside received by the Planning Service on or before 16 March 2006, prior to the publication of draft PPS14. The policy context for these applications remains 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland' and the draft Area Plan. In arriving at a final decision on these applications, however, draft PPS 21 will be a material consideration because draft PPS 21 takes precedence over the greenbelt and Countryside Policy Area proposals in the draft Plan. Applications

will be reconsidered and any approvals issued. Refusals will continue to be held until after the consultation period expires similar to the agreed handling arrangements for deferred PPS 14/21 cases.

- (ii) Those applications for development in urban areas or which impact on proposed development limits of settlements and which are considered prejudicial to the outcome of the draft Area Plan. Draft PPS 21 is not a material consideration in these cases and where appropriate refusal on the grounds of 'prematurity' will continue to be used.

Any application refused on the basis of 'prematurity' will not be held pending the outcome of draft Banbridge/Newry & Mourne Area Plan.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the total revenue generated through his Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3245/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The total revenue generated through the Department of the Environment leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts is nil.

Biodegradable Municipal Waste

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment what Councils are expected to meet their NILAS target of reducing the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste sent to landfill to 75% of the 1995 level by 2010. (AQW 3248/09)

The Minister of the Environment: While we cannot be certain, current trends would suggest that all Councils will meet their 2010 NILAS targets although a few Councils may require a transfer of allowances from other Councils who have a surplus in 2010. It is not known at this stage which councils, if any, would require a transfer of allowances.

Nuclear Power Facilities

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of his comments during Question Time on 1 December that nuclear power must be considered to help meet targets to reduce CO2 emissions, would planning applications presented to Planning Service for nuclear power facilities in East Antrim be given consideration. (AQW 3249/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Under Article 25 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, my Department has a statutory duty to determine all new applications which are submitted.

Were a planning application for a nuclear power station submitted anywhere in Northern Ireland my Department would be required to process it in accordance with current procedures and to consider the application in light of relevant planning policies.

Waste Incineration

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of incineration as a means of managing waste and what action he has taken to encourage groups to consider this method in their waste management policy. (AQW 3258/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Incineration is one of a suite of available thermal treatment technologies, others of which include pyrolysis and gasification, and all of which offer the potential to generate energy from waste. The appropriateness of any one of these to a particular Waste Management Group's area is determined by a range of factors, including capacity, environmental impact, technological novelty and risk, cost and compliance with the BPEO (Best Practicable Environmental Option) requirement to provide a balanced mix of technologies across the whole of Northern Ireland.

My main objective is to ensure that Northern Ireland as a whole manages its waste in accordance with my Department's aim to build a better and safer environment. While it is my belief that energy from waste, including

incineration, will be a necessary component of the Groups' preferred infrastructure, it is not for me to encourage or favour any particular option. It is my role to ensure that my Department provides effective support to the Groups in taking forward the procurements essential to enable their constituent councils to comply with their legal obligations in a manner that represents the best possible and practicable balance of social, economic and environmental impacts.

Fly-Tipping

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of the Environment how many incidents of fly-tipping have occurred in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) local government area; and (ii) parliamentary constituency; and how many people have been prosecuted in each year for this offence. (AQW 3300/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Since March 2006, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has been provided with details of fly-tipping, on a District Council basis, through the Flycapture online database; figures are not available prior to that time. Any prosecutions taken directly by NIEA relate to large-scale, commercial illegal dumping, rather than the smaller amounts, dumped on a more random basis, that are commonly regarded as fly-tipping.

There has been no universal agreement that NI Councils would use this system. Only 7 District Councils are inputting information on to Flycapture on a consistent basis, rendering the information NIEA holds essentially unrepresentative in determining the nature and scale of fly-tipping within Northern Ireland. My officials are involved in ongoing discussions about recording incidences of fly-tipping and associated legislative changes giving Councils more powers to deal with fly-tipped waste.

The attached table sets out the information requested from the seven District Councils that have provided information via Flycapture.

District Council	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09 (to end October 2008)	
	Number of incidents	Number of fines	Number of incidents	Number of fines	Number of incidents	Number of fines
Ards	19	1	165	23	137	2
Armagh	22	0	125	2	45	4
Ballymena	60	1	129	2	105	1
Banbridge	24	0	94	7	36	2
Larne	184	17	147	22	55	18
Newtownabbey	12	0	294	6	297	22
Strabane	44	0	365	2	529	3

PPS 21 Consultation

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of the Environment what consultation events will his Department be facilitating on PPS21 to provide an opportunity for input from rural dwellers. (AQW 3340/09)

The Minister of the Environment: As part of the public consultation process on Draft PPS21, officials from my Department will be holding a series of information days in rural communities across Northern Ireland during January and February 2009.

These are intended to provide people with the background they may need to reach an informed opinion on the new policy provisions.

Notice of these events will appear in the local press in due course.

Cycle Proficiency Scheme

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment of the Cycle Proficiency Scheme for providing training that enables children to cycle safely to and from their home. (AQW 3345/09)

The Minister of the Environment: My Department's statutory duty is to promote road safety in order to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on Northern Ireland's roads, and resources are therefore targeted primarily at addressing the main causes of road traffic casualties. The Department has no statutory obligation to train road users, be they cyclists, pedestrians, drivers or motorcyclists, or to promote cycling as an activity for health, environmental or other reasons.

The Cycling Proficiency Scheme is one of a range of road safety initiatives for children and young people and its purpose, along with other road safety education work, is to instil good road user attitudes and behaviours from an early age with the ultimate aim of reducing road traffic casualties. The scheme is well established and has been operating successfully for over 30 years.

Cycling casualties have been falling for a number of years. Figures for the period up to 9 December 2008 show that two pedal cyclists have been killed so far this year compared with two for the same period in 2007 and none in 2006. There have been no child cyclist fatalities since 2005. Over the last three years, 10 children, on average, have been seriously injured on bikes. This represents a reduction of over 64% on the average of 28 for the baseline period of 1996-2000. These figures are relatively low in comparison with other categories of road users and suggest that while there is no room for complacency the current approach to the delivery of cycle training for children as a road safety initiative is working.

Councillors Vacancies

Mr Boylan asked the Minister of the Environment to provide an update on the expected timeframes that will allow opportunities for those councillors wishing to leave local government to be replaced by co-optees. (AQW 3351/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Elections, in respect of the Northern Ireland Assembly and district councils, are an excepted matter, under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and responsibility for legislation relating to elections rests with the Secretary of State.

The procedure for filling vacancies on councils in the period between local government elections without requiring mid-term elections, sometimes referred to as co-option, is outlined in the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962.

As this arrangement constitutes part of electoral law, responsibility for any changes to this legislation lies with the Secretary of State.

I have raised this issue with the Secretary of State and a meeting has been arranged in the New Year to discuss it.

Pollution Prevention and Control Permit

Mr Butler asked the Minister of the Environment to provide a copy of the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Permit relating to Planning Reference: S/1998/0162 at 29 Ballyvannon Road, Glenavy. (AQW 3355/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland did not receive an application for an authorisation under the Industrial Pollution Control (NI) Order 1997 or a permit under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (NI) 2003 for the development covered by Planning Reference S/1998/0162. No permit therefore exists.

Mullaghglass Landfill Site

Mr Butler asked the Minister of the Environment (i) the number of complaints that his Department has received about Mullaghglass landfill site; and (ii) the nature of these complaints. (AQW 3397/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Over the last 12 months the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has received 207 complaints about the Mullaghglass landfill site, mostly in relation to odour.

NIEA's regular audits of this facility and inspections in response to complaints have not detected a recurring odour nuisance but found that the operation meets the high standard of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control permit conditions in place.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment what policies and practices in his Department have changed in delivering the 3% efficiency savings required by the 2008-11 Budget. (AQW 3411/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Budget 2008-11, which covers the three financial years 2008/09 to 2010/11, requires my Department to deliver cash efficiency savings of £3.92m (2008-09), £7.73m (2009-10) and £11.42m (2010-11). The table below shows these overall efficiency savings split between the DFP budget categories - Administration costs and Other Resource/Capital.

	2008-09 £m	2009-10 £m	2010-11 £m
Total DEL required 3% cumulative	3.92	7.73	11.42
Split between Administration costs (2.8%)	0.6	2.28	3.9
Other Resource/Capital	3.32	5.45	7.52

DELIVERY OF SAVINGS

Other Resource/Capital (£7.52m by 2010-11):-

To deliver the Other Resource/Capital savings my Department has undertaken a number of measures which in the main include reductions in:

- the level of grant schemes which offer financial assistance for various environmental protection and heritage activities including grants towards the preservation of the stock of listed buildings in Northern Ireland. This has included the cessation of the waste management grant scheme which has contributed £3m per year to the efficiencies but has been replaced by the Strategic Waste Infrastructure Fund (circa £200m) to be disbursed to the three Waste Management Groups tasked with the progressing the waste management plans of the councils.
- the level of resources grant paid to district councils (£1.5m in 2010-11) as it is anticipated that the level of resources grant currently paid to the less affluent councils could diminish once the 26 district councils merge into 11 under the RPA initiative; and
- consultancy spend (£0.5m in 2010-11).

Administration (£3.9m by 2010-11)

Key actions to deliver these savings will involve the suppression of low priority posts, the cessation of automatic backfilling of posts and the rationalisation of administrative structures to achieve economies of scale. Also, non-salary running costs have been reduced by 15%.

Details of the level of the overall efficiency savings together with the actions required to achieve the savings are detailed in the DOE Efficiency Delivery Plan (EDP) which is included in the Department's website.

Ballycarry Waste Water Treatment Works

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment (i) if the sewage and wastewater treatment plant at Ballycarry complies with Northern Ireland Environment Agency consent standards for discharges into Larne Lough; (ii) what the level of treatment is provided; and (iii) what are the levels of discharge. (AQW 3436/09)

The Minister of the Environment:

- (i) The Ballycarry Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) was compliant, in 2007 and 2008 (1 January to 29 October 2008), with the standards set by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency under the terms of the Water Order discharge consent.

- (ii) Ballycarry WWTW currently provides secondary treatment. Discharges in storm conditions are currently screened and/or settled before discharge to Larne Lough.
- (iii) The volume of secondary treated waste water discharged to Larne Lough should not exceed 1282m³/day.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of the Environment (i) if the sewage and wastewater treatment plant at Whitehead complies with Northern Ireland Environment Agency consent standards for discharges into Larne Lough; (ii) what level of treatment is provided; and (iii) what are the levels of discharge. (AQW 3440/09)

The Minister of the Environment: (i) Untreated sewage is discharged to the North Channel via a sea outfall at Whitehead. A condition of the Water Order discharge consent, set by Northern Ireland Environment Agency, is that the discharge should be finely screened and therefore it is not currently compliant.

- (ii) The current outfall discharges untreated waste water from a population equivalent of approximately 4500.
- (iii) The volume of untreated waste water discharged to the North Channel should not exceed 700 m³/day.

Planning Enforcement Notices

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Environment how many planning enforcement notices have been served for breaching planning regulations in the North Down area, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3458/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Division has served the following enforcement notices within:

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
North Down Number of Notices Served	2	0	6	2	0	10

Public Appointment

Ms Purvis asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to list all public appointments filled (a) by his Department and (b) still outstanding; (ii) on what grounds were some appointments not made; (iii) to assess the process adopted for appointments including the OPCA guidance; and (iv) his plans for ensuring a more efficient application of the procedures. (AQW 3497/09)

The Minister of the Environment:

- (i) (a) Set out at Annex A is a schedule detailing all public appointments filled by my Department during each of the last 3 financial years.
- (b) The reconstitution of Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) was begun on 2 March 2007. The intention was to publicly appoint a Chairperson and five new committee members to NILGOSC. The public appointments were not completed.
- (ii) The NILGOSC public appointments competition launched in March 2007 was subject to the coming into operation of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, which were made on August 2007, with a commencement date of 1 October 2007 (subject to the Assembly not praying against them). The amending Regulations removed the statutory right of both employer and employee representative bodies to be members of NILGOSC.

Trade Unions were opposed to the Regulations, on the basis that it could result in a loss of representation for the two groups that contribute to the fund, namely employers and employees. They also objected to the fact that the competition had commenced prior to the consultation on the draft Regulations.

The Environment Committee supported the view of the Trade Unions, in that it considered that those with an interest in the pension scheme should be represented on NILGOSC. On 1 October 2007, the Assembly debated a motion to annul the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007. The motion was carried, annulling the Regulations.

- (iii) DOE public appointments are either regulated or monitored by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and as such are made in accordance with the Code of Practice published by the Commissioner's office. For those appointments not regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments my Department will, as far as is practicable and in line with the principle of proportionality, apply the principles and procedures set out in the Commissioner's Code of Practice.
- (iv) The Commissioner for Public Appointments has a statutory responsibility to prescribe and publish a Code of Practice; to carry out an audit to establish whether the Code of Practice is being observed; and to publish an Annual Report which includes both information as to the observance of the Code of Practice and an account of the audit process. When making public appointments my Department normally follows the principles and procedures set out in the Commissioner's Code of Practice and takes careful note of any and all recommendations contained in the aforementioned Annual Report and Audit Reports that would ensure the more efficient application of appointment procedures.

ANNEX A

Financial Year	Public Appointments Filled	Number of Appointees
2005/06	Local Government Staff Commission	6
	Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside	20
	Historic Monuments Council	15
2006/07	Historic Buildings Council	18
	Chair of the NI Biodiversity Group	1
2007/08	Local Government Boundaries Commissioner.	1
	Assistant Local Government Boundaries Commissioners	7
	Chair of Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside	1

Wind Turbines

Mr Butler asked the Minister of the Environment to detail all (i) wind turbines and (ii) wind farms, in the Lagan Valley constituency and to list the planning applications for wind turbines that are with the Planning Service. (AQW 3521/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Since 2002 there have been 47 applications for domestic wind turbines in the Lagan Valley Constituency Area, 5 of which have yet to be determined.

The wind turbine applications to be determined are Q/2008/0217/F, S/2008/0274/F, S/2008/0494/F, S/2008/0524/F and S/2008/0701/F.

There have been no applications for wind farms within the Lagan Valley Constituency Area.

Ulster Farm By-Products

Mr Burns asked the Minister of the Environment if he will place in the Assembly Library, a copy of the (i) plume modelling data; and (ii) resultant analysis, submitted to Planning Service/Northern Ireland Environment Agency for planning application S/2008/0488/F (extension of chimney stack, Ulster Farm By-products). (AQW 3523/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The planning application to replace an existing 30 metre high chimney with a 54 metre high chimney at the Ulster Farm Byproducts site, Glenavy was submitted to Planning Service on 2 June 2008.

The plume modelling data and resultant analysis have not yet been submitted to Planning Service/Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

I will not be making a copy of the material available in the Assembly Library. When the information is submitted it will be available for viewing at the offices of Planning Service Headquarters, Millennium House, 17-25 Great Victoria Street Belfast and at the Divisional Planning Office in Downpatrick.

Should anyone wish to view the working planning application file they can do so through the Planning Service open file policy. An appointment is necessary to view the working file and can be made through Planning Service Headquarters where the application is being processed.

Glenavy River

Mr Burns asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the Glenavy River, (i) who is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997; (ii) if the river is considered compliant with the regulations and; (iii) the frequency of monitoring compliance with the regulations. (AQW 3528/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Surface Waters (Fishlife) (Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997, which is more commonly known as the Freshwater Fish Directive (FFD).

NIEA monitors compliance with the FFD at two locations on the Glenavy River; at Ballydonagh Bridge and at Leap Bridge.

Both sample stations have complied fully with the requirements of the FFD for the past four years.

Table A below details the frequency of compliance monitoring against the mandatory parameters contained in the FFD.

TABLE A

Parameter	Dissolved Oxygen	Ammonia	pH (measure of acidity)	Zinc
Frequency	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Quarterly

Food Waste

Mr Burns asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to his answer to AQW 7431/08, to detail (i) where the food waste from Belfast households was taken after kerbside collection; and (ii) how the food waste was processed, recycled or disposed. (AQW 3533/09)

The Minister of the Environment: As advised in my response of 2 June 2008 to AQW 7431/08, my Department has no regulatory authority over this project. The destination of Belfast's household food waste and the way in which it is treated is a matter for Belfast City Council.

Planning Application for Belfast City Airport

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment what is the timescale for a decision on a public inquiry into the planning application for the runway extension at Belfast City Airport. (AQW 3536/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Public Inquiries are normally only called in association with applications designated as being of major importance under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. My Department anticipates being in a position, within the next few weeks, to confirm that the application, for the extension to the runway, will be designated under the Article 31 procedure. A decision on whether there is a need for a public inquiry will be made shortly thereafter.

Planning Application for Belfast City Airport

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment what is the criteria to determine if there will be a public inquiry with the planning application for the runway at Belfast City Airport. (AQW 3537/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The key test in deciding the process route is whether a public inquiry is necessary to provide a forum for the presentation and consideration of issues arising from representations received and which need to be assessed to allow the Department to determine the application.

Planning Application for Belfast City Airport

Dr Farry asked the Minister of the Environment if he will take into account the (i) number of objections; and (ii) calls for a public inquiry received by the Planning Service, before making a decision with the planning application for the runway extension at the Belfast City Airport. (AQW 3539/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Public Inquiries are normally only called in association with applications designated as being of major importance under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. My Department anticipates being in a position, within the next few weeks, to confirm that the application, for the extension to the runway, will be designated under the Article 31 procedure. A decision on whether there is a need for a public inquiry will be made shortly thereafter.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr Butler asked the Minister of the Environment for his assessment on the impact the proposed plans to extend the George Best Belfast City Airport runway will have on Belfast International Airport. (AQW 3605/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Article 25(1) of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 provides that in dealing with an application for planning permission my Department shall have regard to the development plan, in so far as it is material to the application, and to any other material considerations. These material considerations must be considerations of a planning nature.

The application to extend the runway is at an early stage and the assessment of its potential impacts has not yet been concluded.

Powers to Search and Seize Vehicles

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment when he proposes to use the powers to search and seize vehicles in accordance with Article 5E of the Waste (amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007. (AQW 3607/09)

The Minister of the Environment: The enabling powers for the searching and seizure of vehicles provide that seized vehicles must be dealt with in accordance with regulations made by the Department. The powers can not therefore be used until such regulations are in place. I hope to consult on draft seizure of property regulations in early 2009. I anticipate that the regulations will be made by summer 2009, depending on the outcome of the consultation process.

Forfeiture of Vehicles

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment when he proposes to introduce forfeiture of vehicles under section 5D of the Waste (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2007. (AQW 3608/09)

The Minister of the Environment: Decisions on vehicle forfeiture must be taken by a court, and the enabling legislation is already in place. The provision enables a court to make an order depriving an offender of his rights to a vehicle, and vesting those rights in the Department. The court must be satisfied that the vehicle was used in connection with the offence, and the legislation stipulates a number of factors which must be considered in reaching a decision. These include the value of the vehicle, the financial implications of forfeiture on the offender and his need to use the vehicle for lawful purposes.

Construction Industry

Mr McKay asked the Minister of the Environment if his Department will publish an information leaflet informing the construction industry of the requirement to ensure that passengers being carried in the rear of vans are transported in a safe manner. (AQW 3626/09)

The Minister of the Environment: My Department has provided the PSNI with new information leaflets which explain the law in relation to the safe carriage of passengers in work vans. The leaflet also highlights that

the police will be stepping up enforcement to discourage employers or drivers from carrying van passengers in an unsafe manner.

The Department and the police will announce the campaign in the New Year, and for a short time advice and warnings will be issued in advance of the commencement of enforcement.

Copies of the leaflet will be available from my Department's Road Safety Division headquarters and from regional road safety education offices, and may be downloaded from Road Safety Division's website at www.roadsafetyni.gov.uk.

Industrial Zoned Land

Mr Doherty asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the size and location of industrial zoned land available in each District Council area. (AQW 3633/09)

The Minister of the Environment: I regret that the information you have requested is not currently available. Officials within my Department are presently carrying out an industrial monitor which will cover all district council areas in Northern Ireland. It is however, not anticipated that the information will be available before summer 2009. When complete the information will be made available on the Planning Service website.

Victoria Park Belfast

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister of the Environment if the proposed cull of birds at Victoria Park Belfast requires Departmental approval; and if so, whether such approval will be given. (AQW 3664/09)

The Minister of the Environment: There has been no application to the Department to cull birds in Victoria Park in 2009.

The control of wildlife for the preservation of air safety would require a licence under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

If an application is made to the Department it will be assessed by officials and may be granted if it is agreed that the birds pose a significant threat to public safety through the risk of air strike.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what actions his Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects, to help address the economic downturn. (AQW 3014/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel (Mr N Dodds): My department is engaged in a number of significant capital programmes which directly benefit the economy through civil service reform projects and a range of construction and energy improvement projects. Consideration has also been given to whether additional investment, which might have a further positive impact on the economy, could be progressed any faster. However, taking account of the significant investment already planned, my department has concluded that no additional initiatives could be progressed in the short to medium term without increasing the risk of underspending. My department therefore remains committed to delivering its planned investment, which is playing a considerable part in helping the ICT and construction sectors in particular.

Small Business Finance Scheme

Mr Poots asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how the (i) £1bn Small Business Finance Scheme; (ii) £1bn guarantee facility to support bank lending to small exporters; (iii) £50m fund to convert businesses' debt into equity; and (iv) £25m regional loan transition fund, announced in the pre-budget report, is to be applied and accessed by small business. (AQW 3079/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The economic shocks that have impacted on the global economy have created an exceptionally challenging environment for small businesses. In the Pre-Budget Report the UK Government announced a number of UK-wide initiatives to assist small and medium-sized businesses facing credit constraints. I understand that HM Treasury are still clarifying the detail of these schemes. The central aim of the initiatives is to help provide credit guarantees to businesses.

These schemes will help small businesses by improving the availability of finance and provide working capital to meet investment needs and export credits. When the final details are made available, appropriate agencies such as Invest NI will disseminate information to the business sector.

Lending Practices

Mr Poots asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what meetings have been arranged with the banks to discuss their lending practices to businesses. (AQW 3083/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: I am particularly concerned about the current lending practices of our local banks. While I appreciate the desire to strengthen their balance sheets in terms of retained capital, it must not be at the expense of local businesses.

The UK Government has invested considerable sums of taxpayers' money into maintaining the integrity of the banking sector. The banks must now fulfil their responsibilities in terms of assisting businesses and consumers through this period of economic instability.

I have now initiated a series of meetings with the chief executives of the leading local banks. At these meetings I will impress upon the banks the need to assist local businesses through this period of financial turmoil.

eHR Contract

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to list the numbers and grades of staff employed by his Department in the management of the eHR contract; and to detail the total cost of these staff in each financial year from 2005-06. (AQW 3089/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The number, grades and cost of staff employed by the Department in the management of the eHR contract in each financial year from 2005/6 is as follows

	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
Grade 5	1	1	1	1
Grade 6	2	2	1	1
Grade 7	1	1	1	1
DP	0	0	2	2
SO	1	1	1	1
EO2	0	0	1	1
Total No	5	5	7	7
Cost	£291,000	£305,000	£367,000	£380,000

The costs are covered from a dedicated eHR Programme budget allocation which is in addition to the normal running costs of the Department.

eHR Contract

Mr Dallat asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the costs of staff employed by his Department, not directly involved in the management of the eHR contract, who have contributed to the planning and implementation of services which will be delivered under this contract, for each financial year from 2005-06. (AQW 3091/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The costs of staff employed by the Department (including GAE), not directly involved in the management of the eHR contract, who have contributed to the planning and implementation of services which will be delivered under this contract, for each financial year from 2005-06 are:

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
£1,657,000	£777,000	£1,231,000	£1,438,000

The costs are covered from a dedicated eHR Programme budget allocation which is in addition to the normal running costs of the Department.

Civil Servants

Mr Burns asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel, pursuant to the answers to AQW 1810/09, AQW 1811/09, AQW 1817/09, AQW 1818/09 to detail what action he intends to take to reduce the amount of money spent by civil servants on air fares. (AQW 3148/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: It is not within the Department of Finance and Personnel's remit to police how all public servants use air travel. As stated within the NICS Handbook, it is an individual responsibility for each Northern Ireland Civil Service Department to consider alternatives to the cheapest method and to justify it.

Civil Service

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the (i) location; and (ii) number of vacancies in the Northern Ireland Civil Service at (a) Administrative Officer; (b) Executive Officer II; (c) Executive Officer I; and (d) Staff Officer, in each Government Department. (AQW 3190/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel:

The location and number of vacancies in permanent posts in each Northern Ireland Civil Service department at the grades of (a) Administrative Officer; (b) Executive Officer 2; (c) Executive Officer 1; and (d) Staff Officer are set out in the attached table.

VACANCIES (FULL TIME EQUIVALENT BASIS) IN THE ELEVEN NI DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR AGENCIES IN GRADES: AO; EO2; EO1; SO, AT 4 DECEMBER 2008

Department	AO		EO2		EO1		SO	
	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)
Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD)	19.5	Belfast(15.5), Ballymena(1), Dungannon(1) Enniskillen(1), Londonderry(1)	8	Belfast(5), Larne(1), Londonderry(2)	13	Belfast(11), Ballymena(1), Londonderry(1)	6	Belfast(3), Antrim(1), Armagh(1), Newtownards/ Downpatrick(1)
Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL)	1.6	Belfast	2	Belfast	2	Belfast	2	Belfast
Education (DE)	3.4	Bangor(1), Londonderry(2.4)	1	Bangor	5	Bangor	1	Bangor

Department	AO		EO2		EO1		SO	
	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)
Employment & Learning (DEL)	22.5	Belfast(16.2), Coleraine(0.5), Downpatrick(1), Enniskillen(0.8), Foyle(1.5), Larne(1), Lisburn(1), Omagh(0.5)	21.3	Belfast(16.8), Ballymoney(1), Carrickfergus(1.6), Coleraine(1), Dungannon(0.9)	36.4	Belfast(31.4), Ballymena(1), Downpatrick(1), Foyle(0.5), Limavady(0.5), Newcastle(1), Portadown(1)	11	Belfast
Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI)	2	Belfast	1	Belfast	5	Belfast	1	Belfast
Finance & Personnel (DFP) ¹	64	Belfast(62), Bangor(1), Craigavon(1)	24	Belfast(22), Londonderry(1), Omagh(1)	26	Belfast(24), Bangor(2)	19	Belfast(18), Bangor(1)
Health, Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS)	2.5	Belfast	0		8	Belfast(7), Londonderry(1)	1.5	Belfast
Environment (DOE)	17.5	Belfast(7), Armagh(1), Coleraine(5), Downpatrick(1.5), Enniskillen(1), Mallusk(1), Omagh(1)	2	Belfast	29	Belfast(22), Coleraine(4), Lisburn(2), Londonderry(1)	13	Belfast(10), Armagh(1), Ballymena(1), Coleraine(1)
Regional Development (DRD)	25	Belfast(5), Antrim(1), Ballymena(6), Craigavon(4), Downpatrick(4), Omagh(5)	9	Belfast(2), Ballymena(4), Coleraine(1), Downpatrick(1), Omagh(1)	22	Belfast(16), Antrim(1), Ballymena(1), Coleraine(2), Omagh(2)	11	Belfast(8), Ballymena(1), Craigavon(1), Omagh(1)
Social Development (DSD) ²	163.7	Belfast(136.8), Armagh(1.5), Ballynahinch(1), Banbridge(2), Downpatrick(2.4), Limavady(0.5), Lisburn(1), Londonderry(11.5), Newry(2), Portadown(5)	42.5	Belfast(34), Antrim(1.5), Ballymena(0.5), Banbridge(1), Downpatrick(0.5), Limavady(1), Londonderry(1), Newcastle(1), Newtownabbey(1), Portadown(1)	120.7	Belfast(106.7), Antrim(2), Armagh(0.5), Bangor(1), Coleraine(2), Cookstown(1), Downpatrick(1), Dungannon(0.5), Enniskillen(2), Londonderry(1), Newry(2), Portadown(1)	45.9	Belfast(42.4), Coleraine(0.5), Londonderry(2), Newtownards(1)

Department	AO		EO2		EO1		SO	
	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)	Number	Location (posts)
Office of the First & Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)	2	Belfast	3	Belfast	6	Belfast	4	Belfast(3) Armagh(1)
Total	323.7		113.8		273.1		115.4	

1 FP: Latest figures available at 1 November 2008.

2 DSD: Figures at 4 December 2008 except: Social Security Agency, latest figures available at 31 October 2008, and Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division (previously the CSA), latest figures available at 20 October 200

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what contribution his Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3214/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: In December 2006, officials from the Department of Work and Pensions contacted OFMDFM officials about the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). OFMDFM assumed lead responsibility for progressing this issue and asked all Departments to scrutinise their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. This was to enable the UK Government to make an informed decision about the ratification of the Convention and to identify any need for reservations or interpretative declarations.

Departments were also asked to confirm whether they had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention. My officials concluded that, based on a working knowledge of the Department's policies, practices and legislation and statutory duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Convention was unlikely to impose any additional requirements.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what preparations her Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3218/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: As requested by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, which has taken lead responsibility in preparing for implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, my Department has scrutinised its legislation, policies and practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and has confirmed that we have no difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention.

We will also be taking part in an event organised by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, early in the New Year to discuss the Convention with interested parties.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to detail the total revenue generated through his Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3260/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Department of Finance and Personnel generates £6,000 per annum through the leasing of land and property to facilitate the erection of telecoms equipment.

Tesco Unit at Springhill Retail Park

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to report on progress in placing the Tesco unit at Springhill Retail Park in Bangor, on the valuation list.[R] (AQW 3268/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The new Tesco Unit at Springhill Retail Park in Bangor was placed in the Valuation List by District Valuer's Certificate dated 10 September 2008.

Bloomfield Centre

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to report on progress in placing all of the new units at the Bloomfield Centre in Bangor on the valuation list.[R] (AQW 3269/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: There have been 2 phases of new development at the Bloomfield Centre. The first phase, comprising 3 new retail warehouse units, was completed and occupied earlier this year. All the units have been valued and entered in the Valuation List.

The second phase consists of the split up of a former unit into 2 units. One unit is almost ready for occupation and will be valued this month. Work at the other unit is not as far advanced, but it will be valued upon completion.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel which policies and practices within his Department have been changed to deliver the 3% efficiency savings required under the Budget 2008-11. (AQW 3296/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: As part of the Budget 2008-11 process the Department reviewed its policies and practices and, as a result, targeted a range of areas to deliver efficiency savings. These include:

- recognition of costs recovered in respect of rate collection;
- maximising receipts and extending charging in respect of services provided by DFP particularly to non NICS customers;
- realising potential savings from the release of accommodation following 'Fit for Purpose' staff reductions (target of 2,300 posts) across the NICS;
- efficiency targets for the new Land and Property Services Agency; and
- targeted GAE and staffing reviews across the department.

Construction Industry

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action he has taken to (i) address the concerns of the construction industry that major projects in the Investment Strategy are not being rolled out as scheduled; and (ii) ensure that the industry is fully involved in discussions on the progress of the strategy. (AQW 3312/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: In order to hear at first hand the difficulties facing the construction industry, I met the Construction Employers Federation and the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations over recent weeks. The Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) has also been involved in meetings with a wide range of key industry stakeholders.

This level of direct engagement has been essential in order to fully understand the issues and how Government can help to alleviate some of the problems. The key message from all industry stakeholders has been the need for the Investment Strategy to be delivered to the market place as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, the litigation brought by unsuccessful contractors against both the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) and Department of Education framework agreements has not helped in this regard.

These legal issues will take time to fully resolve, but as I announced in the Assembly on 15 December, I am determined to ensure that the planned construction of schools and other public sector infrastructure projects that were to be delivered using the framework agreements will not be stopped. My Department will be working with a wide range of Government Construction Clients, including the Department of Education, to move the procurement of projects forward as quickly as possible on a project-by-project basis.

As a result of this, contracts worth some £115 million, that were to be delivered by the frameworks, will move ahead, avoiding unnecessary delay and allowing them to go to the market place this financial year. Crucially, this means that no construction project will be held up pending the outcome of legal proceedings. The projects include, amongst others, major projects relating to schools and colleges.

Other Departments have also indicated that they are progressing a further range of schemes. This means that projects with a total value in excess of £400 million are scheduled to go to the market place before the end of this financial year.

Major infrastructure projects with an estimated value of almost £1.3 billion are already under construction and the latest forecasts from departments indicate that total capital investment this year will be around £1.5 billion. In addition, Public Sector investment in infrastructure is set to continue to increase over the remaining years of the Investment Strategy and will be in the order of £5 billion for the first three years.

These ambitious plans need to be delivered and this challenge requires effective strategic management, oversight and robust monitoring. To this end Strategic Investment Board (SIB), with input from CPD, is introducing a new Investment Strategy Delivery Tracking System (DTS) to capture the status of all major capital procurements.

Given the wide-ranging stakeholder interests represented at the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland (CIFNI), it is already recognised and established as the appropriate forum for the construction industry to discuss with Government the roll-out of Investment Strategy projects. Once the project data contained within the DTS has been fully validated, SIB plan to provide the construction industry with appropriate reports through the Forum.

An update on the Investment Strategy will continue to be a standing item for discussion at CIFNI meetings and I will continue to work closely with my Ministerial colleagues to ensure that Government works in partnership with the industry at all levels to deliver the Investment Strategy effectively and to keep the industry fully informed of progress.

Civil Service

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel to give an update on sickness levels in the Civil Service; and what progress has been made in reducing these levels. (AQW 3313/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) recently published its Annual Report on Sickness Absence for the 2007/2008 financial year. This report confirmed that an average of 12.9 days per staff year were lost as a result of sickness absence in 2007/2008, down from 13.7 in the previous year and from a high of 15.5 days in 2003/04.

According to NISRA's latest statistics for 2008/09 (April – October), this downward trend has continued. NISRA has indicated that if these trends continue and are confirmed when the final year analysis is completed, the estimated outturn for 2008/09 could be around 11.5 days. While this improvement is encouraging, more work is required if we are to achieve the target of 10.2 days for 2008/09.

A substantial programme of work aimed at addressing the high levels of sickness absence in the NICS is underway following the publication of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) report on sickness absence and the subsequent Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report. DFP in its Memorandum of Reply, which was published on 4 November 2008, has accepted the PAC recommendations and work on implementation has commenced. A group of HR Directors, including officials from NISRA and OHS, has been tasked with overseeing the implementation of the NIAO and PAC recommendations.

Number of Births

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel how many children were born in each constituency, in the last 10 years. (AQW 3475/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The table below gives the number of births registered in Northern Ireland by parliamentary constituency, for the years 1999 to 2007. Detailed figures for parliamentary constituency for earlier years are not readily available.

BIRTHS BY REGISTRATION YEAR AND PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY, 1998 TO 2007

Area	Registration Year								
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Belfast East	870	852	859	770	872	872	898	913	1,018
Belfast North	1,119	1,115	1,095	1,033	1,085	1,089	1,097	1,182	1,210
Belfast South	1,087	994	927	981	1,027	1,009	957	959	1,106
Belfast West	1,406	1,289	1,279	1,186	1,206	1,288	1,192	1,240	1,321
East Antrim	1,066	1,003	992	1,023	1,007	1,007	1,066	1,052	1,061
East Londonderry	1,156	1,064	1,101	1,087	1,089	1,098	1,040	1,129	1,135
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	1,212	1,146	1,200	1,226	1,135	1,219	1,248	1,387	1,415
Foyle	1,682	1,562	1,544	1,575	1,504	1,484	1,529	1,527	1,583
Lagan Valley	1,427	1,316	1,378	1,316	1,292	1,377	1,399	1,412	1,551
Mid Ulster	1,269	1,193	1,290	1,271	1,200	1,349	1,334	1,360	1,455
Newry & Armagh	1,544	1,420	1,536	1,460	1,512	1,510	1,575	1,651	1,710
North Antrim	1,304	1,233	1,286	1,279	1,275	1,378	1,363	1,371	1,424
North Down	966	902	937	827	956	935	924	993	1,057
South Antrim	1,391	1,282	1,353	1,309	1,320	1,400	1,367	1,411	1,553
South Down	1,472	1,381	1,455	1,437	1,484	1,508	1,479	1,600	1,663
Strangford	1,285	1,176	1,164	1,134	1,150	1,194	1,171	1,188	1,206
Upper Bann	1,424	1,344	1,385	1,335	1,383	1,470	1,504	1,663	1,785
West Tyrone	1,239	1,206	1,181	1,136	1,151	1,131	1,185	1,230	1,196
Unknown ¹	38	34	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
Northern Ireland	22,957	21,512	21,962	21,385	21,648	22,318	22,328	23,272	24,451

1. When the mother's home address can not be allocated to a Local Government District the Event District is used, however these births remain as unknowns at Parliamentary Constituency level

Public Appointments

Ms Purvis asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel (i) to list all public appointments filled (a) by his Department; and (b) still outstanding, in the last 12 months; (ii) on what grounds were some appointments not made; (iii) to assess the process adopted for appointments including the OPCA guidance; and (iv) his plans for ensuring a more efficient application of the procedures. (AQW 3504/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: In answering this question it has been assumed that public appointments relate only to appointments made through the Public Appointments Process which is regulated and monitored by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Appointments made to Monitoring Bodies and Review groups have not therefore been included.

The Department of Finance and Personnel has not made any appointments to any of its 3 sponsored bodies in the last 12 months and there are no outstanding appointments.

Future appointments will be regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments who has a statutory responsibility to prescribe and publish a Code of Practice, to carry out an audit to establish whether this Code is being observed and to publish an annual report which includes information as to the observance of the code and an account of the audit process.

This will ensure the efficient application of the appointment process.

Homeowners

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what action he has asked the banks to take to assist homeowners and small and medium sized enterprises during the present economic downturn. (AQW 3573/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: At recent meetings with senior banking officials I have stressed the need to provide local homeowners and businesses with all assistance possible. I have highlighted the need to fully utilise schemes such as the Small Firm Loan Guarantee Scheme, the European Investment Bank Loan Fund, and existing mortgage interest relief measures.

During these meetings with the banks I have also stressed the important role that the local banks need to fulfil in terms of creating confidence in sectors such as construction. This can be achieved by taking a long term view of business investments and project returns.

Business Credit Insurance Providers

Mr McNarry asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel if he has had (i) any meetings with business credit insurance providers; and (ii) any plans to take action to offset the downward valuation and credit worthiness of local companies. (AQW 3574/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: I have not had any meetings with business credit insurance providers.

In relation to the downward valuation and credit worthiness of local companies, I have had meetings with all our leading banks to explore how to best to maintain business stability. Any measures from the banks which enhance the credit worthiness of our companies should be welcome.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel who is the lead body in enforcing energy performance certificates on properties. (AQW 3583/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (NI) 2008 identifies the Department of Finance and Personnel as the enforcement authority for energy performance certificates. The Department is currently finalising discussions to assign this function to district councils in the New Year.

Interest Rates

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Finance and Personnel what representations have been made by his Department to local banks to ensure that interest rates cuts are passed on to customers. (AQW 3610/09)

The Minister of Finance and Personnel: I have, on several occasions, met with local banks to discuss how we can jointly improve the performance of the local economy. These discussions have also considered the impact of the banks recent interest rate setting behaviour on local businesses and consumers.

On the 16th December I chaired a meeting involving the chief executives from the four local leading banks. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, as well as the Enterprise Minister, also attended this meeting. During the meeting I pressed the local banks to pass on, in full, the recent Bank of England interest rate cuts to both consumers and businesses.

HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he has taken, since the Assembly debate in September 2008 on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), to reduce the incidence of FASD. (AQW 3015/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Mr M McGimpsey): I have ensured that the next phase of the binge drinking campaign will specifically target females, and will include information on alcohol and pregnancy. I am also continuing to work with UK colleagues to ensure that alcohol containers have a clear health message relating to recommended levels of alcohol consumption, and that this should include the advice on alcohol use during pregnancy.

Orthopaedic Patients

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety pursuant to the answer to AQW 2344/09, to detail the total cost incurred by the referral of 12,368 orthopaedic patients to the independent sector for treatment by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; and the cost incurred by the referral of 2,736 orthopaedic patients to the independent sector for treatment by the Western Health and Social Care Trust. (AQW 3034/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am advised that a total of approximately £7.6 million in 2006/07 and £11.8 million in 2007/08 has been paid to the independent sector for orthopaedic treatments procured as part of the waiting initiatives. However, it should be noted that these figures include the cost of a small number of treatments provided in 2005/06 and exclude some costs for 2007/08 for which invoices have not yet been received.

To meet current access targets it has been necessary to use the independent sector to supplement health service capacity to deliver the reductions in waiting times seen over the last few years.

Orthopaedic Patients

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the difference in cost of an orthopaedic patient being treated by the Health Service in comparison to treatment provided by the independent sector. (AQW 3035/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: It is not possible to make a direct cost comparison between treating an orthopaedic patient in the NHS or through the Independent Sector. Within the NHS a patient's management will encompass treatment within Primary and Secondary care and will include physiotherapy, management and support of any related disability including domiciliary care and pain management.

Only outpatient assessments and surgery are procured from the independent sector

We have achieved significant reductions in waiting times for patients in Northern Ireland through a number of initiatives, including supplementing capacity through use of the independent sector. It is my view that this is an appropriate measure which will reduce waiting times to a level at which they can be stabilised and maintained

Nursing/Residential Care

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if there is a shortage of nursing or residential care in the Mid Ulster constituency. (AQW 3054/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust has advised that, of the 691 people currently with an assessed need for residential or nursing home care in the Mid Ulster area, only one person has not been placed.

Nursing/Residential Care

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nursing homes there are in the Mid Ulster constituency. (AQW 3055/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: At 30 June 2008, there were 12 nursing homes in the Mid-Ulster constituency.

Slieve Roe Residential Home

Mr Wells asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if an equality impact assessment was carried out on the proposed closure of Slieve Roe Residential Home in Killeel. (AQW 3057/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has undertaken an equality impact assessment of its proposal for the future of Slieve Roe House in Killeel. This equality impact assessment was carried out in accordance with guidance issued by the Equality Commission in April 2001. The Trust wishes to consult as widely as possible on the proposed service changes for statutory residential care for older people and the associated EQIA. The Trust is planning to commence a 12 week period of consultation with all interested persons from Monday, 15 December 2008 until Friday, 6th March 2009. In doing so, it will conform to the guiding principles governing consultation contained in section 6 of its Equality Scheme and the Equality Commission's Guide to the Statutory Duties. The Trust will then consider the responses received from this consultation process before any decision is made.

Psychiatric Units

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many young people have been sent to psychiatric units for inpatient treatment in the last year, broken down by the (i) unit attended; and (ii) age of young person. (AQW 3076/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: During the financial year 2007/08, 48 young people aged under 14, and 120 aged between 14 and 18 were admitted by the HSC in Northern Ireland to psychiatric units. These figures are further broken down by admitting unit as below:

Unit	No. of Admissions	Age
Minnowburn, South Belfast	48	Under 14
Regional Adolescent Unit, Forster Green Hospital	43	14-18
Holywell Hospital	11	14-18
Fermanagh & Tyrone Hospital	8	14-18
Craigavon Hospital	10	14-18
Gransha Hospital	15	14-18
Ards Hospital	7	14-18
Downshire Hospital	1	14-18
Lagan Valley Hospital	2	14-18
Mater Hospital	7	14-18
Belfast City Hospital	3	14-18
Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) to UK facilities	13	14-18

While Trusts endeavour to admit children and young people to age appropriate facilities, there can be exceptional circumstances necessitating admission to an adult facility. Such admissions require a risk assessment to be carried out and admission must comply with Departmental guidance covering the admission of a young person to an adult ward. This requires such admissions to be located in a side ward with an appropriate observation regime.

The expansion of community based Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams is helping to reduce inappropriate admissions to hospital by providing alternative treatments enabling young people to be supported at home.

Residential Tier 4 Treatment

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people under 18 years of age, with complex substance abuse problems, have been referred for residential tier 4 treatment in (i) England; (ii) Republic of Ireland; (iii) Scotland; and (iv) Wales, in the last year, providing details of (a) the unit they were referred to; (b) the reason for referral; and (c) cost associated with each referral. (AQW 3078/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In Northern Ireland during 2007/08 there was only one referral for Tier 4 Residential Treatment for a person aged under 18. The patient was referred to the Ashlinn Adolescent Unit in the Republic of Ireland for manic depression and addictive disorder. The referral lasted 19 days at a cost of £10,374.

Health and Social Care Trusts

Ms Ní Chuilín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much each Health and Social Care Trust has spent on hospitality since May 2007. (AQW 3084/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Figures provided by the Health and Social Care Trusts are set out in the table below:

Health and Social Care Trust	1 May 2007 to 31 October 2008
Belfast	£45,845
Northern	£168,144
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	£10,025
Southern	£128,000
South Eastern	£157,000
Western	£160,000

The above figures includes such items as sandwiches, tea and coffee etc for both internal and external meetings and events, for example public Trust Board meetings, Ministerial Visits, Health Committee etc

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to report on the actions his Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects to help redress the economic downturn. (AQW 3100/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department has submitted bids as part of the recent Budget Strategic Stocktake exercise in order to bring forward the delivery of key schemes. I am awaiting the outcome of this exercise.

Learning Disabilities

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people with a learning disability are attending adult training centres in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area. (AQW 3110/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by the Northern Health & Social Care Trust indicated that on 4 December 2008, 949 people with a learning disability were attending adult training centres.

Health Promotion Agency

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff work for the Health Promotion Agency. (AQW 3111/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: As at 3rd December 2008 there were 64 people working for the Health Promotion Agency. This figure includes 4 people working on secondment from other organisations.

Learning Disabilities

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area have a (i) learning disability; and (ii) severe learning disability. (AQW 3112/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by the Northern Health & Social Care Trust indicated that on 4 December 2008, there were (i) 3,000 adults registered as having a learning disability and, (ii) 1,820 adults registered as having a severe learning disability. The requested information is not available for children.

Cost of Clinical Trials

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the cost of clinical trials in the Health Service, for the last three years. (AQW 3113/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The full cost of clinical trials in the HSC is not routinely recorded nor is it easily quantified.

Cases of Hepatitis

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many cases of hepatitis have occurred, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3115/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of laboratory reports of hepatitis (A, B and C) in Northern Ireland over the last 3 years for which information is available, is shown in the table below.

Year of diagnosis	2005	2006	2007
Number of New Diagnoses	213	218	223*

Source: CDSC(NI).

*2007 data is provisional and may be subject to change.

HIV Infections

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail any increases in HIV infections. (AQW 3116/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of diagnosed cases of HIV in Northern Ireland over the last 6 years for which information is available, is shown in the table below.

Year of diagnosis	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of New Diagnoses	33	62	62	56	65	54*

Source: CDSC(NI) - HIV and STI Surveillance in Northern Ireland 2008.

* Figure is for the first 6 months of 2008 only.

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the increase in costs of Private Finance Initiative projects. (AQW 3118/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am not sure what increasing costs are being referred to in the question. However, in line with Treasury guidance, PFI has only been used as a procurement route in health infrastructure projects where they have demonstrated value for money and have been confirmed as being affordable.

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have Prader-Willi Syndrome, and what is their age profile. (AQW 3124/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of people who have Prader-Willi Syndrome is not available.

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many; and (ii) are there any plans for, residential homes for Prader-Willi Syndrome sufferers. (AQW 3130/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are no residential homes specifically for sufferers of Prader-Willi Syndrome in Northern Ireland and there are currently no plans to commission specialist residential homes for this condition.

The five Health and Social Care Trusts provide person centred care assessments which address the specific needs of all users of their services, including those with Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if his Department will ensure that appropriate care is available to all Prader-Willi Syndrome sufferers. (AQW 3131/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The five HSC Trusts provide a broad range of appropriate care and services to people with a diagnosis of Prader-Willi Syndrome and their family/carers. The Trusts focus on providing a person centred care assessment involving multi disciplinary health and social care staff, as appropriate. The assessment is dependent on the specific needs of the individual and the assessed needs of the family/carers.

Prader-Willi Syndrome

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, since funding is due to end in April 2009, will he continue to offer financial assistance to employ a Prader-Willi Syndrome Outreach Worker (AQW 3132/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department currently does not provide funding for a Prader Willi Syndrome Outreach Worker.

In accordance with normal auditing arrangements all organisations which seek funding from my Department should submit applications through the normal Departmental funding application routes.

Walking and Cycling Initiatives

Mr Beggs asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) what role walking and cycling initiatives play in his Department's strategy to increase active lifestyles among children; and (ii) what steps his Department is taking to encourage this activity. (AQW 3138/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: (i) All physical activity, including walking and cycling, plays an important role in my Department's strategy to increase and promote active lifestyles among children. Regular physical activity contributes to maintaining a healthy weight which lowers the risk of a child developing weight problems and suffering related adverse health conditions during their lifetime.

(ii) I have established a cross-sectoral Obesity Prevention Steering Group (OPSG) which will advise on the delivery of over 70 key recommendations aimed at preventing and reducing childhood obesity identified in Fit Futures: Focus on Food, Activity and Young People. Associated advisory groups will provide advice on specific areas of work, one of which is the Promoting Physical Activity Advisory Group. This group, made up of a cross-section of representatives who specialise in physical activity issues will consider the wide range of associated activities including walking and cycling, and thus inform the development of the overarching obesity strategy to be developed through the OPSG.

Clinical Dress Codes

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, pursuant to answer AQW 2531/09, if he is (i) maintaining regular spot-checks to ensure clinical dress codes for medical staff are being adhered to; and (ii) taking, or planning to take, disciplinary action against those Health and Social Care Trusts and individuals who are in breach of dress code policy. (AQW 3149/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In February 2008 I announced that my department had issued a Regional Dress Code Policy as part of a package of measures to improve patient safety and reduce the spread of healthcare associated infection, and that all HSC Trusts were required to implement the Dress Code Policy with immediate effect.

I am firmly committed to a sustained approach, to promote the continued and effective implementation of measures which reduce the spread of healthcare associated infection, and my department therefore places great importance on monitoring compliance with these important measures.

For this reason my department requires that each HSC Trust must monitor compliance with the Regional Dress Code Policy, within their existent arrangements and report back on their individual compliance with the Regional Dress Code Policy to my department on an annual basis.

National Appeal Panel

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety the average time taken by the National Appeal Panel to process an appeal of an application to join the Pharmaceutical List, where that appeal was received (i) in 2007; and (ii) in 2008. (AQW 3155/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) The average waiting time for appeals received in 2007 was approximately 18 months, and that remains current.
- (ii) It is anticipated that by March 2009 the average waiting time for appeals received in 2008 will be approximately 12 months.

National Appeal Panel

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the current waiting period between receipt by the National Appeal Panel of an appeal to an application to join the Pharmaceutical List, and a decision on the appeal. (AQW 3157/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) The average waiting time for appeals received in 2007 was approximately 18 months, and that remains current.

- (ii) It is anticipated that by March 2009 the average waiting time for appeals received in 2008 will be approximately 12 months.

Health Service Issues

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the total costs of all reviews on Health Service issues, announced by the Minister, since taking office. (AQW 3183/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the total costs of all reviews on Health Service issues is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Health Service Surgical Appliances

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the cost to the Health Service of surgical appliances, over the last three years. (AQW 3186/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the specific costs of surgical appliances is not held.

Clinical Coders

Mr Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many clinical coders are employed in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; and their respective pay bands. (AQW 3187/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are 21 clinical coders, both full-time and part-time, currently employed in the Belfast HSC Trust; 19 of these are in the Agenda for Change band 4 pay band and 2 are in the band 3 pay band.

General Pharmaceutical Council

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to give an update on the formation of the General Pharmaceutical Council, and to make a statement on the future of the regulation of pharmacy. (AQW 3188/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The General Pharmaceutical Council is due to be established in 2010. This work is being taken forward by an oversight group appointed by the Department of Health in England and known as the Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Group (PRLOG).

I postponed taking a decision on whether pharmacy regulation in N Ireland should be carried out by the General Pharmaceutical Council until the Council has been established.

In the meantime the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland continues to regulate the pharmacy profession here and officials in my Department are updating the legislative framework under which this regulatory body operates.

Community Pharmacy contracts

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to provide an update on the conclusion of the new Community Pharmacy contracts. (AQW 3189/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department's community pharmacy contract negotiating team has been negotiating a new contract with the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee (PCC), the representative body for community pharmacy, since April 2004. To date a total of 11 formal contract meetings have been held.

The main developments have been a jointly agreed framework for the new contract, preparation by the departmental team of detailed service specifications and standards for the services to be provided, a survey commissioned jointly by the Department and PCC into the costs of running pharmacies in Northern Ireland and some discussion on introducing certain services as the first part of a phased approach to implementing the new contract.

One of the key initiatives of the new contract is the provision of a Minor Ailments Scheme. The Department has recently had constructive discussions with PCC in relation to provision of this service.

Clearly the rate of progress on the new pharmacy contract has been disappointing; however, it is hoped that real progress is now possible. I see a key role for community pharmacy in providing a range of services for local people and I will be looking to the profession to return to the negotiation process to ensure that patients in Northern Ireland benefit from the services that the rest of the UK enjoy. I firmly believe that the new contract is the way ahead for community pharmacy and I believe that, with willingness on both sides, real progress can be made in the coming months.

Health and Social Care Trust Managers

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many managers there are per department, in each Health and Social Care Trust. (AQW 3209/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The requested Information is not available centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Management Positions

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the total cost of management positions, in each department, in each Health and Social Care Trust. (AQW 3210/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information is not held centrally and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what contribution his Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3216/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In January 2007, OFMdFM asked all departments, including DHSSPS, to scrutinize their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention to enable the UK Government to make an informed decision about ratification.

In September 2008, OFMdFM sought further confirmation and the department responded that given statutory duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Convention was unlikely to impose any additional requirements. My Department has made no specific input with regard to reservations.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what preparations her Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3219/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In line with the standards set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, my Department has completed a scrutiny of its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. In addition, in July this year, my Department submitted a revised Disability Action Plan to the Equality Commission containing a series of planned actions for the period June 2007 to May 2010. In order to ensure that policies currently under development incorporate the standards set out in the Convention, establish equitable health care provision, promote positive attitudes and inclusion for people with disabilities, my Department is working with relevant stakeholders, including disability interests, and this process will be extended as appropriate to future policy development.

Learning Disabilities

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area have a (i) learning disability; and (ii) severe learning disability.

(AQW 3250/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust indicated that:

- (i) On 31 March 2008, there were 1, 855 people with a learning disability;
and,
- (ii) Information on the number of people with a severe learning disability is not currently recorded.

Caesarean Sections

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the total cost for caesarean sections, broken down by parliamentary constituency, for the financial years (i) 2006; and (ii) 2007.

(AQW 3278/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: For the financial years 2005/06 and 2006/07 total expenditure on caesarean sections in an inpatient setting in Northern Ireland, broken down by parliamentary constituency, was as follows:

Parliamentary Constituency	Expenditure (£000) 2006/07	Expenditure (£000) 2005/06
Belfast East	737	635
Belfast North	1,032	910
Belfast South	936	854
Belfast West	1,088	1,011
East Antrim	906	942
East Londonderry	567	792
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	1,061	1,089
Foyle	1,204	1,059
Lagan Valley	1,061	1,080
Mid Ulster	1,101	932
Newry and Armagh	1,576	1,156
North Antrim	865	1,013
North Down	751	731
South Antrim	1,244	1,310
South Down	1,199	955
Strangford	835	894
Upper Bann	1,493	1,342
West Tyrone	1,017	876
Unknown*	153	157
Total	18,826	17,738

*Hospital Inpatient System could not identify the area due to insufficient information

Source: Trust Annual Costing Returns and Hospital Inpatient System

Clostridium Difficile

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why some patients, suspected of contracting clostridium difficile in hospital and infection isolation wards, are refused re-entry to their original ward after testing negative for the infection. (AQW 3302/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Patients who have diarrhoeal symptoms are isolated as soon as they develop the symptoms. The diarrhoea may be caused by a number of pathogens (germs) therefore a negative C. difficile result by itself is inconclusive as the patient may have any number of other infectious causes for their diarrhoea.

The patient would therefore remain in isolation (which may be in a different ward) unless a non-infectious cause is identified and documented by medical staff in the patient's notes.

The patient should be able to move back to their original ward (provided there are beds available) when they are 48 – 72 hours free from diarrhoeal symptoms and have had at least one 'normal' stool.

Care Homes

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if the Northern Health and Social Care Trust is involved in a process that will lead to the (i) closure or 'repurposing' of five of the nine care homes managed by the Trust; and (ii) moving elderly and vulnerable residents to unfamiliar surroundings. (AQW 3309/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) proposes to replace 5 of the 9 statutory residential homes within its area with supported living schemes or other support suitable to the needs of the residents. The NHSCT has not identified the locations of the 5 specific homes yet; however, Trust officials will discuss the proposals with the residents, their families and staff in the homes concerned, before a public consultation period commences on 7th January 2009. As part of their older people's strategy, "Living Well, Ageing Better", the NHSCT sought the views of older people, who expressed their wish to live at home for as long as possible with appropriate support. Supported living schemes such as Barnhalt Cottages, Carrickfergus, provide evidence that such schemes are successful and an appropriate alternative to residential care for many people. However, in taking decisions on the way forward, the wellbeing and future care of existing residents, as well as the outcomes of the consultation, will be of paramount importance in the Trust's deliberations.

Adult Training Centres

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people with a learning disability are attending adult training centres in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust area. (AQW 3310/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust indicated that on 31 October 2008, 935 people with a learning disability were attending adult training centres.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety where the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit, currently sited in the Wakehurst Building at Belfast City Hospital, will be relocated should its present location be demolished; and (ii) if the Wakehurst Building recently cost £200,000 to refurbish. (AQW 3318/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) There has been no decision made to demolish the Wakehurst Building at the Belfast City Hospital. Therefore, the Belfast Trust is retaining the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit in the Wakehurst building.
- (ii) In the last few years, £200,000 was spent on refurbishing the Wakehurst Building. This refurbishment was for redecoration and the upgrade of patient areas in the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit.

Adult Training Centres

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people with a learning disability are attending adult training centres in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. (AQW 3319/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information provided by the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust indicated that on 31 October 2008, 935 people with a learning disability were attending adult training centres.

People with Learning Disabilities

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people in the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust have a learning disability, broken down by council area. (AQW 3320/09)

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

Voluntary Groups

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what are the voluntary groups that the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust works with to provide supported living for persons with learning disabilities, in the Lagan Valley area. (AQW 3321/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust has advised me that it works with Positive Futures, Prospects, Autism Initiatives and Oaklee Housing Association in providing supported living for persons with learning disabilities in the Lagan Valley area.

Cardiovascular Services

Mr Lunn asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the budget for cardiac rehabilitation for (i) adults; and (ii) children, for the 2009/10 financial year; and for his assessment of this amount being appropriate for the delivery of necessary training in this area. (AQW 3327/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have allocated £3 million to Health and Social Services Boards for expenditure on cardiovascular services in 2009/10.

Part of this allocation is to provide for improved community rehabilitation services so that all patients with heart disease who could benefit from rehabilitation have the opportunity to participate in a suitable programme. The breakdown of funding available to adults and children is not held.

It is the responsibility of the Health and Social Services Boards to plan and allocate resources to meet the needs of their local population, including those with heart disease. In determining their priorities for funding, Boards will take into account local circumstances, the strategic objectives established for the HSC and competing demands and pressures for a wide range of health and social care services generally. To date, Boards have not identified financial pressures for the delivery of necessary training in this area and consequently, my Department has not made any bids for additional funding.

Newtownards Minor Injuries Unit

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the savings to be made with the proposed closure of the Newtownards Minor Injuries Unit at weekends. (AQW 3331/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Weekend closure of the Ards MIU could deliver an estimated efficiency of £56k. This proposal is subject to public consultation and a final decision will be made in due course.

Reduction of Nursing Posts

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the savings to be made through the reduction of 700 nursing posts. (AQW 3332/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Trust proposals that require any reduction in posts, including nursing posts, to allow the reconfiguration of services are currently subject to a public consultation process. Funding that may be released as a result of the efficiencies will be re-invested in service development.

Lagan Valley Obstetrics Services

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the savings to be made through the proposed closure of obstetrics services at Lagan Valley. (AQW 3334/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust's consultation on the proposal to transfer consultant-led inpatient obstetric services from Lagan Valley Hospital is currently ongoing and it would not be appropriate for me to provide an assessment of the proposal until that process is complete. The Trust has estimated that the savings associated with the proposal would be approximately £1 million.

Smoking Cessation

Mr Paisley Jnr asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many of the 7,681 people who claim to have ceased smoking this year indicated that tobacco duty had a positive effect on their decision. (AQW 3348/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The 7,681 figure quoted was the increase in the number of people who set a quit date through smoking cessation services during 2007/08 year, compared to the previous year. In 2007/08, which is the latest year for which statistics are available, the total number of people who set a quit date was actually 21,571.

Information on smoking cessation is collected via the four Health & Social Services Boards who submit data to the Department. There have been no indications from people who reported to Board cessation services that tobacco duty had any bearing on their individual decisions to quit, though a significant number cited cost as a factor.

Greenfield Residential Care Home

Mrs McGill asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the amount of funding that has gone into Greenfield Residential Care Home, Strabane for (i) physical improvement; and (ii) maintenance, in the last ten years. (AQW 3352/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Western Health and Social Care Trust have advised that over the past ten years £255,534 has been spent on maintenance and £274,839 on physical improvements for Greenfield Residential Home. The physical improvements included safety glazing, kitchen improvements, radiator replacement, installation of TV aerials, window anti-glare screens and various statutory improvements.

Budget Under Spends

Ms Ní Chuilín asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) all budget under spends; and (ii) the bids that have yet to be met for which money is available. (AQW 3357/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) The Department has no budget under spends in 2008-09.
- (ii) Under the terms of Budget 2008-11 Settlement it was agreed that DHSSPS would have first call on available in year monies of up to £20m. To date the Department has received some £10m and has submitted a bid for a further £10m in the recent December Monitoring round.

Learning Disabilities

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department is taking to ensure that learning disability in the Western Health and Social Care Trust is funded on a par with all Health and Social Care Trusts. (AQW 3358/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department uses the Regional Capitation Formula to ensure that funds are distributed to commissioners on an equitable basis and in line with need. It is made up of a number of smaller formulae, one of which specifically deals with Learning Disability Services.

Ultimately however it is for commissioners to decide how these funds are spent with HSC Trusts.

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps his Department is taking to address the severe shortage of (i) Speech Therapists; (ii) Occupational Therapists; (iii) Community Nurses; (iv) Social Workers; and (v) Domiciliary Care Nurses, in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area. (AQW 3359/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Western Trust currently has 9 vacant posts (headcount) over the professions listed above, (6.5WTE).

Recruitment and retention of staff is a matter for individual health and social care trusts and the Western Trust has assured me that they are taking appropriate measures to address the vacant posts.

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many vacancies exist for (i) Speech Therapists; (ii) Occupational Therapists; (iii) Community Nurses; (iv) Social Workers; and (v) Domiciliary Care Nurses, in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area. (AQW 3360/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of vacant posts for the above selected grades in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area is given in the table below.

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF CURRENT VACANCIES, BY GRADE, IN THE WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST AREA AS AT 9TH DECEMBER 2008.

Grade	Vacant Posts	
	Headcount	WTE
Speech Therapists	3	2.5
Occupational Therapists	2	1.5
Community Nurses	0	0.0
Social Workers	3	2.0
Domiciliary Care Workers	1	0.5

Source: Western Health & Social Care Trust

Notes:

1. WTE = Whole-Time Equivalent.
2. A current vacancy is an unoccupied post, which at 9th December 2008 was vacant and which the organisation was actively trying to fill.
3. None of the above vacancies are long-term (i.e. Vacant for 3 or more months).

Learning Disabilities in Strabane

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people from the Strabane area with learning disabilities are living in other areas because there are no residential places available in Strabane. (AQW 3361/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: There are currently 10 adults with learning disabilities from the Strabane area who have been placed in Residential/Nursing Homes outside of the area.

The main reason for this is that suitable vacant places are not available within the area. Three of the clients affected required specialised placements to deal with challenging behaviour, and this type of accommodation is presently not available within Strabane. One client also preferred to be placed outside of the area.

Replacement for Iona House

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action his Department has taken to bring forward the replacement for Iona House in Strabane. (AQW 3362/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Western Health and Social Care Trust input to the recently completed Review of Capital Priorities identified Iona House as one of the priority schemes within its Learning Disability programme of care. However, the Trust also indicated that the capital funding required would be sought from the Department of Social Development.

Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Mr Durkan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust area. (AQW 3365/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of people diagnosed with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension is not available.

Management and Administration Reductions

Mr Poots asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what percentage of the total budget has been identified as available through reductions and proposed reductions in management and administration. (AQW 3368/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department will deliver £53m of management and administration savings from Health and Social Care organisations as a result of RPA.

These planned savings on management and administration equate to approximately 19.4% of the actual employer's payroll spend on these organisation's administration, clerical, board and director's salaries and wages in 2007/08.

Residential Homes Closure

Mr Poots asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what consideration is given to the personal and individual needs of residents in care, and if this is given priority over financial savings when considering the closure of residential homes. (AQW 3369/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Health and Social Care are reforming and modernising the way in which older peoples services are delivered across Northern Ireland. This is in response to a growing elderly population who have made known their wish to be able to remain living at home in their own communities, with proper support and care packages, for as long as it is safe to do so. This desire to remain at home has resulted in a reduction in the number of admissions to residential care homes. Several Health and Social Care trusts are in the process of carrying out public consultations on proposals to reform and modernise older peoples services in their areas. However, in taking decisions on the way forward, the wellbeing and future care of existing residents, as well as the outcomes of the consultation, will be of paramount importance in the Trust's deliberations.

Gregg House in Lisburn

Mr Poots asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what role has his Department taken in supporting the residents of Gregg House in Lisburn. (AQW 3370/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Gregg House in Lisburn is a former sheltered housing facility, which has been re-designated as mainstream housing and leased to Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The residents therefore, are not placed in Gregg House on the basis of having a particular health or social care need. Subsequently, if a resident requires support or domiciliary care the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust carry out a full needs assessment and health and social services are provided on the basis of that assessment. There are currently 29 residents in Gregg House with 10 of these residents receiving a domiciliary care package.

Pork Sales

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what discussions have taken place with the Food Standards Agency in Great Britain to ensure the continued sale of pork products in Northern Ireland. (AQW 3375/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I am in close contact with the Food Standards Agency, which is a UK-wide non-Ministerial Government Department. The Food Standards Agency office in Belfast is providing the Minister with daily updates on the situation concerning dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs in pork and pork products from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The FSANI is in continuous contact with the FSA office in London, availing of its scientific expertise to ensure that pork products in Northern Ireland pose no immediate risk to public health.

Erne Hospital

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many operations have been carried out at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3381/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of operations carried out at the Erne Hospital in each of the last five years, is shown in the table below:-

Financial Year	Number of operations
2002/03	8,037
2003/04	7,650
2004/05	7,893
2005/06	8,544
2006/07	9,041

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

Agency for Public Health and Well Being

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much the new Agency for Public Health and Well Being will cost his Department, on an annual basis. (AQW 3382/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department is currently completing a staff mapping exercise to identify staff moving to the Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-Being with effect from 1 April 2009, and a business case which will determine the costs of the new Agency. The annual cost of the Agency cannot be confirmed until these exercises are completed.

Nursing Vacancies

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many nursing vacancies currently exist in (i) Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh; and (ii) Erne Hospital, Enniskillen. (AQW 3383/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of vacant posts for Nursing & Midwifery staff in the selected hospitals in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area is given below.

As at 30th September 2008, Tyrone County Hospital, Omagh, had 2 (2.0 Whole-Time Equivalent) current vacancies for Qualified Nursing Staff. A current vacancy is defined as an unoccupied post, which at 30th September 2008 was vacant and which the organisation was actively trying to fill. Neither of these vacancies were long-term (i.e. vacant for 3 or more months).

As at 30th September 2008, Erne Hospital, Enniskillen, had 3 (2.5 Whole-Time Equivalent) current vacancies for Qualified Nursing Staff. None of these vacancies were long-term.

There were no vacancies for Nurse Support Staff in either hospital.

Pharmaceutical Product Suppliers

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans his Department has to limit the number of suppliers of pharmaceutical product. (AQW 3387/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The pharmaceutical clinical effectiveness programme (PCEP) has promoted a rationalised and transparent approach to the selection of pharmaceutical products from those suppliers who can provide the highest standard of evidence for the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of their products.

Regional contracts have been established with selected suppliers identified through EU tendering mechanisms for influenza vaccinations, wound care products and hospital generic medicines. These arrangements have delivered demonstrable improvements in quality and risk management of services in addition to delivering significant cash efficiencies for reinvestment in HSC.

You will also be aware that over the CSR 2008-11 period, I have set challenging targets to improve generic dispensing rates in order to achieve greater convergence with equivalent generic dispensing rates across the rest of the UK. With these objectives in mind, I will be considering the extension of the above PCE procurement approach to generic medicines for the primary care sector. I expect to review the findings of this latter exercise by the end of 2008 before any options for implementation are considered.

‘Love for Life’

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total funding awarded to ‘Love for Life’ by (i) the Northern Health and Social Services Board; and (ii) the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3388/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Funding to Love for Life has been awarded by (i) the Northern Health and Social Services Board; and (ii) the Northern Health and Social Care Trust for each of the last 5 years as follows:

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
(i) NHSSB	£615	£2633*	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) NHSCT	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil

* awarded but not expended by the organisation.

Learning Disabilities

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much money his Department has provided to learning disability in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust area, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3390/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department makes funding allocations to Health and Social Services Boards rather than Health and Social Care Trusts, therefore the information is not available in the format requested. However, Trust expenditure costs for learning disability services are held centrally. The latest figures my Department holds are for the financial year 2007/08. The table below provides the latest information available on the total amount of money spent by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust on learning disability between 2003/04 and 2007/08.

Northern HSC Trust Total Learning Disability Expenditure 2003/04 to 2007/08

Programme of Care	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Learning Disability (PoC6)	£28,400,270	£30,166,458	£34,141,977	£36,116,388	£36,346,053 ¹

Note:

1 - 2007-08 expenditure is provisional and may be subject to change.

Source: Northern Health and Social Care Trust

Dampness in Homes

Mr McKay asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to list the public health effects of a house with (i) damp; and (ii) serious condensation. (AQW 3396/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The World Health Organisation has concluded that the strongest evidence exists for the association of dampness in homes with cough, wheeze and asthma. Other illnesses associated with exposure to indoor damp include bronchial obstruction, bronchitis, persistent allergic rhinitis and eczema. It has been suggested that dampness can also affect mental health, for example, by causing stress to people worried about high heating bills and the destruction of belongings.

Health and Social Care Trusts

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans have the Health and Social Care Trusts to become more energy efficient. (AQW 3402/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Currently, all Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts are working toward achieving targets for energy efficiency contained in EnCO2de, the primary guidance on energy efficiency in both new and existing HSS Board facilities, issued on 30 May 2006.

Further plans for Health and Social Care bodies to become more energy efficient are contained in the draft Action Plan for Sustainable Operations on the Health and Social Care Estate. The Action Plan running from 2009 to 2011 covers 6 topic areas and will be issued for consultation in the near future.

Health and Social Services Board

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans have the Health and Social Services Board to become more energy efficient. (AQW 3403/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Currently, all Health and Social Services (HSS) Boards are working toward achieving targets for energy efficiency contained in EnCO2de, the primary guidance on energy efficiency in both new and existing HSS Board facilities, issued on 30 May 2006.

Further plans for Health and Social Care bodies to become more energy efficient are contained in the draft Action Plan for Sustainable Operations on the Health and Social Care Estate. The Action Plan running from 2009 to 2011 covers 6 topic areas and will be issued for consultation in the near future.

Energy Efficiency

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what plans his Department has to become more energy efficient. (AQW 3404/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Responsibility for the management, including energy efficiency, of the buildings occupied by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety rests with the Department of Finance and Personnel and private landlords.

However, plans for the DHSSPS to become more energy efficient in areas within its influence are contained in the DHSSPS Action Plan for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate 2006 -2008 and is available on line at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/dhssps_green_sd_action_plan.pdf

The Action Plan covers the period from 2006 to 2008 and it is currently under review.

Accident and Emergency Department

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people were admitted to the accident and emergency department in the Mid Ulster Hospital, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3405/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the number of attendances at the Accident and Emergency Department at Mid Ulster Hospital, for each of the last five years, is outlined below.

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Total Attendances	24,477	23,566	23,089	20,451	18,997

Source: Departmental Return KH09 (Part 2)

Alcohol Abuse

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many patients have been treated in the Mid Ulster Hospital because of alcohol abuse or related reasons. (AQW 3406/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: In 2006/07, there were 348 admissions to the Mid Ulster Hospital where an alcohol related diagnosis was recorded.

Deaths and discharges are used as an approximation of admissions. These figures should not be used to denote individuals as a person may be admitted to hospital more than once in a year.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what policies and practices in his Department have changed in delivering the 3% efficiency savings required by the 2008-11 Budget. (AQW 3407/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Trusts and other organisations must produce efficiency proposals that are in line with existing policies and the Department's strategic direction and are deliverable alongside service modernisation. This includes implementing policies and practices, for example, to increase daycase rates, to decrease inappropriate length of stay, to improve procurement, to treat people in the community instead of hospital where that is the best care for them, to improve preventative measures, to extend generic prescribing of drugs and reduce administration.

Carers

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have (i) family members; and (ii) Trust appointed carers to look after them, in each constituency, in each of the last two years. (AQW 3412/09)

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

Residential Homes Closures

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust is taking to ensure that the views of residents are taken into account as part of its plans to close residential homes. (AQW 3413/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I can confirm that no final decision has been made on the closure of Loch Cuan House. The proposals are now subject of a planning process, the current stage of which is a full public consultation period, which has been running from November 20 2008 and continues until February 12 2009. The South Eastern Trust are making significant efforts to engage with all interested parties through a series of meetings with residents in Loch Cuan and their families, and a public meeting was held in the Strangford Arms Hotel on December 8 2008. The Trust also proposes to engage with all political parties and Ards District Council during the consultation period. No decision will be taken by the Trust until such times as it has given full and proper consideration to the response to the public consultation.

Residential Homes Closures

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if he can confirm that a final decision has not been made on the closure of Loch Cuan Home and that consideration will be given to the opinions of (i) residents of the home and their families; (ii) elected representatives; and (iii) residents in the area, before a decision is made. (AQW 3415/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I can confirm that no final decision has been made on the closure of Loch Cuan House. The proposals are now subject of a planning process, the current stage of which is a full public consultation period, which has been running from November 20 2008 and continues until February 12 2009. The South Eastern Trust are making significant efforts to engage with all interested parties through a series of meetings with residents in Loch Cuan and their families, and a public meeting was held in the Strangford Arms Hotel on December 8 2008. The Trust also proposes to engage with all political parties and Ards District Council during the consultation period. No decision will be taken by the Trust until such times as it has given full and proper consideration to the response to the public consultation.

Assaults on Health Care Officials

Mrs Long asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) how many assaults were carried out against health care officials, in the current year in each Health and Social Care Trust as well as the comparable figures for the previous year; (ii) how many prosecutions were pursued as a result of an assault on a health care official; and how many prosecutions were successful; (iii) what support and assistance were given by his Department to health care officials who have suffered an assault; and (v) what assistance is provided to health care officials who wish to prosecute a person who carried out an assault against them. (AQW 3422/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The number of physical and verbal attacks over the previous two years.

	2008/2009*		2007/2008	
	Physical	Verbal	Physical	Verbal
Northern Health and Social Care Trust	556	188	889	331
Southern Health and Social Care Trust	324	171	385	320
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust	237	67	973	234
Western Health and Social Care Trust	368	190	618	272
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	690	310	1372	580

	2008/2009*		2007/2008	
	Physical	Verbal	Physical	Verbal
Northern Ireland Ambulance Services Health and Social Care Trust	38	38	82	56
Others	0	1	0	8
Totals	2213	965	4319	1793
	3178		6120	

* Figures are collected by the Department on a six monthly basis. The figures for 2008/2009 reflect the period from 1st April 2008 to 30 September 2008

Prosecution statistics collected by the Public Prosecution Service do not distinguish healthcare workers as a specific category. Trusts have Zero Tolerance policies in place that indicate that support will be provided by line management following the report of an assault. Similar arrangements are in place to support staff in the event that a prosecution is appropriate.

Mental Health Promotion Strategy

Ms Anderson asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if his Department plans to amalgamate the existing suicide strategy within the new Mental Health Promotion Strategy, and if so (i) to outline his assessment of the impact of this measure with reference to the World Health Organisation recommendations on suicide prevention; and (ii) to detail any consultations his Department held with families bereaved by suicide and other stakeholders prior to making this decision. (AQW 3428/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department is currently revising its strategy for the promotion of mental health. I have not made a decision to amalgamate the Protect Life strategy with any future promoting mental health strategy, but I recognise that interventions that improve the levels of mental wellbeing in the population have the potential to contribute significantly to reducing the risk of suicide.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people suffer from (i) Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, (ii) Fibromyalgia and (iii) Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. (AQW 3429/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is not available on how many people suffer from (i) Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, (ii) Fibromyalgia and (iii) Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

People with Learning Disabilities

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to report on the current and planned provision for supported living for persons with learning disabilities in the Lagan Valley area. (AQW 3433/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The provision of services for supported living in the Lagan Valley area is the responsibility of the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (the Trust).

The Trust has advised that within the Lagan Valley area, it currently supports 51 persons with learning disabilities to live within supported living schemes.

The Trust plans to provide an additional 7 supported living places by 2011 and is currently negotiating to include a further 6 places in the Supporting People Capital and Revenue Programme for 2011/2012.

Hospital Costs

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the average cost of a hospital meal, per patient, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3441/09)

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

Acute Hospital for the South West in Enniskillen

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety why all works at the acute hospital for the South West in Enniskillen have stopped. (AQW 3453/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Work on the site for the new South West acute hospital has not stopped. In September 2006 my Department approved the OBC2 for the acute hospital in Enniskillen. This gave approval for enabling works to commence on the site of the new hospital. These works were completed in August this year at a cost of £5.3 million. Work on the construction phase, including the foundations, of the new hospital will commence in Spring 2009.

Acute Hospital for the South West in Enniskillen

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety if all the foundations for the new acute hospital for the South West in Enniskillen have now been laid ready for building works to commence. (AQW 3454/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Work on the site for the new South West acute hospital has not stopped. In September 2006 my Department approved the OBC2 for the acute hospital in Enniskillen. This gave approval for enabling works to commence on the site of the new hospital. These works were completed in August this year at a cost of £5.3 million. Work on the construction phase, including the foundations, of the new hospital will commence in Spring 2009.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what help is available for families caring for a Myalgic Encephalomyelitis sufferer at home. (AQW 3455/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: People with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) and their families are supported through access to a range of health and social care services which include respite care, domiciliary care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, mental health services, nursing and social work. Direct Payments are also promoted by Health & Social Care Trusts as a means by which traditional domiciliary care resources can be utilised in a more flexible, supportive and person centred manner.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what provision his Department has in place to diagnose and offer treatment options for patients with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis. (AQW 3456/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: On 31 January 2008, the Department officially endorsed the NICE guideline on the diagnosis and management of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) in adults and children as applicable to Northern Ireland. This guideline states that ME / CFS cannot be diagnosed by any test currently available, but that clinicians should make a diagnosis following the exclusion of other known causes for the symptoms, and where symptoms are causing functional impairment.

A range of treatment and support options are available for people with ME. Patient care is for the most part provided by general practitioners. Patients may also access other disciplines of the HSC including community care and support, neurology services and mental health services which can provide treatment like cognitive behaviour therapy, which is thought to help manage the illness.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how much funding his Department has provided for biomedical research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3457/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Department has not provided any funding for biomedical research into Myalgic Encephalomyelitis in the last five years.

Pioneering research into diseases like Myalgic Encephalomyelitis needs to be undertaken in specialised centres of excellence which can best contribute to a global research effort.

Admissions to Hospitals

Mr Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of admissions to hospitals for injuries caused by falls related to the cold weather, in the month of December 2008. (AQW 3477/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is not available on the number of admissions to hospitals for injuries caused by falls related to the cold weather, in the month of December 2008.

Health Service Workers

Mr Burns asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the number of Health Service workers who are owed pay due to errors. (AQW 3479/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department does not hold this information. Once an error in pay comes to light HSC employers make every effort to rectify that error as soon as possible.

Interface Violence

Mr A Maskey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail (i) the programmes his Department funds in relation to direct intervention and prevention of interface violence; and (ii) the cost of these programmes. (AQW 3487/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department does not provide such direct funding.

Reviews Announced by Minister

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many reviews he has announced since coming into office. (AQW 3488/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I have announced 14 reviews since taking up office in May 2007. I have also jointly announced a review with the DSD Minister on Support Provisions for Carers.

Public Appointment

Ms Purvis asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) to list all public appointments (a) filled by his Department and (b) still outstanding; (ii) on what grounds were some appointments not made; (iii) to assess the process adopted for appointments including the OPCA guidance; and (iv) his plans for ensuring a more efficient application of the procedures. (AQW 3495/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) (a) The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has made a total of 377 public Appointments over the last three financial years. The attached table at Annex A details all the public Appointments made by my Department during each of the last three financial years.

- (i) (b) There are currently a total of **32** public appointment vacancies, as listed below:-

Eastern Health & Social Services Board	1
Southern Health & Social Services Board	2
Western Health & Social Services Board	1
Eastern Health & Social Services Council	12
Northern Health & Social Services Council	4
Southern Health & Social Services Council	4
Western Health & Social Services Council	1
Health Promotion Agency	1
Mental Health Commission	3
NI Ambulance Service HSC Trust	1
NI Practice & Education Council for Nursing & Midwifery	2
Total	32

- (ii) The majority of the vacancies (**29 in total**) are within organisations which will cease to exist from 1 April 2009, due the Review of Public Administration. These organisations include the four Health and Social Services (HSS) Boards; HSS Councils; HCS Trusts; the Health Promotion Agency and the Mental Health Commission. To that end, the Department decided that no new public appointments would be made to these organisations in the interim period.

There is currently one vacancy in the NI Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust and the Department is currently running an appointment competition to fill the vacancy. In addition, there are two vacancies in the NI Practice & Education Council for Nursing & Midwifery Council. The Department intends to run a competition to fill these two vacancies in the New Year. Both of these organisations are unaffected by RPA.

- (iii) All appointments made to DHSSPS public bodies are regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland, and as such are made in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner's office.
- (iv) Under the 2001 Order, the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland is required to audit appointments within her remit, for compliance with the Code of Practice, and publish an Annual Report and audit reports which includes information as to the observance of the Code of Practice and an account of the audit process. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety adheres to the principles and procedures as set out in the Commissioner's Code of Practice and ensures that all recommendations contained in the audit report are implemented to ensure more efficient application of the appointment procedures.

ANNEX A

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS MADE 1 APRIL 2005 – 31 MARCH 2008

Financial Year 2005/06	
Name of Body	Number
Altnagelvin Hospitals HSS Trust	3
Armagh & Dungannon Community Trust	2
Craigavon Area Hospital HSS Trust	3
Down & Lisburn HSS Trust	5
Eastern Health & Social Services Council	15
Foyle HSS Trust	1
Greenpark HSS Trust	5

Financial Year 2005/06	
Name of Body	Number
Homefirst HSS Trust	2
Mater Infirmorum Hospitals HSS Trust	1
Mental Health Commission for NI	6
North & West Belfast HSS Trust	3
Northern Health & Social Services Board	4
Northern Health & Social Services Council	17
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	3
Northern Ireland Social Care Council	7
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	4
NI Blood Transfusion Service	2
NI Practice & Education Council for Nursing & Midwifery	1
Regional Medical Physics Agency	1
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	6
South & East Belfast HSS Trust	2
Southern Health & Social Services Board	2
Southern Health & Social Services Council	18
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	6
Western Health & Social Services Board	4
Western Health & Social Services Council	17
Total	140

Financial Year 2006/07	
Name of Body	Number
Altnagelvin HSS Trust	1
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	1
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	1
Fire & Rescue Service Board	9
Greenpark HSS Trust	1
Health Promotion Agency	2
Mater Infirmorum Hospitals HSS Trust	2
Mental Health Commission	2
North & West Belfast HSS Trust	1
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	1
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	1
NI Practice & Education Council for Nursing & Midwifery	11
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	2
Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority	1
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	1
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	1

Financial Year 2006/07	
Name of Body	Number
Ulster Community HSS Trust	1
Western Health & Social Care Trust	1
Western Health & Social Services Council	1
Total	41

Financial Year 2007/08	
Name of Body	Number
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	7
Central Services Agency	1
Eastern Health & Social Service Council	1
Fire & Rescue Service Board	2
Mental Health Commission for NI	1
Northern Health & Social Care Trust	7
NI Ambulance Service Trust	1
NI Blood Transfusion Service Agency	1
NI Guardian Ad Litem Agency	1
NI Social Care Council	12
South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust	7
Southern Health & Social Care Trust	7
Western Health & Social Services Council	1
Western Health & Social Care Trust	7
Total	56

GCSEs

Miss McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what percentage of children in care, who are in the age range to sit examinations, achieved; (i) one or more GCSEs at grade C or above; (ii) two or more GCSEs at grade C or above; (iii) three or more GCSEs at grade C or above; (iv) four or more GCSEs at grade C or above; and (v) five or more GCSEs at grade C or above, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3496/09)

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

Children in Care

Miss McIlveen asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many children have gone missing from care in each of the last five years, broken down by Health and Social Care Trust. (AQW 3498/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The information requested is not available in the format requested, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Pork Industry

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what assessment he has made of scientific advice in the news media that dioxins are not harmful and that the consumption of pork at meal times over a lengthy period would not lead to health problems. (AQW 3501/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Food Standards Agency provides me with scientific advice and appropriate risk assessment on the effects on human health in relation to the consumption of food.

The FSA is a science and evidence based organisation, and in addition to its own scientific expertise, the Agency takes account of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) assessments.

Scientific evidence shows that, concerning this single incident, consumption of even a large amount of contaminated pork is not likely to lead to adverse health effects.

Closure of Ravara House

Mr Weir asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what scoring the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust used to propose the closure of Ravara House in Bangor. (AQW 3510/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The scoring system used by the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in its proposal to close Ravara House is detailed in the consultation document available on the Trust's website: <<http://www.setrust.hscni.net>> and clicking on 'Involving You'.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many people have been diagnosed and currently suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area. (AQW 3512/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information is not available on how many people have been diagnosed and are currently suffering from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.

Public Consultations

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline the cost of all public consultations undertaken on health issues, in the last three years. (AQW 3527/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The latest information held by my department on the cost of all public consultations in the last three years was provided to the Member in AQW 6118/08.

Equality Impact Assessments

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to breakdown the cost of all equality impact assessments carried out within the Health Service, in the last three years. (AQW 3529/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Information on the breakdown of the costs of all Equality Impact Assessments carried out across the Health Service is not maintained nor readily available.

Cleft Palate

Mr Shannon asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what is the cost for surgery for those born with a cleft palate, broken down by parliamentary constituency, in each of the last two years. (AQW 3544/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The last two financial years for which costs are available are 2005/06 and 2006/07. For the financial years 2005/06 and 2006/07 total expenditure on operations

for the correction of a cleft palate in an inpatient setting in Northern Ireland, broken down by parliamentary constituency, was as follows:

Source: Trust Annual Costing Returns and Hospital Inpatient System

A waiting list initiative was carried out during 2006/07 which led to an increase in activity in this year.

Parliamentary constituency	Expenditure (£000) 2006/07	Expenditure (£000) 2005/06
Belfast East	13.9	4.8
Belfast North	15.2	4.8
Belfast South	3.5	4.8
Belfast West	6.9	0
East Antrim	17.3	2.4
East Londonderry	20.8	0
Fermanagh And South Tyrone	3.5	2.4
Foyle	17.3	7.2
Lagan Valley	20.8	0
Mid Ulster	17.3	2.4
Newry And Armagh	10.4	7.2
North Antrim	27.7	7.2
North Down	10.4	7.2
South Antrim	3.5	4.8
South Down	3.5	4.8
Strangford	10.4	2.4
Upper Bann	20.8	7.2
West Tyrone	6.9	2.4
Total	230.3	72.3

Minor Ailments Scheme

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what developments have been made on the Minor Ailments Scheme following its suspension in July 2008. (AQW 3551/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Minor Ailments Scheme was not suspended but was enhanced in August 2008 to provide a greater range of services to patients.

Following negotiations I met with the Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee on 19 November and am pleased to report that a negotiated settlement has been agreed. I intend to issue a statement outlining the terms of a new service shortly.

Car Parking Charges

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to outline his plans for potential car parking charges at the Causeway Hospital. (AQW 3553/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The decision to apply car park charging and the level of charging to be applied remains with the individual discretion of each Trust. This allows each Trust to strike a reasonable balance between local needs and the costs of providing car parking facilities. The provision and management of car parking at the Causeway Hospital is therefore an operational matter for the Northern Trust, not the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Unattended Child in Care

Mr McClarty asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action he is taking to investigate why a child was left behind under the care of social services at a Coleraine restaurant in early December 2008. (AQW 3557/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: This is a very regrettable incident which the Western Health and Social Care Trust is currently investigating. The Trust has advised that they will consider the circumstances of the incident under their normal disciplinary procedures before deciding what action will be taken. My Department will wish to consider the outcome of the Trust's investigations to ensure that lessons learned are shared across all five Trust areas.

Speech and Language Therapy

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what public health initiatives are being taken to address the increasing number of children entering school with significant speech and language difficulties. (AQW 3579/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: My Department published the Health for All Children Report in October 2006. This is a guide for health professionals in supporting children and young people's health and development in the early years and beyond. The Report sets out a screening programme for children from the antenatal period to four years and beyond.

Screening plays a vital role in the diagnosis of a speech and language difficulty, with the premise that preventative health care can be administered as soon as the difficulty is detected. Speech & language therapists work in partnership with health visitors to help ensure early identification of speech and language problems. Children suspected of having special education needs may be referred to a community paediatrician or another relevant health professional.

Speech and Language Therapy

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) is available for (i) young people; and (ii) adults, with speech, language and communications difficulties, in the justice system. (AQW 3580/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: While there is no dedicated provision for young people or adults with speech, language or communication difficulties within the juvenile or adult justice system, Her Majesty's Prisons may request such services from the local Health and Social Care Trust after a clinical assessment of the individual's need has been made. Speech & Language Therapy services may then be provided by a community-based team.

Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC)

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps are being taken to develop a regional strategy for Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC) for (i) assessment of appropriate systems; (ii) funding of recommended AAC equipment; and (iii) support for clients and patients learning and using AAC systems. (AQW 3581/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Criteria for access to the regional Communication Advice Centre (CAC) within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) are being developed. BHSCT has initiated a discussion with Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) managers within the Health and Social Care Trusts to examine what Augmentative and Alternative Communications (AAC) services exist across Northern Ireland. Representatives from SLT services will meet in early 2009 to map currently available AAC assessment and support services in both the CAC and in local Trusts.

The CAC does not fund devices for individual long term use. Loan of equipment may be arranged as part of the assessment procedure. When an appropriate system has been identified the details are sent to the Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) manager in the referring Trust.

The CAC service recognises the need to support users, families, and Speech and Language Therapists during assessment and in the long term use of AAC systems. The CAC has planned a programme of SLT training in 2009 to support local SLT services.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Newton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how many staff are dedicated to providing treatment to persons suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, broken down by Health and Social Services Board area. (AQW 3621/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust provide a consultant-led specialist service for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis. This service currently has one (0.5 Whole-Time Equivalent) person employed solely to provide Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis services. At this time referrals to this service are from the Belfast area only.

As Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis may involve a range of symptoms and disabilities, people suffering from this condition may be treated by a number of different health and social care professionals, including GPs, community care, neurology, mental health and allied health professionals. These staff are not employed solely to provide services to people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/ Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and it is not possible to identify separately the proportion of their time spent treating patients with this individual condition.

Medical Cards

Mr O'Dowd asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety when an answer to AQW 1981/09 will be provided. (AQW 3624/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: The member will receive an answer to AQW 1981/09 when the information requested is available.

December Monitoring Round

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety how he intends to use the extra £5m announced for his Department in the December monitoring round. (AQW 3645/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety:

- (i) Under the terms of Budget 2008-11 Settlement it was agreed that DHSSPS would have first call on available in year monies of up to £20m. On the basis of this commitment, the Department drew in its initial spending plans assuming these monies would be made available to bring forward improvements to cardiac, elective and long term care services and enhance services to children.
- (ii) The additional £5m awarded in December means that to date DHSSPS has received some £15m of the promised £20m. The Department will bid for the remaining balance in the February monitoring round to ensure the requisite resources are available to meet existing commitments.

Reduce Obesity

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what steps he is taking to reduce the prevalence of obesity. (AQW 3654/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: Tackling obesity in Northern Ireland is a high priority for my Department. To this end I have established a cross-sectoral Obesity Prevention Steering Group (OPSG) with responsibility for taking forward the recommendations in the Fit Futures Implementation Plan. During the coming year we shall be developing a life course approach to improve participation in physical activity, increasing awareness of healthy eating and promoting healthy weight within an over-arching Obesity Strategic Framework.

Preventing the rise of obesity will have a positive impact on the health of our communities in the future and whilst I acknowledge appropriate clinical interventions have a role to play, I believe we need to place particular emphasis on the prevention of obesity which can help reduce related health issues such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

Hospital Appointments

Mr Craig asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the procedures, including timeframes, for hospitals to cancel appointments and provide new appointment dates. (AQW 3658/09)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety: I refer you to the answer I gave to AQW 4307/08 on 5 March 2008.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Northern Ireland Water

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the proposed sea outfall being of sufficient length to disperse effluent away from the still waters of Cloughfin Bay. (AQW 2724/09)

The Minister for Regional Development (Mr C Murphy): I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it is currently liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding the proposal to provide appropriate treatment of wastewater from Whitehead, Ballycarry and Ballystrudder and the discharge of effluent through a sea outfall pipe at Cloughfin Bay. Alternative treatment solutions are currently being modelled in order to provide satisfactory dilution and dispersion of effluent in the Irish Sea and along the coast, including Cloughfin Bay. The proposal will remove existing continuous discharges in these areas and lead to an improvement in water quality in Belfast and Larne Loughs and off the coastline north of Whitehead.

NIEA will assess the results of the modelling and will take into account any impact on puffin feeding grounds and the habitat that supports sand eels in its consideration for the granting of a Food & Environment Protection Act license and consent to discharge.

Northern Ireland Water

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the environmental damage of Northern Ireland Water's sewage disposal proposals on initiatives to enhance the tourist potential of the (i) Gobbins; and (ii) adjacent areas of Larne and Belfast Loughs. (AQW 2726/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it is currently liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding the proposal to provide appropriate treatment of wastewater from Whitehead, Ballycarry and Ballystrudder and the discharge of effluent through a sea outfall pipe at Cloughfin Bay. Alternative treatment solutions are currently being modelled in order to provide satisfactory dilution and dispersion of effluent in the Irish Sea and along the coast, including Cloughfin Bay. The proposal will remove existing continuous discharges in these areas and lead to an improvement in water quality in Belfast and Larne Loughs and off the coastline north of Whitehead.

NIEA will assess the results of the modelling and will take into account any impact on puffin feeding grounds and the habitat that supports sand eels in its consideration for the granting of a Food & Environment Protection Act license and consent to discharge.

Northern Ireland Water

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will revisit the current proposals for sewage and waste water treatment for the areas including (i) Whitehead; (ii) Ballystrudder; and (iii) Ballycarry, given the environmental sensitivities of Larne Lough and the Gobbins. (AQW 2727/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it is currently liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding the proposal to provide appropriate treatment of wastewater from Whitehead, Ballycarry and Ballystrudder and the discharge of effluent through a sea outfall pipe at Cloughfin Bay. Alternative treatment solutions are currently being modelled in order to provide satisfactory dilution and dispersion of effluent in the Irish Sea and along the coast, including Cloughfin Bay. The

proposal will remove existing continuous discharges in these areas and lead to an improvement in water quality in Belfast and Larne Loughs and off the coastline north of Whitehead.

NIEA will assess the results of the modelling and will take into account any impact on puffin feeding grounds and the habitat that supports sand eels in its consideration for the granting of a Food & Environment Protection Act license and consent to discharge.

Northern Ireland Water

Mr K Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development if the current proposal to provide a sewage outfall pipe, located at Cloughfin Bay, will also ensure that no damage will come to the (i) puffin feeding grounds; and (ii) the habitat that supports sand eels. (AQW 2728/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it is currently liaising with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding the proposal to provide appropriate treatment of wastewater from Whitehead, Ballycarry and Ballystrudder and the discharge of effluent through a sea outfall pipe at Cloughfin Bay. Alternative treatment solutions are currently being modelled in order to provide satisfactory dilution and dispersion of effluent in the Irish Sea and along the coast, including Cloughfin Bay. The proposal will remove existing continuous discharges in these areas and lead to an improvement in water quality in Belfast and Larne Loughs and off the coastline north of Whitehead.

NIEA will assess the results of the modelling and will take into account any impact on puffin feeding grounds and the habitat that supports sand eels in its consideration for the granting of a Food & Environment Protection Act license and consent to discharge.

Belfast Metro Bus Drivers

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Regional Development the length of time for meal breaks allocated to Belfast Metro bus drivers. (AQW 2872/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Translink has advised me that the length of meal breaks for a Metro bus driver can vary as a result of scheduling but the minimum break is 30 minutes.

Bus Tickets

Mr McElduff asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to meet with (i) the Minister for Transport and the Marine; and (ii) representatives from Bus Éireann; to ensure that customers living in Northern Ireland can book bus tickets online at the same price available to customers living in the Republic of Ireland. (AQW 2908/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have no plans at present to meet either with Ministerial counterparts in the South or with Bus Éireann to discuss this matter. I am informed that people living in the North may buy tickets online from Bus Éireann for the same price in Euro as people in the South.

Northern Ireland Water

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the commencement of anti-flooding measures at Carrickdesland, Warrenpoint, as agreed at a meeting between the residents and NI Water that was held on site on 11 September 2008. (AQW 3044/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that it has agreed to fund the upgrading of the storm drainage outlet that was contributing to the flooding. Replacement of the first section of pipework will commence as soon as the contractor has all of the necessary fittings and it is expected it will be completed before the Christmas holidays. It has not yet been possible to agree terms with the owner of the land through which the second section of pipe passes and it may be necessary to serve a notice on the landowner to obtain access to permit replacement of the pipe.

Road Safety

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline what action his Department is taking to ensure that there is proper and effective road safety measures outside schools. (AQW 3098/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has been very active in addressing road safety concerns around schools and continues to develop and implement initiatives to further reduce the number of children involved in accidents at all locations.

Roads Service works closely with the Department of Education and other Departments on the Safer Routes to School Programme. The Programme seeks to make the school journeys safer and more sustainable through a range of road engineering measures outside schools, so that drivers are made aware of the presence of children. These measures include flashing warning signs, pedestrian facilities, bus bays and enhanced road markings. Schools that encourage school children to walk or cycle to school, will have additional safety measures, such as traffic calming, to improve the safety for school journeys.

In addition, you may be aware that Roads Service is currently piloting variable speed limit schemes at two schools. Roads Service will continue to monitor and assess these pilot schemes to determine their effectiveness in reducing traffic speeds at schools, before consideration is given to introducing a more widespread programme.

I can also advise that a review of our whole approach to speed management has been completed. This incorporated addressing speed limits outside schools and full public consultation of the policy proposals will be sought very shortly.

In response to your question, Minister Wilson has advised that his Department's Road Safety Education Officers (RSEOs) promote and deliver road safety education for children and young people, in line with Best Practice Guidelines. The guidelines are based on research which recommends that road safety education of children and young people is best carried out by professional teachers on a regular structured basis with RSEOs providing appropriate teaching resources, expertise, teacher training and support.

In line with Best Practice, the Department of the Environment provides teaching materials and resources to schools. RSEOs meet regularly with teachers and, when appropriate, deliver interactive road safety sessions to supplement and reinforce the teacher's work. A range of specific road safety initiatives are delivered in schools targeted at appropriate age groups and a road safety education website has also been developed.

Monitoring of Noise

Mr Newton asked the Minister for Regional Development if (i) the monitoring of noise and other quality of life matters is constantly being carried out; and (ii) other monitoring information collected by other statutory bodies, such as DHSSPS and Belfast City Council is made available to his Department. (AQW 3106/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I can advise that my Department provides the Department of the Environment with strategic noise mapping for road noise. Noise contour monitoring is also carried out by Belfast City Airport and the results are submitted to my Department for consideration, in the application of its responsibilities under Article 22 of the Airports (Northern Ireland) Order 1994.

My Department does monitor the contribution of transportation to society through the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) monitoring report, which includes road safety, accessibility and performance targets

Minister Wilson has advised that while his Department of the Environment does not monitor noise, it does record the number of noise complaints that all twenty six District Councils receive. These are published by the Department of the Environment annually, in the form of the Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland report. These reports are available to view at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/local_environmental_issues/noise/complaint_statistics_for_ni.htm.

Similarly, the Department of the Environment does not monitor air quality, but oversees the review and assessment of air quality carried out by District Councils. An annual Air Quality Monitoring Summary Report is issued each year by that Department. The Chief Environmental Health Officers Group and District Councils assist the report's publication by providing air quality monitoring data. These reports are available to view via the dedicated NI Air Quality web site at <http://www.airqualityni.co.uk/>

I can confirm that my Department has access to statistics prepared by other Departments and statutory bodies that reflect quality of life issues.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr Newton asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the potential benefits of an extension to the George Best, Belfast City Airport, to the economy. (AQW 3123/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have not carried out such an assessment but I am keen to see the airports of the North develop and increase business, within any constraints that the planning system may impose to limit local environmental disbenefits. As with the other commercial airports, Belfast City Airport is an important transport gateway to help growth of the local economy.

Roads Service

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development when funding will be made available to carry out urgent repairs to roads and footpaths in Coleshill, Enniskillen. (AQW 3126/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the roads and footpaths in Coleshill, Enniskillen, are not considered to be in need of urgent repairs. The maintenance and safety needs are considered to be adequately met by the cyclic inspection and repair arrangements currently in place, in accordance with the provisions of my Department's Road Maintenance Standards.

However, Roads Service officials have been liaising with local residents in the area, and hope to include some footpath resurfacing in Coleshill Crescent in future programmes.

School Walking and Cycling Initiative

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) for an assessment of the school walking and cycling initiative; and (ii) to detail the role that this plays in his Department's strategy to reduce traffic congestion. (AQW 3139/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service is involved in promoting walking and cycling to school through its Travelwise NI Safer Routes to Schools Programme. Since launching in 2004, Travelwise NI and its partners have worked in 151 schools, involving over 45,000 pupils and their parents, to promote walking, cycling and the greater use of public transport for the journey to school. The programme is assisted by the provision of safety zones outside schools and the installation of cycle shelters.

Roads Service's most recent evaluation of the Safer Routes to School initiative is for the academic year 2007/08. Of the schools that participated in the survey, 50% have indicated that they have observed more children walking to and from school. In addition, approximately 41,000 participants took part in last year's annual 'Walk to School Week' event.

Roads Service is currently introducing a new approach to Safer Routes to Schools surveying, which will allow for a more detailed assessment of any change in children's mode of travel.

The Travelwise NI Safer Routes to School Programme has been developed to support the objectives of the Regional Transportation Strategy, which aims to provide a safe, modern and sustainable transportation network here. Roads Service has promoted the Safer Routes to Schools initiative, since 2004. This initiative aims to tackle the problems caused by the 'School Run' by car, by raising awareness of the major issues related to increasing congestion, including the detrimental impact on road safety, health and the environment through the promotion of alternative, more sustainable modes of travel including walking and cycling for the journey to and from school.

Rural Safe Routes to School Project

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail his Department's plans to develop the Rural Safe Routes to School project in conjunction with local schools.[R] (AQW 3140/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I can advise the Member that the Rural Safer Routes to Schools project is led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. However, my Department is responsible for rolling out a range of measures under the initiative. The Rural Safer Routes to Schools initiative promotes sustainable travel for the rural school run, with a total of 18 rural primary schools selected to participate in the

initiative across the North. The Rural Safer Routes to Schools initiative has resulted in a 27% reduction in car journeys to and from school, while walking and cycling has increased by 58%.

My Department has no plans to further develop this project at this time.

Northern Ireland Water

Mr McQuillan asked the Minister for Regional Development what steps he is taking to address the mal odour problem at Seaport Avenue, Portballintrae. (AQW 3147/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it has sealed all the manholes in the Seaport Avenue area and is proposing to install anti-flood devices on connections to the public sewer. It is expected that these measures will resolve the malodour problem in the area and NIW will continue to monitor the situation closely.

George Best Belfast City Airport

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the Environmental Noise Directive, what plans he has to submit evidence on the planning application for the expansion of the runway at George Best Belfast City Airport; and for his assessment of a public inquiry to consider this issue. (AQW 3152/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department has no statutory responsibilities in relation to noise management measures proposed by George Best Belfast City Airport under the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive.

My Department is being consulted about the planning application for the expansion of the runway and will respond in relation to matters that are its responsibility. Whether a public inquiry should be held is a matter for the Department of the Environment.

Roads Service

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail all the work being carried out by Roads Service and Northern Ireland Water, in the South Antrim constituency, during December 2008. (AQW 3154/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that during December 2008 work will continue on the M2 Improvement Scheme between Sandyknowes and Greencastle junctions. During this time the new traffic signals for the bus gate at the bottom of the M2 city-bound off-slip at Sandyknowes Junction will be activated.

Resurfacing on Ballytromery Road, Crumlin will be completed during December 2008 and structural repairs will also be undertaken to Templepatrick Bridge over the M2.

Routine maintenance work will continue to be undertaken on roads in the South Antrim constituency throughout this period.

I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water that in the South Antrim constituency during December 2008 the following works are being carried out:

Location	Type Of Works
Castle Road, Antrim	Placing of watermain to serve Randalstown.
Clonkeen, Randalstown	Replacement of watermain.
Rashee Service Reservoir	Reservoir rehabilitation.
Antrim & Newtownabbey	Service reservoir enhanced security work – Divisional sites.
Hightown Road, Newtownabbey	Replacement of watermain.
Hydepark Service Reservoir	Replacement of joints.
Ballyvaston Service Reservoir	Reservoir rehabilitation.

Location	Type Of Works
Antrim Road, Aldergrove	Foul sewer upgrade.
Milltown Wastewater Treatment Works, Antrim	Upgrade of existing works.
Various small wastewater treatment works	Priority upgrades.

Official Engagements

Mr Dallat asked the Minister for Regional Development how many official engagements (i) he has carried out; and (ii) he has travelled to using (a) the Ministerial car; and (b) public transport since May 2007. (AQW 3175/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have carried out 118 official engagements in the period 8 May 2007 to 3 December 2008. I have travelled to 102 of the engagements using the Ministerial car. Public transport was used to travel to 12 engagements and I walked to the other four.

Footway Reconstruction Schemes

Mr Weir asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to re-pave any areas of the North Down constituency, in the next three years. (AQW 3180/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I can confirm that my Department's Roads Service has programmed footway reconstruction schemes at the following locations, within the North Down Constituency, to be carried out in the next three years.

Financial year 2009/10

- East Circular Road, Bangor
- Donaghadee Road, Bangor

Financial year 2010/11

- Beverley Drive, Bangor
- Beverley Hills, Bangor

Financial year 2011/12

- Balloo Drive, Bangor
- Shandon Drive, Bangor

However, I should advise that these schemes are kept under constant review, and that the commencement of the works will be dependent upon the availability of funding at that time and other competing priorities.

Road Calming Schemes

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline the road calming schemes to be introduced to the North Antrim constituency, over the next three years. (AQW 3200/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: As I advised the Member, in response to his recent Assembly Question AQW 621/09, a traffic calming scheme for Martinstown and Cargan has been included in a programme of works for the current financial year. Roads Service officials are considering the most appropriate traffic calming measures for both villages and anticipate that the works will be carried out at Cargan in the current financial year and completed in Martinstown during financial year 2009/10. At present there are no other traffic calming schemes programmed for the North Antrim Constituency.

Speed Limits

Mr Butler asked the Minister for Regional Development for his assessment of the merits of having speed limits changed from miles to kilometres, as is the practice throughout Europe. (AQW 3205/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has no plans at this time to introduce road signs displaying speed limits in kilometres since this is a reserved matter.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total revenue generated through his Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts.

(AQW 3263/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that utility companies, including telecommunication providers, licensed by the Department of Trade and Industry, have a statutory right to place and maintain apparatus within public road boundaries. Therefore, the Department for Regional Development does not generate any revenue from the erection of such telephone masts.

Street Lighting

Dr Farry asked the Minister for Regional Development to report on the nature of the additional costs of £4.5m in 2009/10 and £4.7m in 2010/11, for street lighting, considering the changing global energy market.

(AQW 3267/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: The additional costs of £4.5 million in 2009/10 and £4.7 million in 2010/11 are estimates of the increased funding required for rising electricity costs for public lighting, based on the latest tariff information and predicted growth in the public lighting stock. The estimates will be reviewed when further information on electricity prices becomes available.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development what contribution his Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities.

(AQW 3270/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: OFMdFM have assumed the lead responsibility for progressing this issue. In response to a request from OFMdFM, the Department has scrutinised its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check compatibility with the provisions of the Convention.

The Department has also confirmed that it has no difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention. This conclusion was based on a working knowledge of the Department's policies, practices and legislation and the Department's statutory duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Department did not indentify any need for reservations or interpretative declarations.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Regional Development what preparations his Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

(AQW 3273/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: OFMdFM are in the lead in preparing for implementation here of the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention). At the request of OFMdFM the Department has scrutinised its legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention. The Department has also confirmed that it has no difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention. This conclusion was based on a working knowledge of the Department's policies, practices and legislation and the Department's Statutory Duties and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Water Supply

Mr P J Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans there are to deliver a mains water supply to the seven dwellings on Carrick Road, Warrenpoint. (AQW 3280/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that it is required under Article 76 of the Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 to provide a requisitioned water main for domestic purposes subject to certain conditions. One of the conditions, set out in Article 77, requires the persons making the requisition to pay the reasonable costs of providing the water main as determined in accordance with NIW's charges scheme. Under Regulation 7 of the Water and Sewerage Charges Scheme (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, NIW is empowered to provide an allowance against the cost of complying with a water main requisition and details are set out in the charges scheme.

My Department has provided additional assistance in respect of existing properties constructed before 1 January 2000 to make it more affordable for householders in rural areas to have their properties connected to the mains water supply. This assistance has raised the allowance from £5,000 to £6,500 per property from 1 April 2007. It is my intention that the level of this assistance will be kept under review.

NIW is currently determining an appropriate route for a watermain to serve homes on Carrick Road, Warrenpoint and this will enable the estimated cost of the scheme to be assessed. Following this, NIW expects to be in a position to notify the applicants of the contribution required from them (if any) to enable the watermain extension to proceed.

Gritting Schedule

Mr Doherty asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will review current winter gritting policies with a view to developing and implementing a strategy, either directly or in conjunction with the Department of Education and the Education and Library Boards, to ensure that schools located in rural areas remain accessible during inclement weather conditions. (AQW 3289/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the salting of school bus routes was considered in the 2001 review of its Winter Service procedures. One of the key outcomes of that review, which was fully debated and accepted by the Assembly, was that the practice of targeting the limited resources available for this service, on the busier main through routes, should continue.

The review also recognised that to include all school bus routes, would more than double the cost of the salting operation, and would involve the treatment of some very minor rural roads. Apart from the substantial initial capital investment that would be required, it would also cost over £5 million extra each year.

However, the review did recommend that buses in service, including school buses, should receive special consideration. A 40-seater bus is now counted as 40 vehicles, when determining whether a road should be included on the salting schedule, regardless of the number of passengers on the bus. In addition, small settlements containing 100 dwellings or more should have a salted link to the nearest part of the existing salted network.

As the Member will appreciate, there is a fine balance to be drawn between putting even more funds into salting, or continuing to spend it on the many other worthwhile demands on Roads Service's limited resources. I can, however, advise that officials have agreed to examine the Roads Service operational response to areas around schools, which are regularly affected by adverse weather conditions.

Translink

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development, given the cancellation of the 5.35am train from Derry/Londonderry to Dublin from 14 December onwards, what early service will be available to passengers wishing to travel from Derry/Londonderry to Dublin. (AQW 3301/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Translink have informed me that the Derry-Belfast 05.33 departure is being rescheduled to a 06.35 departure due to consistently low passenger numbers. It is anticipated that the 06.35 will attract higher passenger numbers making this service more viable. The 06.17 Coleraine to Belfast service is being retained.

Translink have informed me that the following Goldline services are available: the 212 service leaves Foyle Street, Derry every 15 minutes from 05.30 in the morning. The 05.30 and 05.45 departures arrive in Belfast at 07.20 and 07.35 hours and provide connection opportunities with the 08.00 Enterprise. Alternatively, Ulsterbus operate a 24/7 direct Derry to Dublin coach service No. 274 with early morning departures at 00.45, 04.15 and 06.15 with arrival times in Dublin at 04.10, 08.15 and 10.15 hours respectively.

Gritting Schedule

Mr D Bradley asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans his Department has to include the Ballymoyer Road, Whitecross, Co. Armagh on the gritting schedule, given the road is a school bus route to two secondary schools and two primary schools, and the location of two churches. (AQW 3323/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the Ballymoyer Road has not previously met the criteria for inclusion in its winter gritting schedule. Officials have, however, arranged for an assessment to be carried out, to ascertain whether this route now meets the criteria.

This assessment will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity and I have asked the Divisional Roads Manager to write to you to advise you of the results, in due course.

I can also advise that officials have agreed to examine the Roads Service operational response to areas around schools, which are regularly affected by adverse weather conditions.

Aer Lingus Flights

Mr Burnside asked the Minister for Regional Development what representations he has made to the Government of the Republic of Ireland to retain Aer Lingus flights between Belfast International and Heathrow airports to ensure the slot allocation. (AQW 3329/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have not made such representations. Decisions about routes are a commercial matter for the airlines. I recognise the importance of maintaining slots at Heathrow for services to and from Belfast airports and the Department for Transport (London) is aware of our concerns.

Translink

Mr G Robinson asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration he will give to ensuring that the 5.35am Northern Ireland Railways service from Londonderry/Derry connecting to the Enterprise service, will run during summer. (AQW 3336/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Translink have informed me that the Derry-Belfast 05.33 departure is being rescheduled to a 06.35 departure due to consistently low passenger numbers. It is anticipated that the 06.35 will attract higher passenger numbers making this service more viable. The 06.17 Coleraine to Belfast service is being retained.

This is an operational matter for Translink. Translink have informed me that only one or two people per week use the 05.35 train to connect with the 08.00 Enterprise service to Dublin. It appears that there are also suitable, alternative options as outlined above. Translink will keep these issues under review but there are no plans currently to re-instate this service.

Water Charges

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development, in light of the Executive's announcement of the deferral of water charges, when was the introduction of water charges (i) agreed at Executive level; and (ii) approved by the Assembly. (AQW 3343/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: At its first meeting on 10 May 2007 the Executive decided not to impose new annual charges for water and sewerage and agreed to appoint an Independent Panel to carry out a comprehensive review of water and sewerage services.

Following the publication of the Panel's first report in October 2007 the Executive unanimously agreed its recommendation that households should make additional contributions for water and sewerage and that these would be phased in from April 2009. I announced the Executive's decision to the Assembly in my statement on 22 October 2007.

School Travel Advisors

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development what plans he has to employ school travel advisors and to introduce a structure to support walking and cycling to school. (AQW 3346/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has two School Travel Plan Co-ordinators, who develop the Travelwise Safer Routes to Schools initiative in schools across the North. This initiative aims to tackle the problems associated with the 'School Run' by promoting more sustainable modes of travel, including walking and cycling, for the journey to and from school.

Roads Service

Mr McGlone asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) what measures will be taken to repair; and (ii) for a timescale for completion of repairs, to the severe deterioration of the road surface at (a) Ballyronan Village; (b) Shore Road, Ballyronan; and (c) Dunmenny Road, Ballinderry Bridge. (AQW 3347/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the road in Ballyronan village has been affected by utility work associated with new developments. The road surface has not been reinstated to the required standard and Roads Service served notice on the developer to have appropriate remedial measures undertaken by him. Unfortunately, the developer has not responded in a satisfactory manner, within the time frame allowed in the notice. Roads Service is currently in the process of securing the remedial work, through an external contractor, and will recover costs from the developer, as provided for in the notice.

Roads Service is also aware of additional development that will require further utility work within the village. Resurfacing of the road in Ballyronan Village will be considered, when these works have been completed.

With regard to the Shore Road, Ballyronan, Roads Service has no plans to carry out resurfacing along this road. Some sections of the Shore Road are in a provisional programme for edge strengthening in 2009/10, and similar works are expected to be required in later years. However, the majority of the carriageway surface is considered to be in reasonable condition.

Finally, with regard to the Drumenny Road, Ballinderry Bridge, substantial edge strengthening work, at a cost of £80,000, was undertaken on this road earlier this year. This will enable a more durable surfacing scheme to be undertaken at a later date. The final surfacing scheme is programmed for completion in the 2009/10 financial year, or earlier, should additional funding become available.

Gritting Schedule

Mrs McGill asked the Minister for Regional Development if his Department will review the criteria for gritting and salting roads to ensure that rural communities are not disadvantaged. (AQW 3353/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the salting of rural roads was considered in the 2001 review of its Winter Service procedures. One of the key outcomes of that review, which was fully debated and accepted by the Assembly, was that the practice of targeting the limited resources available for this service, on the busier main through routes, should continue.

As a result of the review, the salting schedule has been increased by some 4%, with additional routes being determined by:

- ensuring that small settlements containing 100 dwellings or more should have a salted link to the nearest part of the existing salted network.
- allowing other busy routes with special difficulties, for example hilly areas, carrying between 1,000 - 1,500 vehicles per day, to be considered, if there are no nearby/parallel alternative salted routes; and

- using an increased weighting for buses, so that a 40-seater bus is now counted as 40 vehicles, regardless of the actual number of passengers.

On more lightly trafficked routes, salt bins or grit piles may be provided for use by the public, on a self help basis.

As the Member will appreciate, there is a fine balance to be drawn between putting even more funds into salting, or continuing to spend it on the many other worthwhile demands on Roads Service's limited resources. I can, however, advise that officials have agreed to examine the Roads Service operational response to areas around schools, which are regularly affected by adverse weather conditions.

Northern Ireland Water

Mrs McGill asked the Minister for Regional Development if he believes that the water bills issued to residents are easy to understand. (AQW 3354/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: As the Executive has deferred household water and sewerage payments no domestic bills have been issued. I have been advised by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) that the current non-domestic water bill format was designed in consultation with the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI). In the course of continuous customer service improvement and following customer feedback, NIW is currently reviewing the bill format to simplify its layout and content and will consult with CCNI and other key stakeholders during this process.

Traffic Calming Measures

Lord Morrow asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline (i) the reasons for the delay in placing traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Florencecourt Primary School, County Fermanagh; and (ii) when the work will be completed. (AQW 3366/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that Florencecourt Primary School was assessed, in February 2008, for inclusion in the Travelwise Safer Routes to Schools initiative. Under this initiative, Roads Service proposed providing enhanced warning signs, incorporating flashing lights, for the school and red coloured surfacing on the approaches. These works were programmed for the current financial year, with a proposed completion date of October 2008. Unfortunately, due to additional works in connection with the trial of 20 mph school zones in the North, the completion of some schemes have been delayed beyond their proposed completion date.

Roads Service has advised that, the warning signs for Florencecourt Primary School were erected and commissioned for use at the site on Tuesday 16 December 2008. The red surfacing material needs to be applied onto a dry road surface and consequently it is more difficult to give an exact date for completion. However, it is anticipated that this surfacing will be completed before the end of January 2009.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister for Regional Development what policies and practices in his Department have changed in delivering the 3% efficiency savings required by the 2008-11 Budget. (AQW 3408/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: The Department has a target to deliver 3% efficiencies of some £22 / £44 / £65 million (of which £0.8 / £3.1 / £5.4 million is Admin) over the Budget period 2008-11.

The Department is delivering these efficiencies within the roads, rail and capital programmes and through reductions in its corporate service functions. Also, some £9 / £18 / £26 million will be saved through efficiencies incorporated within the Northern Ireland Water subsidy requirement. Further, the Department is also scoring the generation of additional income and receipts from asset disposals as efficiency savings. The table at Annex A sets these savings out in detail.

ANNEX A

The Department identified, at a high level, 3% efficiency reductions within the roads rail and bus capital programmes, corporate service functions and through efficiencies incorporated within the Northern Ireland Water subsidy requirement, as set out in the table below.

Efficiency Delivery Plan - Categories	2008/09 £'000	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Overall DRD Efficiencies	22,463	44,250	65,384
Water Efficiencies - to be incorporated within the NIW subsidy requirement	9,014	17,758	26,239
Remaining DRD Efficiencies	13,449	26,492	39,145
Of which Admin Efficiencies	830	3,130	5,366
Generation of additional income	3,494	3,952	4,412
Reduction in capital budget for plant / depot additions / refurbishment	2,500	2,500	2,500
Other Capital efficiencies	2,600	8,000	7,790
Reductions in rail / bus capital	1,100	5,950	4,500
NITHC Asset Disposals	0	0	11,600
Core Costs (Resource)	475	510	527
Bus route subsidy	2,450	2,450	2,450
Subtotal	12,619	23,362	33,779
Service Delivery Efficiencies (Admin)	830	2,995	5,099
Reductions in Core Costs (Admin)	0	135	267
Admin Subtotal	830	3,130	5,366
Total	13,449	26,492	39,145

Parking Tickets

Mr Craig asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail (i) the number of parking tickets issued by NCP from the start of on street parking; and (ii) the revenue generated. (AQW 3431/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that since taking responsibility for parking enforcement at the end of October 2006, a total of 314,701 Penalty Charge Notices have been issued to the period ending November 2008.

The revenue received by Roads Service, as a result of these Notices, is £8,560,000.

City of Derry Airport

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) what category standard of dual carriageway is planned for the A2 Maydown to City of Derry Airport upgrade scheme; (ii) to detail the current timescale; (iii) to provide an update on progress; and (iv) when the scheme will be completed. (AQW 3434/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service has advised that the A2 Maydown to City of Derry Airport road improvement, will be a Category 5 all purpose dual carriageway with roundabouts at the main junctions and no central reserve cross-overs. Tenders for the works are due to be returned by mid February 2009. Subject to satisfactory progression through this last stage of the procurement process and the availability of finance, construction is planned to commence in April/May 2009. The scheme has a contract period of 18 months and is expected to be completed in late 2010.

City of Derry Airport

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Regional Development how many vehicles visited the City of Derry Airport, in each of the last three years. (AQW 3435/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department does not hold the information requested.

Roads Service

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Regional Development what changes have been made to gritting routes maintained by Roads Service in the East Antrim constituency, over the past ten years. (AQW 3439/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Roads Service salts main through routes carrying more than 1,500 vehicles per day and, in exceptional circumstances, roads with difficult topography carrying between 1,000 and 1,500 vehicles per day. The application of this policy ensures that 28% of the total road network, which carries around 80% of traffic, is salted, at an annual cost of approximately £5million.

Roads Service does not maintain a record of specific changes made to its schedule of salted routes over the past 10 years. However, arising from a review carried out in 2001, the salting schedule was increased by about 4% across the North. The additional routes were determined by an increased weighting for buses. In addition, small settlements containing 100 dwellings or more now have salted links to roads on the main salted network. Also, as new sections of road were constructed, they were included onto the salting schedule, if the above criteria were met.

Translink Bus Drivers

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development how many Translink bus drivers have been absent from work because of stress related illness, in each of the last five years. (AQW 3476/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Translink has informed me that it does not hold the information in the form requested and is, moreover, unable to provide details of the reasons for absences prior to 2006.

The attached table sets out the number periods of absence incurred by drivers during 2006, 2007 and 2008 where the recorded reason was “anxiety” or “clinical depression”. The category “anxiety” includes symptoms such as stress and fatigue. A period of absence is recorded only once in the year in which it commenced.

Year	Ulsterbus	Citybus (Metro)
2008	41	103
2007	61	87
2006	67	99

Gritting Schedule

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) what gritting arrangements are in place for roads and pavements in the Rathenraw Estate, Antrim; and (ii) if he has any plans to revise these arrangements in light of the extreme difficulties being faced by traffic and pedestrians in this area in recent days. (AQW 3480/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department’s Roads Service has advised that the roads within the Rathenraw Estate do not meet the criteria for inclusion on its winter salting schedule. I must also advise you that it has never been Roads Service’s policy to salt footways.

As the Member will appreciate, there is a fine balance to be drawn between putting even more funds into salting, or continuing to spend it on the many other worthwhile demands on Roads Service’s limited resources. The main criteria for roads to be included in the winter salting schedule is that they are main through routes carrying in excess of 1,500 vehicles per day, or busy through routes carrying in excess of 1,000 vehicles per day, where difficult factors are present, such as steep gradients, sharp bends, etc.

Following the recent severe icy conditions, Roads Service considered requests for salt boxes to be provided within the Rathenraw Estate, against criteria set out in its Winter Service policy. I understand that Roads Service is arranging for a number of salt boxes to be located as soon as possible in the Rathenraw Estate.

Department Staff

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Regional Development what instructions have been given to his staff on the use of the specific terms (i) 'Northern Ireland'; (ii) 'Londonderry'; and (iii) 'United Kingdom', in written documents. (AQW 3481/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have not given any instruction to staff in respect of the references listed by the Member. However, I have advised that, in any correspondence to be signed by me, or speeches that I deliver, I prefer to use the terms the North, Derry and Britain.

Rathlin Ferry Service

Mr Wells asked the Minister for Regional Development to detail the total cost of the investigation into the procurement of Rathlin ferry service. (AQW 3482/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I consider it important to put on record that the overall conclusion of the investigation is that there was nothing untoward in the Department's approach and decision-making.

Specifically, the report concludes that there is absolutely no evidence to suggest that the Department or Central Procurement Directorate in DFP sought to manipulate the outcome of this tender.

Secondly, the objective of a tender competition is to achieve better value for money. In this instance we also wanted an improved level of service for the islanders and visitors. This competition achieved those objectives. We now have better value for money for the taxpayer and a much improved level of service which, I understand, is a view held by many of the islanders.

Thirdly, the report concludes that there was no manifest error in the award of the contract to the new service provider. The report does find that there were some errors in relation to administration of the tender. However, these errors did not affect the overall outcome of the tender competition.

The report is also very clear in its conclusion about the serious allegations made about the conduct of DRD staff. The report concludes that there is no substance to the allegations that DRD officials undermined, harassed or bullied complainants. The report did find errors in the judgement exercised by an official in the handling of information from people who considered themselves to be 'whistleblowers'.

This was a complex and delicate investigation the total cost of which is estimated to be £55,000. Contained in the aforementioned figure is an amount of £20,000 for services provided by the Department's Internal Audit Branch, which was not an additional cost to the Department.

Public Appointments

Ms Purvis asked the Minister for Regional Development (i) to list all public appointments (a) filled by his Department and (b) still outstanding; (ii) on what grounds were some appointments not made; (iii) to assess the process adopted for appointments including the OPCA guidance; and (iv) his plans for ensuring a more efficient application of the procedures. (AQW 3499/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: (i) (a) The public appointments filled by my Department in the past 3 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Public Appointments Filled	Number
2005/06	Belfast Harbour Commissioners	4
	Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners	1
	Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	3
	Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company	9

Financial Year	Public Appointments Filled	Number
2006/07	Belfast Harbour Commissioners	2
	Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners	8
	Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company	1
	Board of Northern Ireland Water	4
2007/08	Belfast Harbour Commissioners	15
	Warrenpoint Harbour Authority	8
	Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company	1

- (i) (b) There are no appointments outstanding.
- (ii) There was one non executive appointment not made to the Board of Northern Ireland Water in 2006/07 as I wanted to retain flexibility to strengthen the Board with a further appointment at a later date.
- (iii) Most of my Department's public appointments are either regulated or monitored by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and as such are made in accordance with the Code of Practice published by the Commissioner's office. For those appointments not regulated by the Commissioner my Department will, as far as is practicable and in line with the principle of proportionality, apply the principles and procedures set out in the Commissioner's Code of Practice. An audit is carried out to establish whether the Code of Practice is being observed. The Commissioner publishes an Annual Report which includes information as to the observance of the Code of Practice and an account of the audit process.
- (iv) When making public appointments my Department aims to follow the principles and procedures set out in the Commissioner's Code of Practice, taking careful note of any and all recommendations contained in the Annual Report and Audit reports, ensuring the more efficient application of appointment procedures.

Roads Service

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development what changes have been made to the gritting routes maintained by Roads Service in the East Antrim constituency, in the past five years. (AQW 3524/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Roads Service salts main through routes carrying more than 1,500 vehicles per day and, in exceptional circumstances, roads with difficult topography carrying between 1,000 and 1,500 vehicles per day. The application of this policy ensures that 28% of the total road network, which carries around 80% of traffic, is salted, at an annual cost of approximately £5 million.

Roads Service does not maintain a record of specific changes made to its schedule of salted routes over the past 5 years. However, arising from a review carried out in 2001, the salting schedule was increased by about 4% across the North. The additional routes were determined by an increased weighting for buses. In addition, small settlements containing 100 dwellings or more now have salted links to roads on the main salted network. Also, as new sections of road were constructed, they were included onto the salting schedule, if the above criteria were met.

Gritting Schedule

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development for a list of all roads on the gritting schedule in the South Antrim constituency. (AQW 3525/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department's Roads Service does not maintain the information that you have requested on a constituency basis.

The South Antrim constituency is covered by areas of both Roads Service Northern and Eastern Divisions, and the following table lists those roads included in the salting schedule that are located within Eastern Division.

Officials from Roads Service, Northern Division, are currently updating their salting schedule database and it is not possible to provide this information in a similar table format. However, a map showing these roads is available and has been placed in the Library.

I have been advised that a copy of this map was also included in a recent report that Roads Service officials presented to Antrim Council members in November 2008. I have asked the Northern Divisional Roads Manager to write to you with a list of all the roads included in the salting schedule for Antrim Section, which are located within South Antrim constituency, once this information becomes available.

In addition to these routes, the M2, M22 and their associated slip roads are salted by Highway Management Maintenance, as part of a Public Private Partnership contract.

Roads Service Eastern Division Gritting Schedule – Newtownabbey And Carrick		
Road	From	To
A57	A8 Larne Line	Station Rd
A57 On Slip	A57	Hillhead Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Corr's	Doagh Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Doagh Rd	Corr's
A8 Larne Rd	Doagh Rd	Hillhead Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Hillhead Rd	Lisglass Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Lisglass Rd	Legaloy Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Legaloy Rd	Templepatrick Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Templepatrick Rd	Church Rd
A8 Larne Rd	Church Rd	Boundary
A8 M	Corr's	Sandyknowes
A8 M	Sandyknowes	Corr's
Albert Rd	Marine Highway	North St
Alexander Rd	Downshire Rd	Dromore Rd
Antrim Rd	Bellvue Bridge	Hightown Rd
Antrim Rd	Hightown Rd	Sandyknowes
Antrim Rd	End of Dual C/Way	Carlisle Rd
Antrim Rd Dual C/Way	S/Knowes R/About	To End
Antrim Rd Dual C/Way	Start Dual C/Way	S/Knowes R/About
Antrim St	Lancasterian St	High St
Arthur Rd	Whitewell Rd	Longlands Rd
Ashgrove Rd	Glebe Rd West	Roundabout
Avondale Dr	Main St Ballyclare	To End
Ballyclare Rd	Antrim Rd	R/about Corr's
Ballyclare Rd	R/about Corr's	Ballyrobert Rd
Ballycorr Rd	Ballyeaston Rd	Church Rd
Ballycraig Rd	Ballyclare Rd	Ballyvessey Rd
Ballycraig Rd South	Ballyvessey Rd	Antrim Rd
Ballyduff Gdns	Ballyduff Rd	Ballyfore Rd
Ballyduff Rd	Doagh Rd	Carnmoney Rd
Ballyearl Dr	Ballyclare Rd	To End
Ballyearl Way	Ballyearl Dr	Milewater Dr
Ballyeaston Rd	North End	Ballyeaston

Roads Service Eastern Division Gritting Schedule – Newtownabbey And Carrick		
Road	From	To
Ballyfore Rd	Doagh Rd	Fairview Rd
Ballyhenry Ave	Glenvarna Dr	Ballyhenry Rd
Ballyhenry Rd	Sandyknowes	Ballyclare Rd
Ballymena Rd	Doagh Main St	Deerpark Rd
Ballynure Main St	Larne Rd A8	Carrickfergus Rd
Ballynure Rd	Green Rd	A57
Ballyrobert Rd	Kingsmoss Rd	A57
Ballyvessey Rd	Ballycraig Rd	Ballycraig Rd South
Barn Rd	Taylor's Ave	Coronation Rd
Belfast Rd	Rawbrae Rd West	Rawbrae Rd East
Belfast Rd	Marine Highway	Dual C/Way
Belfast Rd Dual C/Way	Carrick Bound	n/a
Belfast Rd Dual C/Way	Belfast Bound	n/a
Beltoy Rd	A2 Larne Rd	Manse Rd
Bernice Rd	Mallusk Rd	Lyle Hill Rd
Beverly Rd	Manse Rd	To End
Bridewell Dr	North Rd	Roundabout
Bridge Rd	Rectory Rd	Cogry Rd
Burleigh Drive	Woodburn Rd	Oakwood Rd
Burn Rd	Doagh Main St	Strand Rd
Burneys Lane	Antrim Rd	Derry Rd

Public Transport

Dr Farry asked the Minister for Regional Development what consideration has been given to providing and promoting free public transport on Saturdays and evenings in the run up to Christmas. (AQW 3535/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: I have not considered supporting free public transport on Saturdays and evenings in the run up to Christmas.

‘B’ Class Road Upgrading

Mr Buchanan asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his Department’s criteria for upgrading a ‘C’ class road to a ‘B’ class road. (AQW 3558/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: My Department’s Roads Service has advised that, road classification dates back a very considerable time (pre Local Government Reorganisation), and its use today is limited to route identification. Any new route, outside of a motorway, would be classified on the basis of the comparable route classification in the area.

Roads Service has been unable to find any historic record of how the classification system was determined originally, but officials have pointed out that it has no relevance to current funding allocations.

Gritting Schedule

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development to outline his Departments' policy on gritting pavements. (AQW 3595/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: It is not my Department's Roads Service's policy to carry out gritting of footways. However, Roads Service does provide salt boxes at strategic locations. These salt boxes can be used by the general public, on a self help basis, to help prevent the formation of snow and ice on footways and roads.

Gritting Schedule

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development what criteria his Department applies when determining whether a road gets added to the gritting schedule. (AQW 3596/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: The criterion for inclusion of roads on the gritting schedule is as follows:-

- all Motorways and Trunk roads shall be treated;
- main through routes which carry more than 1,500 vehicles per day shall be treated;
- other busy through routes with special difficulties which carry more than 1,000 vehicles per day shall be considered. Special difficulties which are considered include the severity, frequency and extent of gradients, frequency of bends, the height above sea level, railway level crossings on the road and abnormally high junction frequencies. It should be noted that in relation to this category, consideration will be given to the availability of alternative or parallel routes which are on the treated network. Where such parallel or alternative routes are available, the routes qualifying under this criteria need not necessarily be salted; and
- small settlements containing 100 dwellings or more shall have a salted link to the nearest part of the existing salted network.

Routes which are used by buses are given special consideration, in that buses are counted according to the number of seats on the bus, regardless of the number of passengers on the bus, that is, a 40-seater bus is counted as 40 vehicles.

Gritting Schedule

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Regional Development what percentage of the total public road network is on the gritting schedule. (AQW 3597/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: The total length of public road network within the North, at 1 April 2008 was 25,455 kilometres. During the 2008/2009 Winter Service season, the total length of the network on the gritting schedule is 7,072 kilometres. This is approximately 28% of the entire network.

Roads Service Alleygating Scheme

Mr Butler asked the Minister for Regional Development if he will make changes to the Roads Service alleygating scheme to ensure that schemes are not unduly delayed because of the amount of bureaucracy associated with alleygating schemes. (AQW 3609/09)

The Minister for Regional Development: Alleygating schemes are brought forward by promoters, usually a community safety partnership involving a district council. My Department endeavours to make every effort to ensure that schemes are processed without any undue delay. However, my Department must ensure that full consultation with the local community has been completed and that any scheme presented to the Department has the clear overall support of the local community. It is also important that human rights, equality and amenity impact assessments are carried out and that there is strict adherence to the procedural requirements laid down in the Road Traffic Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

In view of the above points, I do not believe that changes could reasonably be made, that would speed up the current process.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Capital Projects

Dr Farry asked the Minister for Social Development what actions her Department is taking to bring forward the delivery of capital projects to help redress the economic downturn. (AQW 3103/09)

The Minister for Social Development (Ms M Ritchie): The Social Housing Development Programme, the Social Housing Maintenance & Repairs Programme and Urban Regeneration are the main avenues for advancing capital works in this Department and I am pursuing this as part of December Monitoring. While the extent of work possible will depend on the level of any additional funding allocated, I believe that an increased investment in social housing can have a profoundly beneficial effect on the economy in a relatively short period of time.

Furthermore, in the Department's current Public Service Agreement, I have committed to delivering 5,250 new social homes over the next 3 years. Whilst these are very challenging times for the Construction Industry, there is a tremendous opportunity for them to work with me in delivering these new social homes.

Support for the Homeless

Mr I McCrea asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the charitable organisations funded by her Department who provide support for the homeless. (AQW 3114/09)

The Minister for Social Development: During 2007/08 my Department provided £2.23m through the Housing Executive to service providers (registered as charities) for the provision of services to support homeless people.

The service providers were as follows:

- Daughters of Charity,
- Sisters of Mercy,
- Council for the Homeless
- Extern Organisation,
- First Housing Aid and Support Services,
- Foyle Haven Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders,
- Housing Rights Service,
- Link (Newtownards),
- Mid Ulster & South Tyrone Association for the Single Homeless (MUST),
- NI Association (NIACRO),
- Simon Community,
- Welcome Organisation,
- Women's Aid.

Additionally, through the Supporting People programme, the Housing Executive will also provide £10.43m funding to a number of such service providers during 2008/09 (See Table A). Housing Associations will provide a further £1.3m for the provision of these services (See Table B).

TABLE A

Clarendon Shelter	Living Rivers Trust
Council for the Homeless	MUST
DePaul Trust NI	NIACRO – Base 2
East Belfast Mission	Methodist Mission
Edward Street Hostel Ltd	Mid Ulster South Tyrone Association
Extern	North Down YMCA

FHASS – Derry SmartMove	Northern Ireland Institute For The Disabled
First Housing Aid & Support	SATH
Housing Rights Service	Shankill Lurgan Community Project
Foyle Haven	Shelter (NI) Ltd.
Kilcooley Community Forum	Simon Community
Larne Community Care Centre	The Salvation Army Trustee Committee
LINK – Marc Project	Welcome Organisation
Legion Of Mary	
Total funding	£10,437,829

TABLE B

Ark Housing Association	SHAC Housing Association
North & West Housing Association	Triangle Housing Association
Open Door Housing Association	
Total funding	£1,319,000

My Department has also funded the following charitable organisations through the Voluntary & Community Unit amounting to £354,181.32 from 2003/04 to the present (See Table C). Whilst this funding is not specifically for Homelessness the organisations all use this funding, in part, for Housing, Accommodation and Homelessness purposes.

TABLE C

Barnardos NI	£41,607.00
Belfast Central Mission	£28,790.00
Carnagat Area Community Association	£10,590.32
Glencollin Residents Association	£5655.00
Rethink	£98,041.00
NI Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	£169,498.00
Total Funding	£354,181.32

Social Security Agency

Mr Durkan asked the Minister for Social Development what arrangements will be put in place for Social Security Agency staff in the Foyle constituency as part of the Strategic Business Review, including (i) relocation; (ii) retraining, and to make a statement. (AQW 3238/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Strategic Business Review proposals have recently been issued for public consultation. Foyle constituency forms part of the Social Security Agency's West District. In West District, the proposed changes would see Income Support processing centralised in Derry, Social Fund processing centralised in Omagh and Jobseekers Allowance processing centralised in Enniskillen. All frontline office activity would continue as at present, no offices would be closing and there would be no staff redundancies.

In order to protect service delivery, it would be imperative that each new benefit processing centre has the required level of skilled staff. Consequently, under the current proposals, staff with the requisite experience would travel to their new processing centres, within their existing District structures, subject to the reasonable travel provisions within their NICS employment contracts. Where this would not be possible the Social Security Agency will look at other alternatives which may include possible retraining.

It is not possible at this stage to predict exactly which staff would move where as the relocation process would need to be fully worked through. Implementation of the proposed changes would take approximately 4 years to rollout across Northern Ireland.

Arrangements for staff in Foyle and elsewhere in Northern Ireland will be assessed as part of the consideration of the findings of the consultation exercise. The consultation runs until late April 2009.

Purchase of Properties

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development to provide details of the developers and individuals from whom her Department, including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, purchased properties 'off the shelf' in the last 2 years. (AQW 3239/09)

The Minister for Social Development: Neither my Department nor the Northern Ireland Housing Executive purchase properties 'off the shelf' or from individuals as 'Existing Satisfactory Purchases'. Properties are acquired by Housing Associations subject to approval by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Where properties are acquired by this method the contractual relationship exists between the Housing Association and the vendor and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive does not collate information on those contracts.

Telephone Communication Masts

Mr Hilditch asked the Minister for Social Development to detail the total revenue generated through her Department leasing its land or property to facilitate the erection of telephone communication masts. (AQW 3247/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The total revenue generated in this way amounts to £76,750 per annum.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development what contribution her Department has made or will be making to the consultation by the UK Department of Work and Pensions on reservations to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. (AQW 3271/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has lead responsibility for contributing, on behalf of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, to the UK Department of Work and Pensions' consultation on reservations to the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

In order to contribute to the OFMDFM response, my Department has undertaken scrutiny of legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and identify any difficulties with the areas of competency covered by the Convention.

In addition, my Department has been and will continue to be in contact with the Department of Work and Pensions regarding the Convention and Social Security related matters.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development what preparations his Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3272/09)

The Minister for Social Development: Since January 2007, officials within OFMDFM have taken the lead in preparing for implementation, in Northern Ireland, of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention).

As requested by OFMDFM, my Department has been scrutinising legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check for compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and to confirm whether we had any difficulty with the areas of competency covered by the Convention.

Based on a working knowledge of the Department's policies, practices and legislation and our Departmental statutory duties, and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as amended, and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, officials concluded that the Convention was unlikely to impose any additional requirements.

U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister for Social Development what preparations her Department has made for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (AQW 3274/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister has taken the lead in preparing for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention) in Northern Ireland and in identifying reservations to be brought forward.

In cooperation with their plans, my Department has undertaken scrutiny of legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check their compatibility with the provisions of the Convention and identify any difficulties with the areas of competency covered by the Convention.

My officials have advised OFMDFM that aside from an issue regarding benefit appointees, about which they are liaising with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions, the convention is unlikely to impose any additional requirements on the Department.

Satisfactory Housing Scheme

Mr Beggs asked the Minister for Social Development to give the criteria used by the Housing Executive and Housing Associations to purchase property under the acquisition of satisfactory housing scheme. (AQW 3304/09)

The Minister for Social Development: Houses purchased under the Acquisition of Satisfactory Housing Scheme must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Properties are immediately available for letting
- Properties do not require extensive repairs or rehabilitation.
- Properties should generally be former Housing Executive dwellings.
- Properties situated in exclusively owner occupied areas should not be considered.
- There is an established long term housing demand and need for that type of property and no existing Social house is available.
- Properties must meet the current Total Cost Indicators. Allowances should include additional costs such as pre letting repairs and or professional fees.
- Properties recommended for purchase at a valuation exceeding the Total Cost Indicator allowance require the approval of the Department for Social Development.
- Properties subject to an offer will not be considered under the Acquisition of Satisfactory Housing scheme.

Regulation of Charities

Mrs D Kelly asked the Minister for Social Development for a progress report on work to ensure the better regulation of charities. (AQW 3317/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Charities Act (NI) 2008 received Royal Assent on 9 September 2008. This legislation will introduce a new regulatory framework for charities in Northern Ireland and will increase public confidence in charitable giving. The provisions in the primary legislation will be phased in over the next 2-3 years through a series of Commencement Orders. The first Order is scheduled to be made in March 2009 and this will allow for the establishment of the Charity Commission, appointment of Commissioners and staff and consultation on the public benefit test.

Officials in my Department have been working with other charity regulators in the UK and Ireland to ensure that the Charity Commission will be in a position to begin its programme of work in 2009/2010. This will include the transfer of approximately 5,500 charity records from HM Revenue and Customs to populate an interim charity register. It is also important to note that new charity regulations are being progressed in both parts of this

island. I welcome the fact that the Charities Bill 2007 has been passed in the Dail and cleared its Second Stage in Seanad Éireann on the 27th November 2008. This will be particularly important in dealing with regulation of cross-border charities.

I am pleased at the progress made to date in taking forward this important work to regulate local charities. An information website has been developed to provide advice and guidance to local charities and other interested parties. This can be accessed at www.charitycommissionni.org.uk and the site went live on 10 December 2008.

Gregg House in Lisburn

Mr Poots asked the Minister for Social Development what role her Department has taken in supporting the residents of Gregg House in Lisburn. (AQW 3371/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive held a meeting in September 2008 which was attended by public representatives along with staff from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. It was agreed that the Housing Executive and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust would jointly survey the tenants of Gregg House to establish their needs and identify problems they were having. A further meeting between the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, and Housing Executive staff from the Lisburn District Office has been arranged for 7 January 2009 to review the findings of the surveys, and determine the most appropriate course of action in relation to the Gregg House accommodation.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Mr Butler asked the Minister for Social Development how many NIHE dwellings with gas heating systems have carbon monoxide alarms installed. (AQW 3391/09)

The Minister for Social Development: Carbon monoxide alarms are not part of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's specification for any of its dwellings and consequentially none are fitted by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Housing Executive

Mr McKay asked the Minister for Social Development what definition the Housing Executive uses in relation to (i) damp; and (ii) condensation. (AQW 3394/09)

The Minister for Social Development: Damp in relation to Northern Ireland Housing Executive homes is defined as excessive moisture in building fabric arising as a consequence of capillary attraction from ground water rising through walls or floors in contact with the ground, or by penetrating through superstructures and roofs by the (weather) elements.

Condensation relates to internal moisture created as a consequence of the lifestyle of the occupants of a dwelling. Moisture created in the home condenses on cold surfaces leading to the formation of black mould.

House Sales

Mr Butler asked the Minister for Social Development to provide details of the number of NIHE house sales in each of the last five years. (AQW 3398/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The table below details the Northern Ireland Housing Executives house sales for the last five years and the position for the current year.

	2003/04	2004 /05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09 To date
Total	5652	3053	2522	2201	808	34

Maintenance Schemes

Mr Butler asked the Minister for Social Development (i) the number of NIHE improvement and maintenance schemes that were planned for the Dairyfarm and Lisburn districts that have now been postponed; (ii) the number of schemes that will be carried out as planned; and (iii) the costs of all schemes in both areas. (AQW 3399/09)

The Minister for Social Development: As a result of the December monitoring round all Northern Ireland Housing Executive programmes are currently under review. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive will work to formulate a revised programme as a matter of urgency over the coming weeks.

Efficiency Savings

Dr Farry asked the Minister for Social Development what policies and practices in her Department have changed in delivering the 3% efficiency savings required by the 2008-11 Budget. (AQW 3409/09)

The Minister for Social Development: My Department has a continuous emphasis on achieving efficiency which is continually reflected in new policies and practices. For example in terms of policy changes, the Child Support Reforms will create more efficient Child Support services as these are implemented over the Budget period. Practices that have changed include the continuing standardisation of operating models and changes to the Social Security Agency's service delivery model through the establishment of centralised processing centres. There is a continuing emphasis on streamlining back office and administrative support activities and ensuring that process waste and inefficiency is minimised. A number of reform and modernisation programmes have also been implemented which will deliver efficiencies, such as the Operational Improvement Project in my Department's Child Maintenance and Enforcement Division which is designed to stabilise and improve the Division's performance. A further example is in my Department's Urban regeneration and Community Development Group where funding mechanisms have been rationalised and emphasis has been placed on leveraging in funds from other sources for regeneration purposes.

Housing Benefit Payments

Mr McLaughlin asked the Minister for Social Development to breakdown the amount of housing benefit payments paid to private landlords in the South Antrim constituency, broken down by electoral districts. (AQW 3445/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The information is not available in the form requested. The table below details Housing Benefit payments for Northern Ireland Housing Executive District Offices in South Antrim for 2007/08. It should be noted that the payments include Housing Benefit paid to Housing Associations, as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's accounting procedures do not differentiate between Housing Associations and Private Landlords.

District	Payment £
Antrim District	3,242,596.18
Newtownabbey 1	3,104,870.01
Newtownabbey 2	3,529,466.17
Carrickfergus	3,776,579.93
Total	13,653,512.29

Community Development Programmes

Mr McLaughlin asked the Minister for Social Development in relation to the Crumlin area, (i) to identify the community development programmes; (ii) to give an assessment of the impact these programmes have had on the social infrastructure; and (iii) what programmes are planned to address the deficit in social development, (AQW 3446/09)

The Minister for Social Development: My Department provides financial assistance to District Councils through the Community Support Programme. In return for funding, the Department requires Councils to submit Community Support Plans which cover a three year period (2006-09). Antrim Borough Council have been offered £98,810 during this financial year. Their plan indicates that a total of seven community centres are supported across the Borough. Of the seven, Crumlin Community Centre attracts the highest level of community centre expenditure from Council with an average yearly expenditure of £146,011. The Community Support Plan is developed at Council level and it would be the responsibility of Antrim Council to advise on the full impact the programme has had on their area.

In addition my Department is currently considering an application for funding for a community group “Crumlin Together” under the Modernisation Fund which will be jointly funded by the International Fund for Ireland and others.

New Start Homes

Mr Newton asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to her answer to AQW 7169/08, if her Department still intends to build the 145 new start homes in 2008-09, 87 in 2009-10 and 107 in 2010-11, in the East Belfast constituency. (AQW 3469/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The figures quoted in this question refer to the Social Housing Development Programme for East Belfast Programme at May 2008. However, the Social Housing Development Programme is continually subject to change, as some schemes slip or are lost from the Programme due to planning or acquisition difficulties and new schemes are brought forward. The Social Housing Development Programme for East Belfast currently indicates 175 starts for 2008/09, 117 starts for 2009/10, and 112 starts for 2010/11. The new Social Housing Development Programme for 2009/10 – 2013/14 is currently being formulated and will be published on the Housing Executive’s website in February 2009 and will reflect the current housing needs assessment.

Public Appointments

Ms Purvis asked the Minister for Social Development (i) to list all public appointments (a) filled by her Department and (b) still outstanding; (ii) on what grounds were some appointments not made; (iii) to assess the process adopted for appointments including the OPCA guidance; and (iv) her plans for ensuring a more efficient application of the procedures. (AQW 3500/09)

The Minister for Social Development: : I have set out below all public appointments filled by my Department during each of the last 3 financial years.

Financial Year	Public appointments Filled	Number
2005/06	Charities Advisory Committee	2
	Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board for NI	7
	Rent Assessment Panel	3
	NI Housing Executive	3
	Laganside Corporation	2
	Vaughan’s Charity	4
	Total	21
2006/07	Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board for NI	2
	NI Housing Executive	4
	Total	6

Financial Year	Public appointments Filled	Number
2007/08	NI Housing Executive	6
	Rent Assessment Panel	12
	Rent Officer	1
	Vaughan's Charity (Trustees)	5
	Charities Advisory Committee	3
	Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board for NI	3
	Total	30

My Department is currently running a competition to fill 7 positions on the new Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Plans are in place to fill 2 vacancies to the Charities Advisory Committee, one current vacancy at present with a further vacancy arising in March 2009.

The Disability Living Allowance Board for Northern Ireland currently has 1 vacancy, but as this body is due to be abolished under the Public Authorities Reform Bill in January, there are no plans to fill this vacancy.

The principles set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointment's Code of Practice on Public Appointments are routinely applied to public appointments made by my Department.

Social Housing Development Programme

Mr Cree asked the Minister for Social Development (i) when the five year Social Housing Development Programme for 2009-2014 will be released; (ii) why this programme has been delayed; and (iii) when she will be bringing her proposals to the Executive for a decision. (AQW 3505/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Social Housing Development Programme for 2009 -2014 is currently being finalised and will be published as expected in February 2009. It has not been subjected to delay and is entirely within my Departmental responsibilities, therefore not requiring Executive approval.

Regeneration Schemes

Mr McClarty asked the Minister for Social Development to provide an update on any developments on the proposed regeneration schemes for Coleraine town centre. (AQW 3552/09)

The Minister for Social Development: I regret that the proposed development schemes on the Abbey Street and Mall car parks in Coleraine town centre have been delayed by some months. This has been due to unforeseen complications in the transfer of the Abbey Street site to my Department from the Department for Regional Development, which is necessary to allow the scheme to be delivered. It is now anticipated that construction work will commence on the first of the schemes no later than the first half of 2010.

Creche Facilities in Benefits Office

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development what arrangements will be put in place to provide creche facilities for lone parents who come into Benefits Offices for interviews about Job Seekers Allowance. (AQW 3562/09)

The Minister for Social Development: There are no plans to provide crèche facilities for lone parents who come into Benefits Offices for interviews about Job Seekers Allowance.

North and West Housing Association

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development was the £4m investment by the North and West Housing Association into affordable housing taken from its social housing allocation. (AQW 3564/09)

The Minister for Social Development: This £4m proposed commitment by the North and West Housing Association does not include any public money but comes from a tranche of private funding independently secured by the Housing Association.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr Shannon asked the Minister for Social Development if the Housing Executive will carry out the enforcement of energy performance certificates when a change of tenant occurs (i) through its local offices; (ii) centrally; or (iii) through external bodies. (AQW 3587/09)

The Minister for Social Development: From 30 December 2008 all Northern Ireland Housing Executive dwellings being relet will require an energy performance certificate. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive will carry out this requirement centrally when the change of tenancy takes place.

Own A Home Partnership Scheme

Mr F McCann asked the Minister for Social Development how much funding has (i) Clanmil; and (ii) South Ulster Housing Associations, contributed to the Own a Home partnership scheme that was announced in Portadown; and to confirm if this money was taken from their social housing budget. (AQW 3617/09)

The Minister for Social Development: No money from the Social Housing Development Programme has been used to support this Own a Home scheme. The contribution from both Housing Associations involved in this scheme comes entirely from their private funding which is completely independent of the Department.

Rathenraw Resource Centre Project

Mr Burns asked the Minister for Social Development, pursuant to her answer to AQW 592/09, to provide an update on the Rathenraw resource centre project. (AQW 3640/09)

The Minister for Social Development: Work on the community and business centre project in Rathenraw, Antrim, commenced in May and had been progressing well with an expected completion date of June 2009. Unfortunately, the contractor went into liquidation in September 2008. The project architect and the group explored all other options and agreed to approach the second placed contractor on the tender list. This contractor (P & K Mc Kaigue) has now been appointed by the Group and the relevant contract documents were signed on the 15th December 2008. Work is scheduled to re-commence on site on Monday 5th January 2009.

Benefit Fraud

Mr Elliott asked the Minister for Social Development, for each of the last five years, how many incidents of benefit fraud have occurred, broken down by (i) local council area; and (ii) parliamentary constituency; and how many people were prosecuted in each year. (AQW 3651/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The tables below show the number of 'incidents of benefit fraud' and the number of people prosecuted for each of the last 5 years, by local council area and parliamentary constituency.

For the purposes of this reply 'incidents of benefit fraud' are those cases where individuals have been convicted in court, or have accepted either a formal caution or an administrative penalty.

Table of 'incidents of benefit fraud' and number of people prosecuted in each of the last five years by local council area

Local Council Area	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 to date	
	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions
Antrim	1	1	11	6	6	2	10	8	8	6
Ards	8	5	12	10	7	7	11	10	12	7
Armagh	6	7	11	4	14	10	13	5	19	13
Ballymena	2	2	5	4	16	6	15	12	6	5
Ballymoney	3	0	3	2	5	5	7	5	0	0
Banbridge	6	6	11	5	11	6	4	4	8	5
Belfast	70	60	116	75	169	94	230	123	240	145
Carrickfergus	6	6	6	4	12	6	7	3	6	2
Castlereagh	8	7	6	2	11	9	17	14	12	10
Coleraine	8	6	5	4	8	3	11	9	4	3
Cookstown	3	2	3	0	2	2	6	4	7	3
Craigavon	14	11	33	21	30	18	31	24	22	12
Derry	29	22	36	21	50	34	72	37	60	40
Down	15	14	16	10	9	7	20	15	14	7
Dungannon	7	7	10	4	15	8	19	15	10	6
Fermanagh	22	19	13	7	20	9	19	12	15	14
Larne	2	2	10	5	6	3	8	2	2	1
Limavady	8	6	8	3	9	1	8	7	1	1
Lisburn	14	11	24	14	37	12	39	20	28	16
Magherafelt	1	1	1	1	3	2	8	6	5	3
Moyle	5	5	2	1	5	3	4	3	1	1
Newry & Mourne	10	10	28	14	30	14	31	21	26	11
Newtownabbey	7	3	19	8	25	15	27	9	28	15
North Down	9	7	13	4	12	10	12	8	5	4
Omagh	8	7	6	0	9	3	17	14	14	12
Strabane	12	6	22	9	28	12	22	16	6	4
Local Council Area not known	7	6	9	6	12	5	11	8	8	2
Total	291	239	439	244	561	306	679	414	567	348

Table of 'incidents of benefit fraud' and number of people prosecuted in each of the last five years by parliamentary constituency

Parliamentary Constituency	2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009 to date	
	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions	Incidents	Prosecutions
Belfast East	16	14	23	13	28	20	31	18	31	14
Belfast North	24	19	46	21	57	32	89	42	97	58
Belfast South	9	8	15	12	27	15	33	18	41	24
Belfast West	37	30	50	33	89	43	109	58	107	70
East Antrim	10	8	19	10	21	10	21	6	16	8
East Londonderry	16	12	13	7	17	4	19	16	5	4
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	27	24	21	10	27	14	35	24	22	19
Foyle	29	22	36	21	50	34	72	37	60	40
Lagan Valley	7	6	17	13	25	11	29	16	16	9
Mid Ulster	6	5	6	2	13	7	17	13	15	7
Newry and Armagh	11	12	30	14	33	19	35	21	39	22
North Antrim	10	7	10	7	26	14	26	20	7	6
North Down	9	7	13	4	12	11	13	9	8	5
South Antrim	3	3	22	12	17	8	20	13	15	9
South Down	19	18	25	13	21	13	28	19	21	10
Strangford	12	9	14	13	14	11	18	18	13	11
Upper Bann	19	16	42	24	35	20	34	28	26	14
West Tyrone	20	13	28	9	37	15	39	30	20	16
Parliamentary Constituency not known	7	6	9	6	12	5	11	8	8	2
Total	291	239	439	244	561	306	679	414	567	348

Protection for Household Tenants

Mr Elliott asked the Minister for Social Development what recent steps her Department has taken to increase the protection for household tenants in the private rented sector. (AQW 3653/09)

The Minister for Social Development: The Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, which became operative in April 2007, gave tenants new rights and placed new obligations on landlords. A review of this Order is underway and proposals for a new strategic framework for the private rented sector will be issued for public consultation in April 2009.

Warm Homes Scheme

Mr B Wilson asked the Minister for Social Development if she has any proposals to promote the installation of wood pellet boilers as part of the Warm Homes Scheme. (AQW 3662/09)

The Minister for Social Development: I have proposed a number of changes to the Warm Homes Scheme following a report by the Northern Ireland Audit Office and subsequent Public Accounts Committee hearing. Public consultation on the proposed changes to the Scheme finished on the 19 December and my officials are working through the responses. One of the proposed changes is to include renewable technologies, including wood pellet boilers, for hard-to-treat homes where there is currently no alternative to oil.

ASSEMBLY COMMISSION

Assembly Email System

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission what measures it is taking to ensure that Members can access their external email accounts and attachments other than those sent to their internal Assembly email account.

(AQW 3199/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Assembly Commission seeks to provide all Members with safe, secure access to all external information sources. In some instances access to web based files may be refused on the grounds that they are of a type commonly used by malicious software. Security systems that carry out this work are reviewed and upgraded on a regular basis to cope with new security threats and to respond to changes in external systems.

The computer system managing Internet access & security (including access to web based email accounts) is currently under review and an update is scheduled for the Christmas period.

Solar Technology

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission if it will introduce solar technology in Parliament Buildings and if it has completed any research in this technology.

(AQW 3448/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Assembly Commission is very aware of the need to become more energy efficient and has been participating in the Public Sector Energy Campaign since 1999.

Earlier this year the Carbon Trust were appointed to carry out a carbon survey of Parliament Buildings and a range of measures were recommended that would represent a 12.5% reduction in energy consumption and 10% reduction in costs.

In November 2006 a bid was made to the Central Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF), to install solar panels on the roof of Parliament Buildings. That particular bid was unsuccessful due to the high installation costs and the predicted payback period of 136 years.

However, the Assembly Commission will continue to work closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel's Engineering Services & Energy Unit and the Carbon Trust to consider all possible energy saving initiatives, including solar technology.

Radiators in Parliament Buildings

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission what measures it will take to ensure that radiators are not switched on in Parliament Buildings when they are clearly not needed.

(AQW 3450/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): Heating and cooling in Parliament Buildings is controlled by the Building Energy Management System (BEMS). This system was installed in 2002 following an audit by the Carbon Trust, and it allows staff in Building Management Branch to adjust the heating schedules to meet the needs of all building users. The heating is maintained at a reasonable set level, approximately 21oC; however it is the responsibility of individual room occupiers to turn off radiators when they are not required.

The BEMS system works on a vertical zoning system and currently the heating can only be adjusted in large 'blocks' of accommodation simultaneously. Properties Directorate is currently exploring proposals to upgrade the BEMS and it is anticipated that this will improve the flexibility and efficiency of the heating and cooling system.

Properties Directorate will issue a building wide e-mail in advance of Christmas recess reminding all building users to turn off unnecessary heating.

It might be helpful for you to note that Building Management Branch staff continually monitor the heating schedules and that these will be adjusted to reflect the fact that the building is closed.

Wind Turbines

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission if it has explored the possibility of erecting wind turbines in the Stormont estate. (AQW 3451/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Stormont Estate is currently controlled and managed by the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), and the Assembly Commission has responsibility only for Parliament Buildings and its immediate environs.

Properties Directorate works closely with DFP, their Engineering Services & Energy Unit and the Carbon Trust on all matters relating to energy efficiency.

The most recent advice from the Carbon Trust is that we should continue to concentrate our efforts on reducing our direct and indirect emissions and then give further consideration to renewable technologies.

Pork Industry

Mr Shannon asked the Assembly Commission what it is doing to encourage caterers in Parliament Buildings to source their pork from local suppliers rather than purchase it from Scotland. (AQW 3474/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Northern Ireland Assembly Support Services contract is currently operated by Eurest. This includes all catering services. Eurest have confirmed that since the commencement of the contract in March 2007 and up to Monday 8th December 2008, 100% of the fresh pork was sourced from farms within Northern Ireland. Due to the recent health scare with pork produce however, the Eurest supplier of pork supplied the Northern Ireland Assembly with Scottish bacon in order to provide a continuous and seamless service on an interim, emergency basis only.

However, the over-riding Eurest commitment on a daily basis is to provide the Assembly with produce sourced from farms within Northern Ireland only. Facilities Branch reserve the right at any time to carry out an audit of Eurest produce supplied to the Assembly to ensure compliance with the contract. For their part, the Eurest purchasing management team ensures compliance with their contractual obligations by purchasing Northern Ireland pork produce only.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) reinstated Northern Irish pork produce on Tuesday 9th December 2008, Eurest are once again sourcing all pork produce from farms within Northern Ireland.

Water Supply

Mr McKay asked the Assembly Commission what action it has taken, and plans to take, to ensure the efficient use of the water supply in Parliament Buildings and to reduce the overall amount used. (AQW 3507/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Assembly Commission works closely with the DFP Engineering Services and Energy Unit and the Carbon Trust to improve all aspects of energy and utility efficiency within Parliament Buildings. As such water saving flush systems for urinals have been fitted in the following locations.

- 4th floor east
- 3rd floor east and west
- 2nd floor east and west
- 1st floor east and west

- Ground floor (3 sets)
- Basement (2 sets)

In addition to this 'Hippo Bags', cistern dams which limit the amount of water used per flush, are being tested in various toilets to ensure they do not have an adverse effect before installing them in all toilets. The 'Hippo Bags' had to be removed in some public sector buildings as they did not flush the WC pan adequately.

Consideration is also being given to installing suitable percussion taps within the bathrooms to ensure that taps are not left running when not in use.

In addition, Central Procurement Directorate are currently investigating problems relating to the dispersal of water from the roofs of Parliament Buildings and it is anticipated that the proposed solution will include rainwater harvesting for use in toilets etc.

The Stationery Office

Mr McCausland asked the Assembly Commission to explain the basis and nature of the relationship with The Stationery Office under which they are responsible for the printing and publication of Assembly reports.

(AQW 3534/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Stationery Office was awarded the contract for the Assembly's Printing, Publication and Related Services in March 2002 following a tendering exercise run by the Government Purchasing Agency (now known as Central Procurement Directorate). The current contract is due to expire on 23 July 2009. The Stationery Office as part of their contractual obligation undertakes any printing and publishing as requested by the Assembly through the Assembly's Printed Paper Office. They also undertake the distribution of Assembly publications through their retail premises in Belfast and online services.

Constituency Offices

Mr Hilditch asked the Assembly Commission if it will consider introducing a standard computerised database for constituency offices of all Parties.

(AQW 3575/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Assembly Commission does not currently provide centrally funded software to enable Members to track Constituency Office cases, as each Party has adopted different approaches to the issue.

The Commission is aware of growing interest amongst the Devolved Legislatures and at Westminster for a common approach to managing such information. The Assembly's Information Systems Office is representing the Commission in these initial discussions.

The Information Systems Office maintains a Constituency Office Helpdesk service to assist Members and their staff in ICT related matters. It can be contacted on 028 905 21755.

Electrical Appliances

Mr Wells asked the Assembly Commission if it will ensure that all non-essential electrical appliances will be turned off in Parliament buildings when it is closed for the Christmas/ New Year holidays.

(AQW 3636/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): The Assembly Commission is committed to adopting a proactive approach to energy management and as such encourages all staff when leaving the office to turn off lights, TVs, computers, monitors, and shredders situated in the office.

The Security Officers from the Control Room carry out a patrol at last light and first light, in which they complete a full check of the building, inclusive of switching off lights/ photocopiers, closing windows/ doors and ensuring that the building is secure. Stairwell lights are left on in the event that the building would need to be evacuated during hours of darkness, and to assist the Emergency Services should they require a lighted area if they are responding to an emergency. Security Officers do not, however, enter locked offices to turn off lights and appliances.

In addition to this the Support Services contractor, as part of the nightly (and recess) close down procedure, ensures that all lights and non-essential electrical items are turned off in all catering areas.

Properties Directorate will be issuing a building wide email in advance of the Christmas recess, reminding all building users to switch off lights, TVs, computers, monitors, shredders and other associated electrical equipment.

Weekly Answer Booklet

Mr Wells asked the Assembly Commission why it is necessary to distribute the Weekly Answer Booklet dated 12 December 2008 in a sealed addressed envelope. (AQW 3639/09)

The Representative of the Assembly Commission (Rev Dr R Coulter): In August 2008 a questionnaire was issued to each Member by the Assembly's Printed Paper Office, requesting information on their preferred format for core Assembly documents.

The results of the survey lead to a reduction in the print run of various publications. For example instead of printing and delivering 324 documents (i.e. 108 copies each of the Weekly Information Bulletin, Written Answer Booklet and Questions for Written Answer) to Members' pigeon holes on Monday mornings (as was the case prior to the survey) a total of 210 documents are now printed for Members and delivered (i.e. 60 copies of the Weekly Information Bulletin, 73 copies of the Written Answer Booklet and 77 copies of Questions for Written Answer).

As Members had differing requirements, it became necessary for the Printed Paper Office to devise a system which ensured Members received only the hardcopies of the documents they had requested. The current system of placing documents in a labelled envelope together with a list of the documents they require was adopted and put in place at the end of September 2008.

As a result of your feedback, the Printed Paper Office is considering an alternative method of managing and distributing documents which would negate the use of labelled envelopes.

CORRIGENDA

Written Answer Booklet of 5 December 2008

(Volume 35, No WA4)

In page WA265, replace the answer to question (AQW 2858/09) with;

The attached table lists all the marching bands that have received funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This is broken down by financial year and includes details of the relevant funding programme. You may wish to note that Musical Instruments for Bands is an exchequer funded programme and Awards for All is a lottery funded programme.

Marching Band	Amount	Year	Type Of Funding
Ardariff Flute Band	£3,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Augharonan Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Barr Jubilee Pipe Band	£4,673.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Benburb Pipe Band	£984.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Blacksessiagh Coronation Accordion Band	£1,520.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Brookeborough Flute Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Cairncastle Flute Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Cavanaleck Pipe Band	£4,000.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Churchill Flute Band	£3,517.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Churchill Flute Band	£2,203.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Cooneen Pipe Band	£3,600.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Cranny Pipe Band	£3,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Crimson Arrow Pipe Band	£2,605.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Desertmartin Accordion Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Donaghmore Accordion Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Dungiven Flute Band	£3,750.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Hillview Flute Band	£4,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Killadeas Pipe Band	£9,264.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Lisbeg Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Lisburn Young Defenders Flute Band	£2,957.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Lisnamulligan Pipe Band	£3,773.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Lower Woodstock Ulster Scots Flute Band	£3,585.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Magheragall Pipe Band	£3,500.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Magheraveely Flute Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Maguiresbridge Silver band	£4,485.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
McNeillstown Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Mullabrack Accordion Band	£4,594.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Newbuildings Girls Flute Band	£2,600.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Newtownards Silver Band	£3,630.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Newtownbutler Flute Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Omagh True Blues	£3,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands

Marching Band	Amount	Year	Type Of Funding
Pomeroy Accordion Band	£2,465.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Portrush Sons of Ulster Flute Band	£3,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Pride of the Shore Flute Band	£3,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Rasharkin Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Sergeant Walker Memorial Pipe Band	£3,263.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Sir George White Memorial Flute band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
South Fermanagh Flute Band	£3,284.00	2006-2007	Awards for All
Star of Down Flute Band	£3,693.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Strabane Concert Brass	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Stranocum Flute Band	£4,890.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Tullyhogue Flute Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
Vow Accordion Band	£5,000.00	2006-2007	Musical Instruments for Bands
2006/07 Total	£171,835.00		
Aghavilly Accordion Band	£500.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Ardboe Central Youth Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Ballycoan Pipe Band	£5,970.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Ballykeel Loyal Sons of Ulster flute band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Ballymacall True Blues Flute Band	£4,300.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Ballymaconnelly Sons of Conquerors	£4,525.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Ballymoughan Flute Band	£2,280.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Bawn Silver Band	£5,500.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Blaris Accordion Band	£4,688.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Burntollet Sons of Ulster	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Carnagh Accordion Band	£2,295.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Coalisland Jubilee Accordion Band	£4,688.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Crumlin Young Loyalist Flute Band	£3,963.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Cullybackey Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Curran Flute Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Dromara Highland Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Drumconvis Young Defenders Flute Band	£3,795.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Drumnaglough Flute Band	£3,775.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Dyan Pipe Band	£4,594.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
George A Dummigan Accordion Band	£4,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Gilnahirk Pipe Band	£3,438.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Gortagilly Musical Society	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Grallagh Unionist Flute Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Hounds of Ulster	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Killycoogan Accordion Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Kilrea Pipe Band	£4,999.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands

Marching Band	Amount	Year	Type Of Funding
Knockloughrim Accordion Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Letterbreen Silver Band	£5,795.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Lisnaskea Silver Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Maghera Sons of William	£2,730.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Magheraboy Flute Band	£3,723.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Magheraboy Flute Band	£3,600.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Moneymore Accordion Band	£2,880.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Muckamore Cultural Music Society	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Newmills Silver Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Pride of Ardoyne	£4,605.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Pride of the Maine	£3,690.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Pride of The Park Flute Band Armoy	£4,013.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Saint Patrick's Pipe Band, Drumquin	£4,901.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
St Eugene's Band Omagh	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
St John's Independant Accordion Band	£8,320.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
Tullywhisker Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Tyrone Ditches Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Musical Instruments for Bands
Upper Crossgare Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2007-2008	Awards for All
2007/08 Total	£197,567.00		
Ballinacross Accordion Band	£4,995.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Ballindarragh Accordion Band	£1,850.00	2008-2009	Awards for All
Ballymartin Pipe Band	£4,999.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Ballymena and Harryville Young Conqueror	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Ballyreagh Silver Band	£4,923.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Benburb Memorial Pipe Band	£3,472.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Cappagh Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Castlerock Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Clogher Youth & Music Club	£3,750.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Coleraine Fife & Drum Band	£4,492.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Drumaheagles Young Defenders Flute Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
First Old Boys Association Silver Band	£4,900.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Killymuck Accordion Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Kilnaslee Pipe Band	£3,789.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Letterbreen Silver Band	£4,000.00	2008-2009	Awards for All
Lisnaskea Accoridian Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Montober Flute Band	£4,958.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Moybrone Pipe Band	£4,657.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Moygashel Sons of Ulster	£4,183.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Mullinagoagh Pipe Band	£4,999.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands

Marching Band	Amount	Year	Type Of Funding
Mulnagore Coronation Accordion Band	£4,862.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Murley Concert Band (Junior band of Murley Silver Band)	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Pomeroy Flute Band	£4,736.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Pride of the Derg Flute Band	£4,713.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Raffrey Pipe Band	£4,999.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Roses Lane Ends Temperance Flute Band	£3,750.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Sgt White Memorial Flute Band	£4,255.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Skeogh Flute Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Tamlaght Pipe Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Tamlaghtmore Flute Band	£4,005.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
Tempo Accordion Band	£4,191.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
The Hamilton Flute Band	£800.00	2008-2009	Awards for All
Trillick Pipe Band	£3650.00	2008-2009	Awards for All
Tubrid Pipe Band	£4,688.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
W.J. Armstrong Memorial Pipe Band	£4,995.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
William Strain William Lightbody Memorial Flute Band	£5,000.00	2008-2009	Musical Instruments for Bands
*2008/09 Total (to date)	*£159,611.00		
Total	£529,013.00		

Written Answer Booklet of 5 December 2008

(Volume 35, No WA4)

In page WA350, replace the answer to question (AQW 3024/09) with;

The tables below detail the Social Security Agency staff employed by district, grade and office.

Belfast West & Lisburn	Andersonstown	Falls Road	Lisburn	Shaftesbury Square
G7	0	1	0	0
DP	0	1	0	0
SO	1	3	1	1
EO1	3	9	4	2
EO2/SSO1	44	23	19	18
AO/SSO2	62	33	26	42
AA	5	2	2	2
TAA	5	3	1	0
SGB2	3	4	2	2
CSGB2	2	0	1	0
Typist	0	1	0	0
Total	125	80	56	67

Belfast North & East Antrim	Carrickfergus	Corporation Street	Larne	Newtownabbey	Shankill
DP	0	1	0	0	0
SO	1	4	1	1	0
EO1	1	10	2	2	3
EO2/SSO1	6	64	8	14	11
AO/SSO2	11	76	17	19	22
AA	2	13	4	3	2
TAA	1	10	1	2	1
SGB2	1	3	3	1	1
CSGB2	1	2	0	2	2
Typist	0	1	0	0	0
Total	24	184	36	44	42

East Down	Ballynahinch	Bangor	Downpatrick	Holywood	Kilkeel	Knockbreda	Newcastle	Newtownards
DP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
SO	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	0
EO1	1	1	2	4	1	6	1	2
EO2/SSO1	6	15	15	30	4	19	7	15
AO/SSO2	6	23	14	39	9	19	16	17
AA	0	2	1	6	2	2	2	3
TAA	3	1	3	2	1	2	2	0
SGB2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2
CSGB2	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	0
Typist	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	18	46	39	87	19	54	31	40

North	Antrim	Ballymena	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Cookstown	Limavady	Magherafelt
G7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
DP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
SO	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
EO1	6	2	2	6	0	1	3
EO2/SSO1	17	16	13	18	9	6	15
AO/SSO2	31	22	15	31	16	13	20
AA	4	2	2	4	3	2	2
TAA	2	1	1	2	0	1	1
SGB2	3	1	1	2	0	3	1
CSGB2	1	1	2	1	1	0	2
Total	67	46	37	67	30	27	46

South	Dungannon	Newry	Armagh	Banbridge	Lurgan	Portadown
G7	1	0	0	0	0	0
DP	1	0	0	0	0	0
SO	2	1	1	1	1	1
EO1	6	4	1	4	1	3
EO2/SSO1	13	22	26	8	14	11
AO/SSO2	29	39	35	14	25	26
AA	3	5	6	4	3	1
TAA	1	3	6	0	2	1
SGB2	1	2	3	0	1	0
CSGB2	1	3	1	3	1	2
Typist	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	59	80	79	34	48	45

West	Lisnagelvin	Strabane	Foyle	Omagh	Enniskillen
DP	0	0	1	0	0
SO	1	1	1	1	2
EO1	2	5	8	7	2
EO2/SSO1	20	16	36	23	20
AO/SSO2	31	21	65	32	31
AA	1	1	7	6	4
TAA	6	2	14	9	3
SGB2	2	1	8	2	3
CSGB2	1	1	2	1	1
SEC GUARD	0	0	2	0	0
Typist	0	0	1	0	0
Total	64	48	145	81	66

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