

Written Answers to Questions

Official Report (Hansard)

Friday 25 July 2014

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

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Northern Ireland Assembly

Friday 25 July 2014

Written Answers to Questions

Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Economy of the Barrosa Task Force

Mr McGlone asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the benefits, including financial benefits, to the economy of the Barosa Task Force in each year since its inception.

(AQW 32125/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness (The First Minister and deputy First Minister): The recommendations by the Barroso Taskforce in its report of 2007, which were adopted by all EU Commissioners, provided a clear roadmap for enhanced Northern Ireland engagement with Europe. The emphasis of the Taskforce Report was on helping the region to generate more growth and jobs and in that way create more economic opportunities and thereby underpinning the peace process. The Report specifically cited a low level of entrepreneurship with low investment in research and innovation, persistent negative image of the region to international investors and a high proportion of the population detached from the world of work. The Taskforce drew and continues to draw our attention to the many competitive European Programmes available to us to help enhance our investment in research and development and transport and energy initiatives to help support our infrastructure development.

In response to the Barroso Taskforce Report, we established an inter-departmental co-ordinating group, the objectives of which are:

- promoting the Executive's interests within the European Union;
- raising the Executive's positive profile throughout Europe;
- raising awareness and encouraging participation in European matters;
- access EU funding; and
- sharing experience of building peace and conflict resolution in a divided society with Europe and beyond.

Indirectly, the Taskforce has also stimulated enhanced co-ordination across stakeholders through the Northern Ireland European Regional Forum, jointly chaired by OFMDFM and the Belfast City Council.

More specifically and in response to the opportunities that the Taskforce presented, the Executive set itself a target of increasing drawdown from Competitive European Programmes of 20%. In terms of the financial benefit therefore, this translates at the halfway point in the budget period (March 2013) to a financial gain ie an additional £14.5 million in drawdown.

The Barroso Taskforce ensures that the region is very much on the Commission's 'radar' at the most senior levels. This creates a context in which advice is more readily sought and given, senior officials and Commissioners are more readily accessible and Commission officials more willing to give their time, and travel to participate in meetings, seminars and conferences locally. Consequently, we are better placed to influence key decisions in Europe such as the allocation of 150 million euros to a 4th peace programme. This ultimately translates into jobs and growth, and helps support and strengthen our economy.

Victims Support Service

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the victims groups being funded by the Victims Support Service.

(AQW 33909/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The table below lists the Victims groups funded by the Victims and Survivors Service under its Victim Support Programme.

Group Name (Under £75k)	Group Name (Over £75k)
	Aisling Centre
County Armagh RUC GC	Antrim Youth Information and Counselling Centre
UDR Regimental Association Enniskillen	Ashton Community Trust
	Aurora Counselling
Newry and Mourne Voluntary Welfare Group	
	CALMS
	Centre for Health and Wellbeing
USCA North Antrim	Colin Community Counselling Project
Larne Voluntary Welfare Group	
UDR Association Lisnaskea	Corpus Christi
Royal Irish Rangers Enniskillen	County Armagh Phoenix
Green Shoot Productions	Crossfire Trust
Ulster Human Rights Watch	Cruse Bereavement Care
	Cunamh
Eglinton Building Bridges	Derry Well Woman
Royal Irish Regiment Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Ely Centre
Military and Police Support of West Tyrone	Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Wounded Police and Families Association	FAIR
UDR Regimental Association Castlederg	Families Beyond Conflict
RUC GC Association Omagh	Families Moving On
Omagh Police Wives	Firinne
FAIR	FASA
Regimental Association of UDR CGC Clogher	HAVEN
	Have Your Tomorrows
Workers' Educational Association	Holy Trinity Centre

Group Name (Under £75k)	Group Name (Over £75k)
	HURT
Koram Centre	JIVT
Disabled Police Officers' Association	Lenadoon Community Forum
	MAST
	Military and Police Support of West Tyrone
Castle Hill Foundation	MUVE Project
East Belfast Community Counselling Centre	N I Music Therapy Trust
USCA Omagh	NI Phoenix
	New Life Counselling Service
	NOVA
Carers' Association	Omagh Support and Self Help Group
Tullyvallen Family Support	Pat Finucane Centre
	Peace Factory
	Praxis Care
	REACT
	Regimental Association of UDR Coleraine
	Relatives For Justice
	SDAHW
	SEFF
	South Armagh Rural Women's Network
	Springhill Community House
	Survivors of Trauma
	Tyrone East Phoenix
	VAST
	Wave Belfast
	West Tyrone Voice

Funding for Anti-Racism Projects

Mr Eastwood asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the applications received for funding for anti-racism projects since May 2011; and which of these applications took longer than six months to process.

(AQW 34431/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Around 100 applications have been received under the Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) since May 2011. These include projects relating to racial equality – such as the provision of English language classes, information, help and advice.

In addition to the MEDF, organisations can also apply to the Central Good Relations Fund. We gave formal approval to the establishment of a Central Good Relations Fund in July 2012 and the 2012/13 scheme was launched on 8 January 2013.

OFMDFM also supports a wide range of good relations work through the District Council Good Relations Programme. This includes work to tackle racism and improve race relations across all 26 District Councils. However, this work is delivered by the Councils and applications for project funding do not come to the Department directly. OFMDFM provides 75% of the cost of the District Council Good Relations Programme with Councils providing the remaining 25%. The number of applications is not known.

Sexual Violence

Ms Ruane asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister for an update on the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict which was attended by the junior Ministers.

(AQO 6405/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Junior Minister Bell and Junior Minister McCann attended the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which took place in London between 10 and 13 June.

The aim of the Summit was to create a sense of irreversible movement towards ending the use of rape and sexual violence in conflict.

The Northern Ireland Gender Equality Strategy strives to eliminate gender-based violence in our society and to ensure the equal participation of women in conflict resolution.

At the Summit, Junior Ministers met with a delegation of women who work in community organisations across Northern Ireland. They will be looking at how good practice shared at the conference can be applied in Northern Ireland.

Child Poverty

Mr Rogers asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to outline the action plan to address Child Poverty under commitment 37 of the Programme for Government 2011-15.

(AQO 6406/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We gave a Commitment in the Programme for Government to fulfil our statutory obligations under the Child Poverty Act.

The Strategy – Improving Children’s Life Chances – set the context for an action plan which all departments gave a commitment to contribute. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, we have conducted annual reviews of our Child Poverty Strategy, and we have laid reports emerging from those reviews in the Assembly.

The Child Poverty Act also requires that we revise the Strategy every three years. To help inform the revised Strategy, which we hope to lay in the Assembly shortly, we commissioned work from the National Children’s Bureau to establish a cross governmental approach in which every department understands its role in reducing child poverty and makes an effective contribution to improving outcomes. A Child Poverty Outcomes Framework was published last October. The framework is based on the key principles of Outcomes Based Accountability which has a track record of delivering improvements in outcomes internationally.

Fulfilling our statutory requirements is clearly important, but it is only one element of our efforts to tackle child poverty and its impacts.

Our Department is driving the Delivering Social Change Framework to address priority social policy areas.

Seven Signature Projects are being taken forward, across departments to:

- support families;
- address barriers to learning;

- improve literacy and numeracy; and
- support job creation within local communities.

Safeguarding Legislation to Protect Older People

Mr Weir asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what consideration is being given to safeguarding legislation to protect older people.

(AQW 34866/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Work on the development of an Adult Safeguarding Policy is being taken forward by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, in partnership with the Department of Justice. Both departments intend to engage with key stakeholders over the summer months and commence public consultation on the draft policy in Autumn 2014. This consultation will also seek views on a range of legislative options to underpin the policy.

Social Investment Fund Applications

Mr Easton asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to list the Community Houses in North Down and Ards that have applied to the Social Investment Fund for building extensions to increase capacity and training facilities.

(AQW 34915/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Subject to approval of the Economic Appraisal, a scoping exercise will be undertaken to ascertain the potential value to improve the community houses listed below:

- 32 South Avenue, Whitehill (Bangor);
- 26 Rathgill Park, Rathgill (Bangor);
- 21 Breezemount Park, Breezemount (Bangor);
- 189 Ballyree Drive, Bloomfield (Bangor);
- 2 Kilcooley Square (Bangor);
- 18B Cuan Place, Scrabo Estate (Ards);
- 60D Beechfield Drive, (Donaghadee); and
- 23a Queens Square, East End (Ards).

Minority Ethnic Development Fund

Mr Nesbitt asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister, pursuant to AQW 33877/11-15, what projects are supported by the Minority Ethnic Development Fund; and how much funding has been received by each project in each of the last five years.

(AQW 35093/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Awards from the Minority Ethnic Development Fund for each of the past complete financial years were as follows:

2009-10	Development Funding
An Munia Tober Regional	£ 45,000
An Munia Tober Belfast	£ 30,000
Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum (BIEF)	£ 45,000
Barnardos' Tuar Ceatha	£ 41,436
Belfast Islamic Centre	£ 45,000

2009-10	Development Funding
Chinese Welfare Association	£ 45,000
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	£ 45,000
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee	£ 45,000
Derry Travellers	£ 45,000
East Belfast Independent Advice Centre	£ 38,000
Foyle Multicultural Forum	£ 43,716
GEMS NI	£ 22,528
Indian Community Centre	£ 45,000
Multicultural Resource Centre (MCRC)	£ 45,000
NICRAS	£ 45,000
NICEM	£ 45,000
Old Warren Project	£ 43,278
Polish Association NI	£ 45,000
South Belfast Partnership Board	£ 45,000
STEP	£ 45,000
Wah Hep	£ 45,000
Youth Action	£ 45,000
	Project Funding
An Munia Tober	£ 15,000
Arts Ekta	£ 15,000
Belfast Jewish Community	£ 15,000
Beyond Skin	£ 15,000
Chinese Welfare Association	£ 15,000
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	£ 10,100
Saint Vincent De Paul Armagh	£ 15,000
Windsor Women's Centre	£ 12,036

2010-11	Development Funding
An Munia Tober	£45,000.00
ArtsEkta	£45,000.00
Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum	£45,000.00
Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha	£45,000.00
Ballymoney Community Resource Centre	£35,002.48
Chinese Welfare Association	£45,000.00

2010-11	Development Funding
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	£45,000.00
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee	£45,000.00
Derry Travellers	£45,000.00
East Belfast Independent Advice Centre	£40,124.60
EMBRACE	£33,693.14
GEMS	£25,087.65
Homeplus NI	£38,284.40
MCRC	£45,000.00
NICEM	£45,000.00
NICRAS	£45,000.00
Old Warren Partnership	£45,000.00
Polish Association	£45,000.00
SEEDS	£45,000.00
South Belfast Partnership Board	£45,000.00
STEP	£45,000.00
Wah Hep	£45,000.00
	Project Funding
Barnardo's	£15,000.00
BIEF	£5,000.00
Business in the Community	£12,400.00
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	£14,836.00
Chinese Welfare Association	£15,000.00
South Belfast Partnership Board	£15,000.00
SEEDS	£14,750.00
STEP	£15,000.00
Training for women network	£15,000.00
Wah Hep	£15,000.00
Willowfield Parish	£8,900.00
Windsor Womens' Centre	£14,410.00
2011-12	Development Funding
African and Caribbean Support Organisation ACSONI	£30,432.60
An Munia Tober	£45,000.00
ArtsEkta	£45,000.00

2011-12	Development Funding
Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum	£45,000.00
Ballymoney Community Resource Centre	£43,894.60
Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha	£44,992.00
Belfast Islamic Centre	£45,000.00
Chinese Welfare Association	£45,000.00
Community Foundation NI	£45,000.00
Cookstown and Western Shores	£36,844.00
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	£45,000.00
Derry Travellers	£45,000.00
EMBRACE	£44,388.00
Foyle Multicultural Forum	£27,750.00
Homeplus NI	£45,000.00
Multi- Cultural Resource Centre	£45,000.00
NICEM	£45,000.00
NICRAS	£45,000.00
Omagh Ethnic Minorities	£44,974.00
SBPB	£45,000.00
STEP	£45,000.00
The Welcome Project	£45,000.00
Wah Hep	£45,000.00
	Project Funding
ArtsEkta	£15,000.00
BIEF	£6,500.00
Barnardo's	£15,000.00
Multi- Cultural Resource Centre	£15,000.00
NICRAS	£14,983.00
North Down YMCA	£14,903.00
STEP	£15,000.00

2012-13	Development funding
African and Caribbean Support Organisation ACSONI	£30,434.00
An Munia Tober	£44,551.50
ArtsEkta Ltd	£45,000.00
Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum (BIEF)	£45,000.00

2012-13	Development funding
Ballymoney Community Resource Centre	£43,881.77
Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha	£44,500.00
Bryson Intercultural	£22,500.00
Chinese Welfare Association	£45,000.00
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	£45,000.00
Cookstown & Western Shores Area Network	£41,991.14
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	£45,000.00
EMBRACE	£44,693.00
Foyle Multicultural Forum	£27,735.00
Homeplus Ltd	£45,000.00
Multi-Cultural Resource Centre (MCRC)	£22,500.00
NICEM	£45,000.00
NICRAS	£45,000.00
Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group	£44,993.83
South Belfast Partnership Board	£10,440.31
South Belfast Roundtable	£34,559.69
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	£45,000.00
The Welcome Project	£45,000.00
Wah Hep Chinese Community Association	£45,000.00
Law Centre NI	£32,500.00

2013-14	Development funding
ACSONI - (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
An Munia Tober- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Armagh Travellers Support Group- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
ArtsEkta - (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
ArtsEkta - (Tier 1)	£15,000.00
Ballymena Inter Ethnic Forum Tier 2	£45,000.00
Ballymena Inter-Ethnic Forum Tier 1	£3,670.00
Ballymoney Community Resource Centre- (Tier 2)	£44,292.52
Barnardo's Tuar Ceatha- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Belfast Islamic Centre- (Tier 2)	£14,975.00
Bryson Intercultural- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Chinese Welfare Association - (Recruitment Costs)	£1,500.00

2013-14	Development funding
Chinese Welfare Association- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Connect NICEM (Tier 1)	£15,000.00
Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Craigavon Intercultural Programme - (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Craigavon Travellers Support Committee- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Dialogue for diversity(Tier 1)	£3,573.65
EMBRACE- (Tier 2)	£44,386.36
GEMS NI- (Tier 2)	£27,985.74
Homeplus NI- (Tier 2)	£44,996.99
NICEM (Tier 1)	£15,000.00
NICEM North West (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
NICEM (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
NICRAS (Tier 2)	£39,722.81
North Down YMCA- (Tier 2)	£20,076.00
North Down YMCA - (Recruitment Costs)	£545.00
North West Migrants Forum - (Tier 2)	£1,139.10
Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group - (Tier 2)	£44,984.50
South Belfast Roundtable (Tier 1)	£10,125.00
South Belfast Roundtable (Tier 2)	£43,122.00
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (Tier 1)	£2,300.00
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (Tier 3)	£75,000.00
The Welcome Project- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00
Wah Hep Chinese Community Association- (Tier 2)	£45,000.00

Public Private Partnership Projects

Mr Allister asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister whether there are any ongoing investigations relating to any Public Private Partnership projects that their Department is associated with; and if so, to detail the projects.

(AQW 35103/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: OFMDFM is not involved in any Public Private Partnerships for which there are ongoing investigations.

Childcare for Children with a Disability

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what assurances they can give that childcare for children with a disability will remain a priority; and that the current and future funding

allocation for summer schemes, training provision and small capital grants to cater for children with a disability will be guaranteed.

(AQW 35187/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Childcare for children with a disability is and will remain a priority of the Bright Start Childcare Strategy. Childcare for children with a disability is currently addressed in the first phase of the Strategy under Key First Action 6, responsibility for which rests with DHSSPS. To date, Bright Start has allocated approximately £500,000 to help childcare providers meet the needs of children with a disability. OFMDFM and DHSSPS officials are currently liaising to confirm the resources needed to deliver further assistance, including training, small grants and summer schemes, in the present financial year.

Bright Start

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister to detail the current funding amount secured for the childcare strategy Bright Start; and how any shortfall will be found.

(AQW 35188/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: The first phase of the Bright Start Childcare Strategy, including 15 Key First Actions to address the main childcare priorities identified during consultation and research, was launched in September 2013. There is currently provision of £13 million to resource the Key First Actions up to 2017/18. OFMDFM will continue to liaise with the departments responsible for the Actions to confirm funding needs. Further resources will, if required, be secured under normal public expenditure processes.

Disability Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister what projects the Department is prioritising for children with disabilities through the disability strategy; and to list the projects funded as part of the disability strategy.

(AQW 35189/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Since publication of the Executive's Disability Strategy, we have taken forward several projects for children with disabilities. OFMDFM worked with Disability Action to develop a Schools Educational Resource Pack for teachers and youth workers to help teach pupils and young people about the rights of people with disabilities. We have also supported Special Olympics Ulster to provide young people with learning disabilities an opportunity to actively participate in public life.

We are currently considering a number of further projects submitted by Departments to deliver outcomes under the Strategy, to be taken forward within the Delivering Social Change Framework. An annual report on the Strategy will provide a full account of our work under the Strategy and will be published in due course.

Disability Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how much funding is available to realise the disability strategy, particularly for children and young people with disabilities.

(AQW 35190/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: We are currently considering a number of proposed projects submitted by departments to deliver outcomes under the Executive's Disability Strategy, to be taken forward within the Delivering Social Change Framework. The proposed projects cover a range of disabilities and a range of ages from children through to older people. Funding for agreed projects will need to be bid for in the normal manner.

Disability Strategy

Mr Lyttle asked the First Minister and deputy First Minister how the disability strategy has improved the lives of children and young people with disabilities and their families.

(AQW 35191/11-15)

Mr P Robinson and Mr M McGuinness: Since the publication of the Executive's Disability Strategy in February 2013, we have taken forward a number of actions that impact positively on the lives of children and young people with disabilities and their families.

On 2 May 2013, OFMDFM hosted a major, inclusive disability awareness conference with representatives from across government and the disability sector to consider how current arrangements met the needs of all people with disabilities on the basis of equality.

Our officials have worked in partnership with Disability Action to develop a resource pack for teachers and youth workers to assist in teaching pupils and young people about the rights of people with disabilities. The Resource Pack was issued to 341 schools and youth clubs in December 2013. Feedback has been very positive.

We have also provided funding to Special Olympics Ulster to give young people with learning disabilities with an opportunity to actively participate in public life. Participation in this programme has helped these young people to thrive and grow in confidence, improving their quality of life.

An annual report on the delivery of the Disability Strategy for 2013/2014 will be published setting out these and other actions that all departments have undertaken under the Strategy in its first year.

We are currently considering a number of further projects submitted by departments to deliver outcomes under the Disability Strategy, to be taken forward within the Delivering Social Change Framework.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Gender Balance

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for her assessment of the gender balance on the public bodies linked to her Department; and to detail the steps that she has taken to ensure that women are not under-represented.

(AQW 35083/11-15)

Mrs O'Neill (The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development): Earlier this year I met with the Commissioner for Public Appointments, John Keanie, and discussed with him his report into Under Representation and Lack of Diversity in Public Appointments. As his report makes clear, women, young people, ethnic minorities and people with a disability are under-represented on the boards of public bodies.

I have instructed my Department to initiate a review, led by a senior official, to address the under-representation of women on the boards of DARD's five NonDepartmental Public Bodies, and prepare a report recommending specific actions, goals and timetables. I believe that this work will also inform how we improve diversity more generally on our departmental public bodies and other fora for which my Department is responsible.

This review is ongoing.

Department of Education

Language Classes Replacing the Woodlands Speech and Language Unit

Mr P Ramsey asked the Minister of Education, in relation to the language classes replacing the Woodlands Speech and Language unit, (i) how many children require Speech and Language Therapy provision in the new proposed units; (ii) how many children will require ongoing provision in the Woodlands Language Unit; (iii) what speech and language therapy assistant provisions will be in place; and (iv) what therapy resources and budget have been set aside for the new units to meet the needs of the children.

(AQW 35131/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd (The Minister of Education): The Western Education and Library Board (WELB) has advised as follows:

- (i) 18 children will require speech and language therapy provision in the proposed new classes;
- (ii) 20 children currently require ongoing provision at the Woodlands speech and language classes;
- (iii) the provision of speech and language therapy will be determined by the Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHST) Speech and Language Therapy Department;
- (iv) an allocation of £10k has been made to each of the three schools concerned from the WELB to facilitate the purchase of resources for the new speech and language classes. This will include the purchase of specific resources which have been recommended by the WHST Speech and Language Therapy Department.

St Columbkille's Primary School, Carrickmore

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Education why St Columbkille's Primary School, Carrickmore was not included in the list of Major Capital Projects to be Advanced in Planning, which was announced on Tuesday 24 June 2014; and whether his Department will be in a position to include this school in his next list of proposed new build schools to be advanced in planning.

(AQW 35199/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Catholic Council for Maintained Schools identified St Columbkille's Primary School along with its other priorities for major capital investment. I approved a protocol which was used to prioritise those schools included in my latest announcement of 24 June. St Columbkille's Primary School was scored under the protocol however it did not attract a sufficient score to be included in my announced list of schools to be advanced in planning due to budget constraints.

There are many school building projects I would like to fund and difficult decisions have to be made on how to invest the capital budget available to me. This in no way implies that the project for St Columbkille's will not be considered for a new build at some later stage. If the precise nature of any capital works required is determined, bids should continue to be made through the Minor Works or Schools Enhancement programme.

Capital Funding for Dean Maguirc College, Carrickmore

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Education how his Department plans to progress the issue of capital funding for Dean Maguirc College, Carrickmore.

(AQW 35200/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: Dean Maguirc College was one of the schools CCMS included in its list of priorities to be considered for my June 2014 capital investment announcement.

It was considered under 'The Major Works Projects Protocol for Selection of Projects to Proceed in Planning' dated June 2014. The protocol subjected the potential projects to 'Gateway' checks for sustainability and area planning issues prior to the remaining projects being prioritised. Ongoing sustainability issues with Dean Maguirc College – current enrolment is below the level set out in the

sustainable schools policy - meant that it did not pass the 'Gateway' and hence could not be included in my 24 June announcement.

Subject to Department of Education (DE) approval, the Western Education & Library Board (WELB) plans to take forward, on behalf of DE and Trustees, works to replace three single mobile classrooms with a new permanent three classroom new-build block with toilet provision at Dean Maguirc College. WELB is progressing with the design, statutory approvals and appointment of a Contractor by March 2015. It is anticipated that works will begin on site in April 2015 with completion in October 2015.

Average Cost of Educating a Child

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Education to detail the annual average cost of educating a child in (i) primary; (ii) post-primary schools in County Fermanagh in each of the last ten years, broken down by sector.

(AQW 35218/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The Department does not hold information on annual average costs at phase, region or sector level, as particular costs, including central costs, are not disaggregated to these levels. However, the specific costs of the schools are held and the tables below show average expenditure per pupil in County Fermanagh primary and post-primary schools, broken down by sector, in each of the ten financial years from 2004/05 to 2013/14 inclusive.

COUNTY FERMANAGH PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2004/05 TO 2013/14

Year	Average Expenditure per Pupil £			
	Controlled	Maintained	Irish Medium	Grant-Maintained Integrated
2013/14	£4,187	£4,020	£6,419	£3,897
2012/13	£4,020	£3,883	£6,045	£3,817
2011/12	£4,344	£3,911	£6,719	£3,988
2010/11	£4,261	£4,031	£5,927	£3,890
2009/10	£4,044	£3,949	£6,006	£3,618
2008/09	£4,174	£3,743	£5,919	£3,487
2007/08	£3,455	£3,336	£5,773	£3,197
2006/07	£3,535	£3,140	£4,401	£3,094
2005/06	£3,247	£3,034	£4,062	£2,847
2004/05	£2,772	£2,823	£2,257	£2,716

COUNTY FERMANAGH POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2004/05 TO 2013/14

Year	Average Expenditure per Pupil £				
	Controlled	Maintained	Controlled Grammar	Voluntary Grammar	Grant-Maintained Integrated
2013/14	£7,733	£6,338	£4,436	£4,814	£6,074
2012/13	£7,967	£6,270	£4,017	£5,008	£6,172
2011/12	£7,112	£6,577	£5,312	£5,122	£5,989
2010/11	£6,493	£5,800	£4,432	£4,863	£5,923
2009/10	£5,827	£5,621	£4,416	£4,814	£5,495
2008/09	£5,764	£5,534	£4,691	£4,790	£5,566
2007/08	£5,030	£5,286	£4,032	£4,712	£5,566
2006/07	£5,406	£5,274	£4,032	£4,217	£5,174
2005/06	£4,799	£5,233	£3,872	£4,092	£5,095
2004/05	£4,327	£4,389	£3,403	£3,877	£4,531

Notes:

- (i) Data for Primary Schools include Nursery Classes within Primary Schools. It is not possible to disaggregate the costs of Nursery Class pupils from those of primary pupils in the parent school;
- (ii) Data included for 2013-14 are still provisional pending publication of audited outturn statements by the appropriate Funding Authority – the Western Education and Library Board, in respect of Controlled and Maintained schools; and the Department of Education, in respect of Voluntary Grammar and Grant-Maintained Integrated Schools.

Cycle to Work Scheme

Mr McElduff asked the Minister of Education whether he will ensure that all teachers and staff, including those employed by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, can access the Cycle to Work Scheme.

(AQW 35220/11-15)

Mr O'Dowd: The decision whether to offer a 'Cycle to Work' Scheme to employees is a matter for individual employers.

I understand that the Chief Executives of the five Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) have determined that in the current challenging financial environment they cannot support such a scheme. This decision was recently reviewed by the employers who decided that they will continue not to fund the scheme due to current budget constraints. I am advised that the matter has and is being kept under regular review.

Voluntary Grammar schools are employers in their own right and a decision on whether or not to offer a Cycle to Work Scheme through salary sacrifice arrangements to all staff is a matter for the Board of Governors of each school.

Department for Employment and Learning

Public Private Partnership Projects

Mr Allister asked the Minister for Employment and Learning whether there are any ongoing investigations relating to any Public Private Partnership projects that his Department is associated with; and if so, to detail the projects.

(AQW 35104/11-15)

Dr Farry (The Minister for Employment and Learning): There are no ongoing investigations in relation to Public Private Partnerships within my Department other than the standard value for money assessments which are conducted from time to time.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Incubation Unit at Carn Industrial Estate

Mr Moutray asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what percentage of the incubation unit at Carn Industrial Estate is currently utilised; and to detail the nature of the current businesses on site.

(AQW 34689/11-15)

Mrs Foster (The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment): Carn Industrial Estate is not owned by Invest NI having been disposed of by the Industrial Development Board by way of public auction in 1995.

Invest NI understands that the incubation unit within the Carn Estate is owned by the Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation (CIDO). As Invest NI has no financial or operational responsibility for the organisation you may wish to contact their management directly.

The contact details for CIDO can be found on their website www.cido.co.uk.

Enterprise Zone in North Down

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether there are plans to create an enterprise zone in North Down.

(AQW 34966/11-15)

Mrs Foster: There are no immediate plans to create an enterprise zone in North Down.

There was one pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March and it will only offer Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) as an incentive. This pilot Enterprise Zone will be designated in Coleraine.

The Chancellor's budget announcement on 19 March has extended the current legislation for ECAs for a further three years to 2020. This allows us to consider the potential option to propose other Enterprise Zones offering ECAs in other regions within Northern Ireland, subject to the existence of a potential capital-intensive project which could demonstrate economic benefit and where the benefits of an ECA would clearly outweigh the benefit from other forms of support.

The final decision to designate a zone offering ECAs is ultimately one for HM Treasury who would consider the cost to HMT, the extent to which Northern Ireland is benefiting in line with other parts of the UK, and the cost to the NI Block should additional zones be designated beyond those funded by the UK Government.

Number of Enterprise Zones

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the number of enterprise zones.

(AQW 34967/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure.

There was one pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March and it will only offer ECAs as an incentive.

Enterprise Zone Criteria

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to outline the criteria an area must meet to be designated as an enterprise zone.

(AQW 34969/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The UK Government's Economic Pact, published on 14 June 2013, set out 3 commitments in relation to Enterprise Zones, focusing on Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) which permit 100% first year allowances for qualifying plant and machinery expenditure.

The pilot Enterprise Zone announced in the Budget statement on 19 March will only offer ECAs as an incentive. State Aid rules stipulate that ECAs cannot be offered alongside other forms of regional aid such as Selective Financial Assistance, business rate discounts etc.

The over-riding criteria therefore for any zone is that it will only be attractive to large capital-intensive projects where ECAs would provide an attractive incentive and would outweigh other forms of available financial support.

The final decision to designate a zone offering ECAs is ultimately one for HM Treasury who would consider the cost to HMT, the extent to which Northern Ireland is benefiting in line with other parts of the UK, and the cost to the NI Block should additional zones be designated beyond those funded by the UK Government.

Action Following Public Petition

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail the action she has taken following each public petition presented to the Assembly and forwarded to her Department.

(AQW 34973/11-15)

Mrs Foster: On 6 December 2011, a public petition tabled by Stephen Agnew, MLA called "on the Northern Ireland Assembly to place an immediate and permanent ban on the process known as hydraulic fracturing and all related preparatory and exploratory work in Northern Ireland."

On 6 December 2011, a No Day Named Motion stated that "a moratorium should be placed on the onshore and offshore exploration, development and production of shale gas by withdrawing licences for hydraulic fracturing."

In discharging my Executive authority, my decisions are informed both by the terms of Assembly resolutions on matters for which I am responsible and a range of other relevant policy and practical considerations.

As my Department had not issued any licences for hydraulic fracturing there were none to withdraw – this remains the position.

In 2012, in conjunction with the then Environment Minister, I established the Shale Gas Regulators Forum in recognition of the need for collaboration between Government Departments and bodies

involved in the preparation for shale-gas exploration in Northern Ireland, and possibly in due course its regulation.

The Forum is continuing to work to coordinate the activities of a number of regulatory bodies and to ensure a joined-up approach to regulation and monitoring.

Research and Development Project Definition Support

Mr McGlone asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, pursuant to AQW 34376/11-15, of the total funding approved for Project Definition support, how much was taken up by businesses, in each of the last four years.

(AQW 35082/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Please see table below which shows payments made to businesses in respect of Project Definition support in the years 2010 – 2014.

Year	Total paid to businesses £m
2010-11	0.91
2011-12	0.43
2012-13	0.51
2013-14	0.42

Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive and Online Dispute Resolution Regulation

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for her assessment of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive and Online Dispute Resolution Regulation and how it will be implemented in Northern Ireland.

(AQW 35090/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) is leading on implementation of Directive 2013/11/EU (the “ADR Directive”) but my Department has a particular interest in view of its consumer affairs, trading standards and energy responsibilities.

The Directive does not make alternative dispute resolution mandatory for either the consumer or business but requires Member States to ensure alternative dispute resolution is available for any contractual dispute that a consumer has with a business.

Many consumers and traders are not aware of existing alternative dispute resolution, with only a small proportion of consumers knowing how to make use of such schemes or indeed which scheme to use. I consider that the ADR Directive addresses many of these issues and should bring benefits for both consumers and businesses.

I support UK wide implementation by regulations to be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. This is the most effective and timely way to achieve implementation by the due date of July 2015. There are no unique Northern Ireland considerations which merit separate Northern Ireland implementation, particularly as most consumer legislation is UK wide and the ADR Directive permits existing schemes to be recognised for the purposes of the Directive provided they meet minimum standards. My Department will continue to liaise with DFP and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to ensure that Northern Ireland considerations are fully taken into account in the UK legislation.

The Regulation on Online Dispute Resolution (“ODR”) is linked with the ADR Directive and will automatically come into force in January 2016 across the European Union. Under ODR each Member State must designate one Online Dispute Resolution contact point. ODR suggests that the role of contact point could be fulfilled by the European Consumer Centres (ECCs). The UK ECC is hosted by

the Trading Standards Institute. The UK Government in conjunction with the relevant Northern Ireland Departments are considering who should take on the role.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how she will ensure that the existing protections in place for energy consumers are not weakened by the implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive.

(AQW 35091/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Department of Finance and Personnel is leading on the implementation of Directive 2013/11/EU (the “ADR Directive”) in Northern Ireland. My Department will continue to engage closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel and the UK Department of Business Innovation and Skills to ensure that the interests of NI energy consumers are taken into account in the proposed UK-wide implementing Regulations to be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

There is a legislative framework and a wide range of measures already in place through licences, dispute and complaints arrangements, price and tariff controls to protect the interests of energy consumers.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what direct engagement she and her officials have had with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in regards to the implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive.

(AQW 35096/11-15)

Mrs Foster: My Department has been fully engaged with both DFP and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to ensure that Northern Ireland interests are protected. My Department will also continue to engage closely with DFP and BIS to ensure that NI considerations are fully taken into account in the proposed UK wide implementing Regulations to be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

Extraction of Hydrocarbons

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to detail (i) her assessment of the prospect for the underground gasification of coal as a method of extracting hydrocarbons; and (ii) the applicants and current and past holders of petroleum exploration licences that have referenced this process with her Department as a potential method of extraction of hydrocarbons; in the last five years.

(AQW 35120/11-15)

Mrs Foster:

- (i) The historical coal mining districts of Northern Ireland in County Tyrone and Ballycastle do not have any significant Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) resource potential because of extensive coal extraction and the relatively complex geology. Some deposits at Crumlin, Ballymoney and east Tyrone contain thick lignite seams at depths suitable for the UCG process. However, UCG is not yet a well-proven technology; without Carbon Capture and Storage the UCG process produces high greenhouse gas emissions and has associated environmental issues. As such it is highly unlikely that UCG could be used to produce gas in Northern Ireland in the foreseeable future.
- (ii) UCG is not permitted under the Petroleum Production Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 in which the definition of “petroleum” includes any mineral oil or relative hydrocarbon and natural gas existing in its natural condition in strata, but does not include coal or bituminous shales or other stratified deposits from which oil can be extracted by destructive distillation. UCG produces ‘syngas’ from coal and is excluded by this definition.

In the last 5 years no applicants or holders of petroleum licenses have referred to UCG in supporting documentation.

Public Private Partnership Projects

Mr Allister asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment whether there are any ongoing investigations relating to any Public Private Partnership projects that her Department is associated with; and if so, to detail the projects.

(AQW 35152/11-15)

Mrs Foster: DETI has one Public Private Partnership project and there has not been any investigation into this project.

Economically Inactive

Mr Easton asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how her Department can assist people who are economically inactive.

(AQW 35155/11-15)

Mrs Foster: The Executive has recognised in the Programme for Government and Northern Ireland Economic Strategy that Economic Inactivity is one of the most persistent problems facing the local economy. It is only through adopting a coordinated and strategic approach across Departments that we can hope to address some of the structural issues which are restricting individual's access to the labour market.

I have been working with Minister Farry, supported by Ministers McCausland and Poots, to develop a strategy to reduce economic inactivity through skills, training, incentives and job creation.

A public consultation on a Strategic Framework was carried out earlier this year and officials are now working to finalise the Strategy which Minister Farry and I hope to bring to the Executive later in the year. The overarching strategic goal is to contribute towards a stable and competitive employment rate of over 70% by 2023. The Strategy will target two major inactive categories; individuals with family commitments and the long-term sick and disabled.

Within DETI, our focus is to improve the economic competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy in line with the ultimate aim of the Executives' Economic Strategy. We are doing this by supporting businesses to grow and to export more – this focus will increase employment and opportunity for all.

Contributing to the rising number of employment opportunities, Invest NI has delivered its most successful year in 2013/14 in terms of job promotion. Over the course of the year, Invest NI promoted 10,800 jobs and secured investment totalling £775million in the Northern Ireland economy.

Specifically there are elements of Invest NI's Jobs Fund which are designed to provide opportunities for the economically inactive. Since its introduction in April 2011, 2405 of the jobs created through the Jobs Fund have gone to people who were either unemployed or economically inactive. These jobs have been created in existing private sector businesses, social enterprises or through jobs created by new business start-ups by individuals living in a Neighbourhood Renewal Area and young people aged 16 – 24 not previously in employment, education or training (NEET).

Invest NI also provides sponsorship support to the Women in Business Network's

Women into Business programme. The programme is aimed at promoting, supporting and empowering economically inactive women in Northern Ireland to start their own business or aid them into sustained employment.

Exploratory Drilling

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment what licences must be obtained from her Department for consent to drill exploratory bore holes in relation to petroleum extraction and storage; and how the licensing regime differs from that in (i) the rest of the United Kingdom; and (ii) the Republic of Ireland.

(AQW 35185/11-15)

Mrs Foster: Petroleum Licence holders in Northern Ireland are obliged to seek written permission from my Department before they start drilling operations. DETI only grants a consent to drill if it is satisfied that all regulatory obligations will be met and that either planning permission or permitted development rights have been approved by DOE Planning.

DETI will also assess the proposed operations to ensure that they are in accordance with good industry practice.

A range of regulatory authorities are likely to be involved in determining whether drilling may proceed, and under what conditions - DOE has primary responsibility for planning and environmental matters, HSENI has broad responsibility for health and safety, and local councils regulate environmental health aspects such as noise, light and dust.

The licensing regime in Northern Ireland is broadly similar to that of the rest of the United Kingdom. In December 2013 the Department of Energy & Climate Change published a Regulatory Roadmap: Onshore oil and gas exploration in the UK regulation and best practice which illustrates a similar approach to regulation throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In the Republic of Ireland the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) grants the statutory consent, either an Exploration Licence or a Prospecting Licence, under the relevant legislation. The detailed proposal for a well is evaluated by the DCENR and requires administrative approval and approval to begin to drill the well. Exploration drilling is a designated activity pursuant to the Petroleum (Exploration and Extraction) Safety Act 2010 and requires a Safety Permit from the Commission for Energy Regulation as the safety regulator. Exploration drilling is subject to Irish environmental legislation but this shares many similarities with UK environmental legislation, as both must be in accordance with the relevant EU Directives.

Renewable Energy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment how much electricity is currently generated by (i) small scale; and (ii) large scale renewable sources; and for her assessment of the number of jobs created and sustained in these sectors.

(AQW 35210/11-15)

Mrs Foster: In the 12 month period to end March 2014, 1,595,051 MWh¹ was generated from renewable sources which equates to 19.45% of total electricity consumption. While a breakdown of this renewable generation between small and large scale projects is not available, the vast majority of this generation comes from large scale projects (over 5 MW).

My Department does not hold information on jobs created and sustained in these sectors.

¹ Figures provided by Northern Ireland Electricity

Department of the Environment

Incidents of Birds of Prey Persecution

Mr Wells asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the number of confirmed incidents of birds of prey persecution involving the (i) poisoning; (ii) shooting; and (iii) trapping of (a) red kite; (b) golden eagle; (c) white-tailed eagle; (d) peregrine; (e) hen harrier; and (f) buzzard, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 34531/11-15)

Mr Durkan (The Minister of the Environment): Under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, DOE has no power to investigate or prosecute wildlife offences of this nature. These powers lie with the PSNI. As this is the case, my Department does not hold, or is in a position to collect, the information sought.

I understand that my officials have been in touch with PSNI at officer level and have made them aware of your recent question. PSNI officers confirmed that they would be happy to respond to your query. I would therefore suggest that you refer your question regarding bird of prey persecutions directly to the PSNI Wildlife Liaison Officer, PSNI Headquarters, Brooklyn, Tel No: 07825166206.

MARIANNE.BREEN@psni.pnn.police.uk

Investment in North Belfast

Mr G Kelly asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the funding that his Department, and its arm's-length bodies, invested in North Belfast between May 2011 and May 2014.

(AQW 34901/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department pays grants to third parties through a range of established grant schemes. The Department also undertakes a limited amount of capital investment in urban areas. Although departmental records of spend are not kept at constituency level a manual analysis of all grants disbursed and all construction projects undertaken, based on postcode, has been carried out for the North Belfast area.

On the basis of this analysis the table below provides details of funding provided by the Department for the financial years 2011-12 to date where the ultimate beneficiary is based in the North Belfast area.

No capital expenditure has been disbursed in the North Belfast area during this period.

The Department's arms-length bodies do not provide funding to third parties.

Funding Recipient	Purpose	£			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Belfast City Council	Funding for dereliction schemes in North Belfast	-	139,172	28,857	-
East Belfast Mission	Funding for their furniture and bicycle repair and reuse facility in North Belfast	33,433	82,137	-	-
The Conservation Volunteers	Ballysillen Community Garden	3,640	-	-	-
Belfast Hills Partnership	Belfast Hills Interpretation Plan	5,000	-	-	-
Belfast Hills Partnership	Belfast Hills Wildfire Project	3,803	-	-	-
Ligoniel Improvement Association	Ligoniel Environmental Rejuvenation Project	-	-	17,600	-
Belfast Buildings Trust	Carlisle Memorial Enterprise Garden	-	-	8,900	-
Groundwork NI	Colin Glen Community and Wildlife Garden	-	-	8,877	-
Friends of Grove Park	Growing Together in Grove	-	-	2,150	-

Funding Recipient	Purpose	£			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Former Duncairn Presbyterian Church	Preservation of Listed Building	-	162,850	337,150	-
Lisbreen, Somerton Road	Preservation of Listed Building	-	42,870	206,840	-
St Malachy's College, Antrim Road	Preservation of Listed Building	-	-	114,250	-
Carlisle Memorial Church, Carlisle Circus	Preservation of Listed Building	350,027	42,473	-	-
Old School House, 32 Townsend Street	Preservation of Listed Building	95,015	3,350	-	-
Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB	Vegetation removal at the Scheduled Historic Monument known as Fort William Artillery Fort, Skegoneill Townland	15,247	-	-	-
Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, QUB	Partnership with the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, based in Queen's University, Belfast, the National Trust, and the Belfast Hills Partnership	11,000	-	10,000	6,000
Totals		517,165	472,852	734,624	6,000

Tranche of Dereliction Intervention Funding

Mr Easton asked the Minister of the Environment how many applications have been received for the next tranche of Dereliction Intervention Funding.

(AQW 34907/11-15)

Mr Durkan: At the end of May 2014, 23 of the 26 councils applied for an allocation of Dereliction Intervention Funding.

Alleged Criminal Activity on Registered Taxi Licence or Operator Licence Holders

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, following PSNI investigations into alleged criminal activity based around taxi drivers and operators in West Belfast and County Down that was announced on 27 June 2014, whether any of those suspected of being involved in this activity are registered taxi licence or operator licence holders.

(AQW 34941/11-15)

Mr Durkan: This was a multi agency enforcement operation which targeted illegal taxi related activities and as such a number of licensed taxi drivers and operators are under investigation. It would be inappropriate at this stage to elaborate further as the investigation is ongoing.

Taxis without a Fixed Meter

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment whether it is against European law for a taxi without a fixed meter to be hailed on-street.

(AQW 34953/11-15)

Mr Durkan: I am not aware of any European law that restricts the practical operation of a taxi based on whether a taximeter is fitted or not.

One area of the taxi industry which is, however, regulated in European law is in respect of the manufacture and sale of taximeters. As they are considered to be a 'measuring instrument' they fall within the Measuring Instruments Directive (2004/22/EC). The Directive is implemented in UK wide law by the Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006 No. 2304). These regulations establish the essential requirements that taximeters have to satisfy prior to their being placed on the market and put into use. This legislation prescribes the requirements that must be fulfilled by equipment for it to be considered a taximeter, but not the circumstances in which it can or must be used.

Approved Taxi Meter Centres

Mr Lyttle asked the Minister of the Environment what progress has been made on (i) establishing Approved Taxi Meter Centres; (ii) the definition of an Approved Taxi Meter Centre; and (iii) the number of Approved Taxi Meter Centres required.

(AQW 34954/11-15)

Mr Durkan: On 19 June 2014, in a written statement to the Assembly, I outlined my intentions to make taximeter regulations before the end of the year, with the requirements coming into force from September 2015.

My Department continues to develop the operational model within which taximeters will be tested and sealed and I anticipate being able to provide further information on the details of the arrangements after the summer recess.

Planning Applications: Kiltonga Industrial Estate, Newtownards

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of the Environment to list the planning applications that have been approved for the Kiltonga Industrial Estate in Newtownards in each of the last five years; and what conditions have been applied in each case.

(AQW 34959/11-15)

Mr Durkan: A total of 6 planning applications have been approved for Kiltonga Industrial Estate during the last five years. A list of those applications, the date on which they were approved and the conditions attached in each case is provided at Annex A.

ANNEX A

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2008/1052/F	Proposed temporary improvement to Kiltonga Estate entrance to facilitate large container vehicles pending implementation of approval of X/2004/1530/F.	Kiltonga Estate, Belfast Road, Newtownards, BT23 2TT	Approval	15/10/09	Mr Will Hollinger
Ref:	Conditions				
X/2008/1052/F	The access hereby permitted, shall be removed and the land restored to its former condition on or before the expiration of 4 years from the date of this permission.				
	Reason: In order to assess the impact the development may have on the character/amenities of the area.				
	The highway improvements indicated generally on 'Drawing No. 11308.01(B)' dated 16th April 2009 shall not be commenced until the developer/applicant has submitted to and received approval from DRD Roads Service.				
	Reason: In the interests of road safety.				
	Details of sign and road markings to control the flow of traffic on to the public road shall be provided at the applicant's expense in accordance with the DRD Roads Service requirements prior to the site becoming operational.				
	Reason: In the interests of road safety.				
	The development hereby permitted shall not become operational until effective vehicle wheel washing facilities have been installed and brought into operation.				
	Reason: To prevent the carry-over of mud or debris onto the public road in the interests of road safety and convenience.				
	A hard standing and turning area is to be provided and retained during the period of construction within the cartilage of the site.				
	Reason: In the interests of road safety.				

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2009/0914/F	Change of use from warehouse B4 to B2 light industrial.	Unit 2, Kiltonga Industrial Estate, Newtownards	Approval	25/03/10	Bradley Thallon Properties Ltd
Ref:	Conditions				
X/2009/0914/F	As required by Article 34 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission. Reason: Time Limit.				
Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2010/0060/F	Permanent improvement to Kiltonga Estate entrance to facilitate large container vehicles.	Kiltonga Estate, Belfast Road, Newtownards, Co Down BT23 2TT	Approval	09/06/10	Mr Will Hollinger
Ref:	Conditions				
X/2010/0060/F	As required by Article 34 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission. Reason: Time Limit.				
	The highway improvements indicated generally on Drawing No. 610-01 dated 22nd January 2010 shall not be commenced until the developer/applicant has submitted to and received approval from DRD Roads Service. Reason: In the interests of Road Safety.				
	Details of sign and road markings to control the flow of traffic on to the public road shall be provided at the applicant's expense in accordance with the DRD Roads Service requirements prior to the site becoming operational. Reason: In the interests of Road Safety.				

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
	The development hereby permitted shall not become operational until effective vehicle wheel washing facilities have been installed and brought into operation. Reason: To prevent the carry-over of mud or debris onto the public road in the interests of road safety and convenience. A hard standing and turning area is to be provided and retained during the period of construction within the cartilage of the site. Reason: In the interests of Road Safety.				
Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2010/0285/F	Extension to existing factory to provide additional production area, new milk intake area, new waste handling area with chemical storage and new security hut. Siteworks to include relocation of staff car parking. Completion of site road and new on site roadway.	Pritchitt Foods, Kiltonga Industrial Estate, 46 Belfast Road, Newtownards.	Approval	15/07/10	L E Pritchitt & Co Ltd.
Ref:	Conditions				
X/2010/0285/F	As required by Article 34 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission Reason: Time Limit. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until hard surfaced areas have been constructed within the site in accordance with the approved drawing no. X/2010/0285/08 which was received on 29 March 2010. This area shall not be used at any time for any purpose other than for parking and movement of vehicles in connection with the approved development. Reason: To ensure there is adequate in curtilage parking for the safety and convenience of road users.				

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
	Waste handling operations in the skip/compacter area as shown on drawing X/2010/0285/08 which was received on 29 March 2010 shall not take place outside the hours of 07:00 – 19:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00 – 13:00 Saturday. No waste handling operations shall take place in this area on a Sunday. Reason: In order to protect the amenity of the adjacent residential properties. Lorry movements to or from the Despatch area shall not take place outside the hours of 07:00 – 23:00. Reason: In order to protect the amenity of the adjacent residential properties.				
Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2010/0792/F	Extension to existing factory to provide new automated storage facility.	Pritchitt Foods, Kiltonga Industrial Estate, 46 Belfast Road, Newtownards BT23 4TU	Approval	05/04/11	L E Pritchitt & Co Ltd.
Ref:	Conditions				
X/2010/0792/F	As required by Article 34 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission. Reason: Time Limit.				
Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2013/0071/F	Two storey extensions to warehouse and facilities building, alterations to existing warehouse to provide additional loading docks and two storey detached plant room including amendments to the previous approval Ref X/2010/0792/F.	46 Belfast Road Newtownards BT23 4TU	Approval	26/11/13	L E Pritchitt & Co Ltd.

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
Ref:	Conditions				
X/2013/0071/F	As required by Article 34 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, the development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission.				
	Reason: Time Limit.				
	The roller shutter doors to the proposed loading bays shall be kept closed when a loading bay is not occupied by a truck.				
	Reason: In order to protect the amenity of the adjacent residential properties.				
	All loading of trucks, in area of the proposed loading bays, shall occur internally.				
	Reason: In order to protect the amenity of the adjacent residential properties.				
	Vehicle movements to and from the loading bays, shall not take place outside the hours of 07:00 – 23:00.				
	Reason: In order to protect the amenity of the adjacent residential properties.				

Planning Approvals: Kiltonga Industrial Estate, Newtownards

Mr McGimpsey asked the Minister of the Environment (i) to list the planning approvals in force in the Kiltonga Industrial Estate in Newtownards; (ii) on what dates the approvals were granted; and (iii) who were the applicants.

(AQW 34960/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Please be advised that for the purposes of answering this question, I am interpreting the term 'planning approvals in force' to mean 'extant planning permissions'.

A list of all planning approvals in force for Kiltonga Industrial Estate, together with the date of the approvals and the names of the respective applicants, is provided at Annex A.

ANNEX A

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2008/1052/F	Proposed temporary improvement to Kiltonga estate entrance to facilitate large container vehicles pending implementation of approval of X/2004/1530/F.	Kiltonga Estate, Belfast Road, Newtownards BT23 2TT	Approval	15/10/09	Mr Will Hollinger
X/2009/0914/F	Change of use from warehouse B4 to B2 light industrial.	Unit 2, Kiltonga Industrial Estate, Newtownards	Approval	25/03/10	Bradley Thallon Properties Ltd
X/2010/0060/F	Permanent improvement to Kiltonga Estate entrance to facilitate large container vehicles.	Kiltonga Estate, Belfast Road, Newtownards, Co Down BT23 2TT	Approval	09/06/10	Mr Will Hollinger

Application Reference	Proposal	Address	Decision	Date	Applicant
X/2010/0285/F	Extension to existing factory to provide additional production area, new milk intake area, new waste handling area with chemical storage and new security hut. Siteworks to include relocation of staff car parking. Completion of site road and new on site roadway.	Pritchitt Foods Kiltonga Industrial Estate, 46 Belfast Road, Newtownards	Approval	15/07/10	L E Pritchitt & Co Ltd.
X/2010/0792/F	Extension to existing factory to provide new automated storage facility.	Pritchitt Foods Kiltonga Industrial Estate, 46 Belfast Road, Newtownards, BT23 4TU	Approval	03/04/11	L E Pritchitt & Co Ltd.
X/2013/0071/F	Two storey extensions to warehouse and facilities building, alterations to existing warehouse to provide additional loading docks and two storey detached plant room including amendments to previous approval Ref: X/2010/0792/F.	46 Belfast Road Newtownards BT23 4TU	Approval	26/11/13	L E Pritchitt & Co Ltd

Planning Enforcement and Planning Fees

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment how much was spent on planning enforcement in each year since 2007; and whether any cuts to planning enforcement will result from the proposed reduction in planning fees.

(AQW 34982/11-15)

Mr Durkan: At this time the Department is not proposing a reduction in planning fees. There are also currently no proposals to cut the planning enforcement undertaken by the Department.

The table below provides details of enforcement legal costs for the period 2009/10 to 2013/14. Comparable financial data for the two years 2007/08 and 2008/09 is not held by Planning.

Financial Year	Amount
2009/10	£77,996
2010/11	£136,902
2011/12	£82,469
2012/13	£121,223
2013/14	£188,635

Action Following Public Petition

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the action he has taken following each public petition presented to the Assembly and forwarded to his Department.

(AQW 34988/11-15)

Mr Durkan: A public petition on “Exploris” was laid in the Assembly on 5 November 2013 and was subsequently sent to me by the Speaker and copied to the Chair of the Environment Committee.

The petition contained over 11,000 signatures calling for the Assembly and the different departments to provide regional funding and work with Ards Borough Council to draw up a plan to save “Exploris”.

Prior to the laying of the petition, in my paper to the Executive on 17 October 2013 I had already indicated my view that financial assistance should be provided from central government in recognition of the contribution a revitalised “Exploris” could make to the Executive’s PfG priorities in terms of boosting the local economy, securing jobs and tackling disadvantage.

I continue to support funding for a revitalised “Exploris” and have committed to meeting the cost of the seal sanctuary up to a limit of £120k per annum. I have also asked the Executive to provide a once only capital grant to upgrade the facilities at “Exploris” but as yet no decision has been made.

Alleged Criminal Activity Based Around Taxi Drivers and Operators

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, in light of the PSNI investigations into alleged criminal activity based around taxi drivers and operators in West Belfast and County Down that was announced on 27 June 2014 (i) whether the Driver and Vehicle Agency are assisting in the investigation; and (ii) whether his Department will carry out their own investigation into the allegations to determine if any statutory or licensing regulations have been breached.

(AQW 34999/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Driver and Vehicle Agency is assisting the PSNI with its investigation into allegations of criminal activity involving taxi drivers and operators and is currently conducting its own investigation in respect of alleged breaches of taxi licensing requirements.

Slaughterhouse Planning Permissions

Mr Flanagan asked the Minister of the Environment, given that food processing and pharmaceuticals are singled out and identified in PED 8 as industries which require a containment free environment, and that slaughterhouses are specifically listed in the Supplementary Planning Guidance as a source of emission of dust, odour or other contaminants which may have the potential to impact upon sensitive industrial enterprises, whether a slaughterhouse would attain planning permission within a food park.

(AQW 35030/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The Department assesses such applications against Policy PED 8 of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 4. In doing so, each application will be considered its own merits and will include consultation with expert bodies such as NIEA (Industrial Pollution & Radiochemical Inspectorate and Land and Resource Management) and the Environmental Health Departments of local Councils. The issues raised by such bodies will form an important part of the consideration.

In addition, the Department will also conduct an assessment of possible mitigation measures that can be put in place to ameliorate harmful impacts of the development.

However, I am unable to predict the outcome of such a proposal until a planning application has been subject to the normal statutory process and full rigour of the planning system.

Glenavy River Pollution

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of the Environment, in relation to the Glenavy River pollution reported to the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency on 30 June 2014, for an estimated time for completion of a report on investigations into the incident.

(AQW 35067/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The investigation regarding water pollution in the Glenavy River is ongoing. Once all of the evidence is available, a decision on the appropriate further action will be made in accordance with standard procedures. This case will be reviewed on 29 August 2014 and following this it is likely that a case file for the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) will be prepared. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has a target that enforcement action will be taken within 7 months (where the offender can be identified) on 90% of breaches in legislation which lead to significant environmental consequences.

Prosecutions for Taxi Offences

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment how many prosecutions for taxi offences have taken place in (i) Belfast; and (ii) Northern Ireland, in each of the last five years.

(AQW 35069/11-15)

Mr Durkan: The numbers of prosecutions for taxi offences that have taken place in (i) Belfast; and (ii) Northern Ireland, in each of the last five years are contained in the table below.

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Taxi offences prosecuted at Court in Northern Ireland (Belfast included)	Figures not available(1)	175	217	154	172
Taxi offences prosecuted at court in Belfast only	Figures not available(1)	8	139	64	67
Taxi offences – FPNs * issued in Northern Ireland	N/A*	0	257	277	323
Taxi offences – FPNs * issued in Belfast only	N/A*	0	96	80	197

(1) There are no figures available for offences prosecuted in 2009/10 as the database currently in use was not introduced until the 2010/11.

* FPNs (Fixed Penalty Notices) were not introduced in Northern Ireland until 2011.

Neighbour Notification Operated by the Planning Service

Mrs Dobson asked the Minister of the Environment whether he plans to alter the arrangements for neighbour notification which are currently operated by Planning Service.

(AQW 35076/11-15)

Mr Durkan: Since 1985, as part of the process of managing applications for planning permission, the Department has carried out a non-statutory policy of sending neighbour notification letters to occupiers of buildings who are most likely to be affected by a proposed development.

Currently the Department notifies those occupiers of buildings which meet two criteria i.e. the buildings are situated on land directly adjoining the application site (or which would adjoin it but for an entry or road of less than 20 metres in width) and are within a 90 metre radius from the boundary of the application site.

I regard neighbour notification as an important element of the planning system and believe that there is merit in its continuation after the transfer of powers to local councils on 1 April 2015.

However, when planning powers transfer to the new councils it is possible that there would be scope for confusion and variation in practice within and across council areas if the neighbour notification system was to continue on a non-statutory, administrative basis. I believe that the best way to ensure clarity and consistency is to establish a clearly defined minimum statutory requirement on the basis of the current criteria applied by the Department.

This is one of a range of proposals for subordinate legislation under the Planning Act (NI) 2011 which are currently out to public consultation and which can be accessed on the Department's website at the following address:-

http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/policy_legislation/consultations.htm

Introduction of the Climate Bill

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 34002/11-15, whether he will bring forward a Climate Bill to the Assembly in sufficient time to ensure that it can be passed before the end of the current Assembly mandate.

(AQW 35085/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As I stated in my response to AQW 34002/11-15, whilst I see the benefits of a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill, I also recognise that there are concerns about how we tackle this issue and at what cost. I continue to meet with stakeholders to hear views and build on a successful partnership approach to tackling climate change. In the circumstances, it would not be sensible to rush into legislation without attaining consensus on a way forward.

In saying that, my officials have considered the timeline needed to introduce a Bill and even if I had the full support of the Executive and Environment Committees, it will be impossible to bring forward a Climate Bill to the Assembly in sufficient time to ensure that it can be passed before the end of the current Assembly mandate.

Lough Neagh Special Protection Area

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment, pursuant to AQW 34149/11-15, (i) whether the Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme (ALCS) Code of Practice required that planning permission was received before an ALCS certificate was granted; and if so, under what circumstances can it be claimed that the Code of Practice was followed in relation to ALCS certificates issued in relation to Lough Neagh Special Protection Area, given that he has already confirmed that his Department was aware no planning permissions exist for extraction.

(AQW 35123/11-15)

Mr Durkan: In accordance with section 2.3 (Membership of the Scheme) of the ALCS Code of Practice, the Department was required to verify that all relevant permits or licences were in place (or had been applied for) and be satisfied that the operation was operating within the current regulatory framework.

The sites referred to pre-date the Planning (NI) Order 1972 and as such Planning Service had no powers to require that planning permission be obtained for these pre-1972 sites. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), on whose behalf the Department administered the ALCS, advised that

certificates should be issued in such cases provided all other aspects of the regulatory framework was in order.

One of the reasons the ALCS was established was to incentivise site operators to improve environmental standards over a range of areas and, consequently, the decision was taken to invite the site operators to join the scheme. The scheme has been suspended since 1 December 2010.

Timetable for Clearing Illegal Waste Dumps

Mr Weir asked the Minister of the Environment to detail the timetable for the clearing of each of the illegal waste dumps identified by his Department.

(AQW 35133/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There were originally seventeen sites in total requiring repatriation; nine of these sites have now been completed. This leaves eight sites still to be repatriated. Four in the South Armagh region, scheduled for completion by 2015; one in Co Tyrone outside Cookstown and one in Co Down outside Mayobridge scheduled for completion by 2016; one in Co Londonderry outside Portglenone and one in Co Antrim outside Crumlin scheduled for completion by 2017.

Public Private Partnership Project Investigations

Mr Allister asked the Minister of the Environment whether there are any ongoing investigations relating to any Public Private Partnership projects that his Department is associated with; and if so, to detail the projects.

(AQW 35153/11-15)

Mr Durkan: There are no Public Private Partnerships currently associated with my Department.

Hydraulic Fracturing and Extreme Energy

Mr Agnew asked the Minister of the Environment whether he intends to bring decisions relating to proposals to undertake hydraulic fracturing and extreme energy to the Executive; and to detail the power the Executive has to veto proposals for hydraulic fracturing without financial consequences if proposals are legally compliant.

(AQW 35202/11-15)

Mr Durkan: As Minister of the Environment I have made my position of unconventional hydraulic fracturing very clear. No decisions will be made until all the facts and scientific evidence have been established and to proceed to permit the technique at this time would be reckless. Current research being undertaken by Officials in my Department will establish a broader evidence base which will aid decision making on the issue.

I can advise that should any application be received by my Department, it will be subject to the full scrutiny of the planning process and will have to go through due process before any decision is made. I have always said that all appropriate planning and environmental standards will be strictly applied on the issue of unconventional hydraulic fracturing. As Planning and Environment Minister this approach will not be compromised.

I will keep my Executive colleagues informed of the position on key developments in proposals for unconventional hydraulic fracturing.

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Community Dietetic Referrals for Paediatric Patients

Mr Givan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what action (i) his Department; and (ii) Health and Social Care Trusts are taking to address pressures caused by an increase in community dietetic referrals for paediatric patients.

(AQW 34845/11-15)

Mr Poots (The Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety): The Public Health Agency (PHA) and Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) are leading a regional review of current demand patterns and trends across Northern Ireland for Allied Health Professional (AHP) services, including community dietetic referrals for paediatric patients and the capacity available in individual Trusts to meet the demand.

Following implementation of the recommendations from the review, concerning revised data definitions and performance monitoring processes, the HSCB, PHA and individual Trusts will be able to define whether there is any additional pressure in community dietetic referrals for paediatric patients and address it via the appropriate local commissioning groups.

Major Incidents in Hospitals

Ms S Ramsey asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (i) who has the authority to call a major incident within hospitals; (ii) to outline the procedure involved; (iii) whether this procedure has changed within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust since January 2014; and if so, (iv) what were the reasons for the change.

(AQW 35017/11-15)

Mr Poots:

Part (i)

Across all HSC Trusts the authority to call a major incident rests with the Director on call on the site in question, in consultation with other senior staff such as the Emergency Department consultant, Co-Directors on call for Acute / Unscheduled Care, the Patient Flow Co-ordinator and / or the Senior Nurse on duty.

Part (ii)

Trusts each have a Major Incident Plan, which is the activated in line with a regionally recognised communication process for major incidents and in adherence to the NI Civil Contingency Framework and Controls Assurance Standard for Emergency Planning. It provides extensive procedures to guide the major incident response.

The first call about a potential major incident may be received by Ambulance Control or by a hospital Emergency Department. In either case, a communications plan is used to direct actions to ensure all relevant parties are alerted as soon as possible. This plan is subject to ongoing review and assessment to ensure it is fit for purpose and reflects lessons learned from previous experience. Communications are conducted face to face, via telephone, text, email and pager and are proportionate to the scale and potential impact of the incident and to help ensure consistency in the message delivered to responders.

When a potential major incident is alerted to one Trust site, other sites within that Trust, or indeed in other Trusts depending on the scale of the incident, may also be alerted to ensure there is sufficient capacity on standby to handle casualties.

Depending on the nature of the incident and the level of disruption, other major incident plans may be invoked, eg Business Continuity Plan, Fire Plan, etc..

Part (iii)

This procedure has not changed within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust since January 2014.

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Mr McKinney asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the limitations of spend that pertain to the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme.

(AQW 35074/11-15)

Mr Poots: The 2014 Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) has been developed to deliver stability and predictability in the cost of branded medicines in the next 5 years. The system of PPRS payments from the pharmaceutical industry which has been put in place is designed to ensure that the allowed growth in spend on medicines is not exceeded.

One of the overarching principles of the 2014 PPRS is to improve access to medicines commensurate with the outcomes they offer patients by ensuring that medicines approved by NICE are widely available in the Health Service. The PPRS scheme does not require the Department to support improved access to all branded medicines regardless of their clinical or cost effectiveness over agreed spending limits.

Current Nurse Shortages

Mr Kinahan asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the current nurse shortages in (i) private; and (ii) statutory care homes, in each Health and Social Care Trust area.

(AQW 35097/11-15)

Mr Poots: There are no statutory nursing homes in Northern Ireland and nurses are not required in statutory residential care homes as these facilities do not provide nursing care.

My department does not hold data on staffing issues in care homes in the private sector.

Four Main Programmes of Care

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average weekly rate that each of the Health and Social Care Trusts have paid to independent care homes for each of the four main Programmes of Care in each of the last ten years; and whether this has increased at the same rate as these business's incurred costs.

(AQW 35143/11-15)

Mr Poots: The tables below detail the available information on the regional rate set annually by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Board negotiated with the independent sector for residential and nursing home care. These rates represent a guide to what the HSC considers fair and affordable and is not a fixed price for a care placement. It should be noted that there will be instances where HSC Trusts will be required to procure a more expensive placement.

ELDERLY PROGRAMME OF CARE (POC)

	2005/06	2006/7	2007/08	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nursing Home Rate	£450	£470	£490	£510	£526	£537	£537	£550	£567	£581
Residential Care Rate	£300	£360	£390	£405	£418	£426	£426	£437	£450	£461

LEARNING DISABILITY (POC)

	2005/06	2006/7	2007/08	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nursing Home Rate	£450	£470	£490	£510	£526	£537	£537	£550	£567	£581
Residential Care Rate	£300	£360	£390	£405	£418	£426	£426	£437	£450	£461

MENTAL HEALTH (POC)

	2005/06	2006/7	2007/08	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nursing Home Rate	£450	£470	£490	£510	£526	£537	£537	£550	£567	£581
Residential Care Rate	£300	£360	£390	£405	£418	£426	£426	£437	£450	£461

PHYSICAL DISABILITY (POC)

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Nursing Home Rate	£450	£470	£490	£555	£566	£577	£577	£591	£609	£624
Residential Care Rate	£400	£422	£457	£460	£469	£478	£478	£490	£505	£518

Independent Care Homes Financial Pressures

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for his assessment of the concerns of owners of independent care homes in the Western Health and Social Care Trust area regarding the increasing financial pressures they are experiencing.

(AQW 35144/11-15)

Mr Poots: Circular HSC ECCU 1/2010 provides the Health and Social Care (HSC) Board and Trusts with guidance on the care management process and highlights their duty to ensure that quality services are procured and delivered in response to assessed need at a cost that represents best value for money within available resources.

Each year a Regional Rate is negotiated by the HSC Board with the independent sector for residential and nursing home care. The Regional Rate is a guide to what the HSC considers fair and affordable, not a fixed price for a care placement. HSC Trusts are required to contract for the full cost of the assessed care needs, even where that is not obtainable at the regional rate. Furthermore, HSC Trusts are reminded of the need to achieve optimum quality, flexibility of supply and value for money in procuring services.

This negotiation process ensures that all HSC Trusts engage with providers on an ongoing basis regarding various issues including service provision and tariffs.

Residential and Nursing Packages: Average Weekly Costs

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the average weekly cost in (i) statutory; and (ii) independent care homes for (a) residential; and (b) nursing packages, in each of the last ten years.

(AQW 35145/11-15)

Mr Poots: It is only possible to provide details of costs provided by Health and Social Care Trusts to independent residential and nursing homes from the establishment of the five new integrated HSC Trusts in April 2007.

Average costs per occupied resident week from 2007/08 to 2012/13 are set out in the table below.

AVERAGE COST PER OCCUPIED RESIDENT WEEK £

	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Statutory Residential Homes	1,399	1,260	1,140	1,101	1,032	936
Independent Residential Homes	538	531	529	516	504	475
Statutory Nursing Homes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Independent Nursing Homes	598	588	596	576	562	521

Additional Support for Independent Residential and Nursing Care Homes

Mr Elliott asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety what additional support (i) his Department; and (ii) the Health and Social Care Trusts can offer independent residential and nursing care homes in areas where there is no statutory provision.

(AQW 35146/11-15)

Mr Poots: Circular HSC (ECCU) 1/2010 Care Management, Provision of Services and Charging guidance reminds the HSC of its overriding duty to procure quality services at a price which represents value for money.

Each year the HSC Board negotiate a regional rate with the independent sector for residential and nursing home care. The regional rate is a guide to what the HSC considers to be fair and affordable, not a fixed price for a care placement.

The rate of remuneration for independent sector residential/nursing homes is not dependent on the availability of statutory sector provision in a locality. It is based on the regionally determined rates and any additional costs for services which are negotiated and agreed with the local Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust and/or the individual's family.

Action Plan for Quality Palliative and End of Life Care

Mrs Cochrane asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for an update on the implementation of the Action Plan for Quality Palliative and End of Life Care detailed in his Department's report, Living Matters, Dying Matters, which was launched in March 2010.

(AQW 35168/11-15)

Mr Poots: A Regional Implementation Board is in place to take forward the implementation of the recommendations contained in 'Living Matters:Dying Matters', the Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy for Adults in Northern Ireland. The Implementation Board has been working across a number of key areas including:

- Increasing understanding of palliative and end of life care through:
 - Ensuring palliative care induction is in place for staff;
 - Undertaking a collaborative research project in partnership with the Patient and Client Council to explore public awareness in palliative care;
 - Hosting events to raise understanding and awareness of palliative care.
- Developing responsive and competent staff to deliver quality care:
 - A palliative and end of life care competency assessment tool for staff across the HSC and independent sectors has been developed and implemented;
 - A regional palliative and end of life care learning and development programme has been implemented in nursing homes.
- Recognising and talking about what matters:
 - A Regional Local Enhanced Service is in place for Advance Care Planning for people in nursing homes;
 - The All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC) in collaboration with the Public Health Agency (PHA) has completed the first phase of data collections to gather the experience of people affected by or caring for someone with palliative and end of life care needs.
- Timely information and choice:
 - An information booklet - 'Your Life and Your Choices - Plan Ahead' has been developed in collaboration between the PHA and Macmillan Cancer Support.
- Co-ordinated care, support and continuity:
 - The End of Life Care Operational System (ELCOS) has been developed to help identify people who may be in the last year of life and to prompt identification of their needs and preferences;
 - A business case has been established to support the development of a Key Information System to capture and record information on palliative care needs.

In addition, an initiative is currently being taken forward by the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency in partnership with Marie Curie Cancer Care to improve palliative and end of life

care in Northern Ireland. This 2 year initiative, Transforming Your Palliative and End of Life Care, which was launched in September 2013 and is based on Marie Curie's nationally developed Delivering Choice Programme, aims to support the delivery of co-ordinated services to enable people with palliative and end of life care needs to have choice in their preferred place of care.

Following a series of workshops held in Spring this year, 8 priority areas have been identified to progress the Transforming Your Palliative and End of Life Care programme and a series of design groups have been set up to facilitate this. These priority initiatives include, improving training for healthcare providers; enhanced access to palliative care services at home; palliative pharmacy; supporting planned discharge and provision of equipment; and support for patients and carers.

Private Health Care Providers

Mr Copeland asked the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to detail the total cost of Health Service procedures and treatments on Northern Ireland patients carried out by each private health provider in (i) Northern Ireland; (ii) England; (iii) Scotland; (iv) Wales; and (v) the Republic of Ireland, in each year since May 2007.

(AQW 35209/11-15)

Mr Poots: Total costs, by provider, are provided in the table below for the financial years 2010/11 to 2013/14. Total costs, by provider, are not available for the financial years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Country	Provider	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Northern Ireland	352 Medical Limited	33,701	30,990	19,675	7,506
	Action Cancer	-	-	50	-
	All Clear Laser Eye Clinic	86	189	355	184
	Allergy Solutions	-	312	36	-
	Alliance Medical	3,681	294	698	275
	Belquin	16	32	-	-
	Bloomfield Laser Clinic	25	20	22	1
	Cathedral Eye Clinic	2,908	2,148	864	49
	Curren	-	-	-	12
	EEG Ireland	250	484	119	245
	Fitzwilliam Clinic	3,968	2,717	349	562
	Fortwilliam Clinic	81	51	55	-
	Hillsborough Private Clinic	770	1,157	398	23
	Medica	120	-	-	-
	Medinet	1,201	2,113	1,839	425
	Neurology NI	61	65	135	2
	North West Independent Hospital	11,187	13,160	7,365	3,839
	Northern EEG	180	378	128	-

Country	Provider	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	Northern MRI	-	-	36	-
	Orthoderm	1,356	758	974	1,064
	Rheumatology Consulting NI	272	231	-	-
	Rosconnor	97	-	-	-
	South Down Dental	129	-	-	-
	The Belfast Clinic	-	-	-	323
	The Scan Centre	-	-	-	458
	TMR Health Professionals	-	-	-	26
	Ulster Independent Clinic	1,287	1,037	222	219
	Windsor Medical Group	-	16	-	32
Republic of Ireland	Anaplastology Ireland	32	51	37	28
	Blackrock Clinic Dublin	2,200	2,598	323	130
	Bon Secours Health System	130	25	-	-
	James Cook University Hospital	30	-	-	-
	Mater, Dublin	-	655	3,463	2,870
	Sports Surgery Clinic, Dublin	2,317	2,265	726	116
	St Francis Health Village	553	1,069	-	-
	VFM Healthcare Ireland LTD	203	93	-	-
England	BMI Healthcare	300	120	-	-
	Guys and St Thomas Hospital	-	-	1,077	1,073
	McIndoe Surgical Centre	-	-	-	79
	Royal National Orthopaediatric	1,800	550	132	33
	Spire Healthcare	3,001	900	2,273	3,395
Total		71,942	64,478	41,351	22,969

Source: HSC Board and HSC Trusts

Department of Justice

Serious Case Review

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, following the conclusion of a Serious Case Review, whether any staff member within any departmental agency has (a) been subject to disciplinary proceedings, including warnings; (b) been retrained; and (c) transferred to another post.

(AQW 35057/11-15)

Mr Ford (The Minister of Justice): No staff members within any departmental agency have a) been subject to any disciplinary proceedings; b) been retrained; or c) transferred to another post following the conclusion of a Serious Case Review commissioned by the Strategic Management Board responsible for oversight of Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland.

Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice to detail (i) the recommendations by the Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland that have been implemented following the conclusion of the Serious Case Reviews into Barry Johnston; Thomas Ward and David Paige, citing the changes and from which review they originate; and (ii) the recommendations that have not been implemented.

(AQW 35112/11-15)

Mr Ford:

(i) Recommendations following conclusion of PPANI Serious Case Reviews

Table A below sets out the recommendations arising from the Serious Case Reviews commissioned (for the cases listed) by the Strategic Management Board responsible for oversight of the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland.

TABLE A

Barry Shay Johnston (Executive Summary published 9/01/2012)	
Recommendations	
1	Northern Ireland Prison Service should review the availability of forensic psychologists for treatment of sex offenders in custody and seek to identify any ways to resolve limitations on this;
2	PPANI should remind all involved in managing sex offenders under the Manual of Practice on the need for the highest standards of administration and interagency communication in order to ensure joined up handling;
3	It should be normal practice for there to be one-to-one discussions between prison DRM (Designated Risk Manager) and the agency representative taking over that duty on the prisoner's release. This should be specified in the Manual of Practice. It should be a standing item of business for such handovers that the question of a special LAPPP (Local Area Public Protection Panel) be considered;
4	In conjunction with other Health and Social Care Trusts and involving PPANI as appropriate, the Northern Trust should ensure that a protocol is in place which, among other things, both advises representatives on the need to be fully briefed by other Trusts in advance of LAPPP meetings considering cases from their area, and sets out the need to ensure a full flow of information to those Trusts on the course and outcome of the discussion;
5	The Strategic Management Board should put in hand consideration of the term 'compelling evidence' in relation to the threshold for classification to Category 3 Risk of Harm;
6	PPANI should consider a revision to the Manual at paragraph 6.2.4 or guidance relating to it might facilitate an inter agency meeting in circumstances where difficulties about offender management arise in the immediate run up to release;
7	PPANI, in conjunction with NIPS, PBNI and health and social care trusts, should consider whether the requirements contained in the social care sector's guidance 'Co-operating to Safeguard Children' and 'Sharing to Safeguard' should be more explicitly reflected in the Manual;
8	Information from medical staff such as doctors or psychiatrists could have a significant bearing on risk assessment and categorisation and subsequently how those risks are managed in the community. PPANI should consider exploring with prisons, PBNI and Trust personnel whether there is an issue over availability to LAPPP meetings of information based on medical assessments and second how it might be resolved;

Thomas Ward (Executive Summary published 25/02/2014)	
Recommendations	
1	In all cases where bail is being sought and police officers become aware it is prudent to fully check NICHE and keep appropriate records of enquiries and the decision making process;
2	In bail cases involving a non-PPANI eligible offence, PPANI personnel should ensure that those involved in the prosecution of such offences receive a clear and consistent message in respect of bail applications and conditions thereof. This should involve written confirmation to those involved in prosecuting such cases – all PPANI Agencies;
3	The SMB should consider amending the Manual of Practice to allow for LAPPP reviews to be held in respect of particular remand in custody cases;
4	The on-going Department of Justice led work on victims issues may allow for a rebalancing of the rights of victims in respect of information sharing about offenders. The SMB through its victim reference group may wish to make a collective contribution to this on-going work
David Page (Executive Summary published 11/06/2014)	
Recommendations	
1	The independent reviewer recommended that before an offender's risk assessment category is classified downwards PPANI should consider requesting an up to date Stable SA07 assessment if some time has elapsed since the previous assessment was completed.

(ii) Implementation of Serious Case Review Recommendations

All the Serious Case Review recommendations outlined above have been implemented by PPANI agencies.

Serious Case Review

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice, pursuant to AQW 34383/11-15, whether he will specifically address the point on the approved residence being in an area of families with young children, and given the victim in the case was a child of the neighbourhood to detail whether (i) this point was considered prior to the approval of residence and due cognisance given to the offender's previous behaviour and targets; (ii) he will amend risk assessments in these instances taking on board vulnerability of potential victims; and (iii) he will tighten residence criteria to remove or reduce reoffending in similar instances. **(AQW 35113/11-15)**

Mr Ford: I shall reply to the points raised as soon as possible.

Serious Case Review

Lord Morrow asked the Minister of Justice following the conclusion of a Serious Case Review, whether any departmental agency has found to have missed opportunities, neglected responsibilities, or defaulted in any way which could have prevented re-offending; and if so, to cite the relevant instances. **(AQW 35193/11-15)**

Mr Ford: The Independent Reviewers conducting Serious Case Reviews commissioned by the Strategic Management Board responsible for oversight of Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland did not identify any failings in the management of the cases which could have prevented re-offending.

Department for Regional Development

Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive

Mr Copeland asked the Minister for Regional Development he will ensure that the existing protections in place for water consumers are not weakened by the implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive.

(AQW 35201/11-15)

Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): The Alternative Dispute Resolution Directive aims to ensure that consumers are able to access quality alternative dispute resolution bodies for all kinds of contractual disputes they encounter with traders. The UK Government has recently consulted on this issue, to facilitate the transposition of the Directive into law.

NI Water already has statutory arrangements for dealing with disputes between customers and the company through the Consumer Council. My Department considers that we are currently in compliance with the new regulations but continues to liaise with all of the relevant bodies such as the Consumer Council and the Utility Regulator to ensure that Northern Irish consumers continue to have access to high quality water and sewerage services.

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